

## “Beatitudes” by Pastor Alison Harrington, Southside Presbyterian Church

Blessed are you who journey with child on back or in arms  
leaving behind war for the hope of peace  
for you shall find sanctuary  
Blessed are you who wait patient and impatient at the armored doors of our nation  
for you shall find welcome  
Blessed are you who sit in detention centers  
for you shall find freedom  
Blessed are you with ankle monitors  
for you shall run free  
Blessed are you who are deported  
for you shall return once again  
Blessed are you whose children are stolen away  
snatched from your very breast  
for they shall run back to you, leaping into your arms  
Blessed are you who cross the desert  
Blessed are you who make it  
Blessed are you who don't  
for you shall live forever  
Blessed are you who protest  
who march  
who sit in  
who go to jail  
for righteousness shall be yours  
And woe to you who deal in barbed wire and drones  
for you shall climb a hundred walls and never reach the end  
woe to you to call children “intruders”  
for you shall have the doors of heaven closed upon  
you  
woe to you who name the love of a mother that walks for thousands of miles ‘criminal’  
woe to you who call the love of a father that will traverse a  
thousand deserts ‘criminal’  
for you shall be called the unredeemed and the  
forsaken  
woe to you who rip families apart  
who steal children in the night  
who traumatize and torture  
and call it all deterrence  
woe to you who laugh now

---

but you will mourn and weep  
for as the Lord says 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."  
and so woe to you who laugh now  
but you will mourn and weep  
blessed are you who will stop at nothing until each and every child is found and placed back in the care of their families  
and blessed are the children  
orphaned  
lost  
afraid  
calling out in the night  
blessed are you  
for you shall inherit earth and the stars and the moon and the sun  
blessed are you  
for you shall once again know the embrace of your father's sacred arms and the kiss of your mother's sacred lips.

## Immigration Rally Prayer

God Almighty,

We come before you at the end of Immigration Rally, we ask you Lord

In this land of America, the land of You have given us, we are not here because of coincidence, we live and work hard, we remember that everyone has a right to live on the ground that you created. We thank You, Lord, for we have a place to take refuge.

Loving God,

You give us a family to take shelter in, a family to share our struggles and our blessings, nothing can separate us in our home. Take care of our living home, oh Lord.

God, our unifier,

We are different in skin color, in language, in culture. We asked for peace in our differences. Help us to see the harmony and richness of our diversity. Put us together in Your love, O Lord.

Thank you God.

Through these 223rd General Assembly meeting, we ask to hear the grievances of each of your people, who expect your help and protection.

Let receive the blessings of the Lord :

Blessed are the Children, Orphaned, Lost, Afraid, Calling out in the night.

Blessed are you for you shall inherit earth and the stars and the moon and the sun.

Blessed are you for you shall once again know the embrace of your father's sacred arms and the kiss of your mother's sacred lips.

AMEN

## ***Presente* Petitions for Rally**

**June 19, 2018**

We want to take a time to bring into this gathering those who are missing from our presence. At the end of each petition, you are invited to respond: "Presente!"

We recognize and acknowledge the refugees and immigrants disappeared by the harmful changes in US policies and the inhumane treatment of refugees and immigrants in 2018:

- For the 15,000 + refugees who won't be resettled this year because the government has created procedural blocks that keep the U.S. from meeting its own historically low goal to resettle 45,000 people this fiscal year. **PRESENTE**
- For the thousands of migrants lost at sea and in the desert in search of safety, protection, and stability. **PRESENTE**
- For those caught up in the Increased ICE raids at workplaces, homes, outside schools, and courthouses. More than 40,000 people are detained on any given day. **PRESENTE**
- For the families seeking asylum at the US border, mindful of the children separated from their parents and sent to separate detention centers. **PRESENTE**
- For the Unaccompanied children who are increasingly placed in secure detention centers, labeled as former gang members or national security threat, including young children who fled here to escape those very gangs. **PRESENTE**
- For immigrants suffering increased violence within the immigration detention centers. **PRESENTE**
- For the empty desks at schools as children miss classes due to fear and trauma. **PRESENTE**
- For all our neighbors from Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, El Salvador, and Sudan whose lives have been upended by the cancellation of Temporary Protected Status. **PRESENTE**
- For our neighbors who are made invisible by the fear of immigration officials missing out on church, community life, and family engagements. **PRESENTE**

- For our neighbors who are suffering rejection, scorn and hatred, especially those who are victims of hate groups that are on the rise. **PRESENTE**
- For Roby Sanger, a member of First Presbyterian Church Metuchen, NJ who continues to fight his asylum case from a detention cell. **PRESENTE**
- For Leonor Garcia living in sanctuary in OH and for Alex Garcia Maldonado living in sanctuary in MO both since September 2017. **PRESENTE**
- 

**And now we lift up those whose lives were lost at the hands of ICE or because of their actions. We call them out by name:**

**For Claudia Patricia Gómez González, 20 years old, a Maya-Mam woman from Guatemala who was shot in the head and killed by U.S. Border Patrol on May 22, 2018 in the border town of Rio Bravo, TX. PRESENTE**

**For Zeresenay Ermias Testfatsion, 34 years old, an Eritrean Asylum Seeker - who hanged himself in Cairo, Egypt in transit and under ICE care as a deportee to Eritrea. PRESENTE**

For **Selena Hidalgo Calderon**, a young mother originally from Guatemala living in Syracuse, NY who was killed at the hands of her partner. She was afraid to seek help from the police because of her status. Her one-year-old son, Owen, is still missing. **PRESENTE.**

**We remember those who have died while in Immigration Detention just in 2018:**

**Marco Antonio Muñoz, 39 years old** – who crossed the US border on May 11 with his wife and 3-year old son. He was apprehended by Border Patrol. He requested asylum and was subsequently separated from his family and taken to Starr County Jail. Detention officers found him dead on the floor of the cell the next morning from apparent suicide. **PRESENTE.**

**Roxsana Hernandez, 33 years old** a transgender woman from Honduras died on May 25th at a hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She died from what appeared to be cardiac arrest, according to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials. She was taken the hospital with symptoms of pneumonia, dehydration and other medical complications. **PRESENTE**

**Luis Ramirez-Marcano, 59 years old**, a Cuban national, was transported on February 17<sup>th</sup>, to the emergency room when ICE medical personnel determined he should receive treatment after complaints of abdominal pain. He passed away the afternoon of February 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ramirez-Marcano had been in ICE custody since January 12 pending his removal to Cuba. **PRESENTE**