

CAMINANDO

JUNTOS

JOURNEYING

TOGETHER

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



SOJOURNERS
SojoAction

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ABOUT

Advent is a time to reflect on the story and birth of Jesus. As we prepare our hearts and spirits this Advent by reading scripture that speaks of hope, peace, joy, and love, we invite you to pray, reflect, and take action alongside immigrants in the struggle for a pathway to citizenship that is humane, just, and common sense.

Each week we will reflect on scripture and lift up the undocumented immigrants among us — more than 11 million people, including the DACA community, refugees, and those seeking asylum within and outside our country's border. Follow this Advent devotional guide in community and with your local church.

WEEK 1: HOPE

SCRIPTURE

"And again the prophet Creator Helps Us (Isaiah) says, 'The one who is the root of Original Man (Jesse) will rise up to rule over the Outside Nations, and they will put their hope and trust in him.'" Romans 15:12 (First Nations Version)

REFLECTION

Today's scripture reminds us about the prophecy of hope that Jesus would bring to the people. Today, we hold on to this same hope praying and advocating for immigration solutions that will create a pathway to citizenship for the over 11 million undocumented immigrants, put a stop to family separation, and uphold refugee and asylum systems that reflect dignity and respect for those seeking refuge and safety in this country. Together with your community, read the prayer on the following page written by Sandy Ovalle Martínez, Sojourners' director of campaigns and mobilizing. The response word — *fuera* — means "out." Symbolically, you can reject the forces that have led to the current immigration landscape in the U.S. and pray toward hope for a better immigration system that honors the dignity and image of God in every person.

WEEK 1: HOPE

PRAYER



The One: May the dominant Western ways of viewing migration die. May we rid ourselves of colonial logic that raped and exterminated native people, forced them to adopt new cultures, extracted their resources, and condemned their medicine as evil.

The Many: ¡Fuera!/Out!

The One: We rebuke the dominant Western ways that kidnapped African people, illegally transported them treating them as merchandise, and enslaved them in a new land that consumed their bodies.

The Many: ¡Fuera!/Out!

The One: We condemn the dominant Western way that seeks to own, is voracious in consumption, and is rampant in its pursuit of material wealth and social status at the expense of migrant labor forces including children.

The Many: ¡Fuera!/ Out!

The One: We pray for a restored common human family in harmony with the rest of creation that recognizes our wellbeing is bound to one another and the earth.

The Many: Lord, hear our prayer.

The One: We pray for a framework that recognizes each person is inherently worthy of dignity and respect and centers life.

The Many: Lord, hear our prayer.

The One: We pray for an insatiable appetite for justice, always recognizing your abundant provision so that we may feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and afford everyone a dignified life.

The Many: Lord, hear our prayer.

Adapted from "U.S. Immigration Policy Kills. Where Is the Church?"

by Sandy Ovalle Martínez via sojo.net

WEEK 2: PEACE

SCRIPTURE

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."

John 14:27 (The Living Bible)

REFLECTION

Today's scripture reminds us of the gift of divine peace that comes from Jesus, the Prince of Peace. In John 14:27, Jesus extends this peace to us; this Advent we want to especially remind those under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) holders of that gift. May the hearts and minds of DACA holders and their loved ones be neither troubled nor afraid at the daily uncertainty they face as the program remains threatened. We invite you to reflect on the video below from Valeria Bejar, a DACA recipient, and hold her story with compassion. How will you lift up her story and stories like hers all over the country and call our members of Congress for DACA recipients to have a pathway to citizenship?

PRAYER

We pray for all who have an uncertain immigration status in the U.S.

We join Valeria in affirming through prayer God's boundless love:

"I believe God is enough and I know God believes I am enough. And I know love is enough. Love that's moved to justice, equality, and equity. Love that protects and recognizes the inherent value of creation, regardless of citizenship status. Two years of unguaranteed security is not enough for me but love and unity is enough to make the ocean ripple."

"Journeying with Valerie Bejar: DACA Recipient Testimony"
by SojoAction YouTube

WEEK 3: JOY

SCRIPTURE

"The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10 (New American Bible Revised Edition)

REFLECTION

Today's scripture brings good news to those afflicted, persecuted, and oppressed. The angel in Luke 2:10 shares that salvation and liberation has come through the birth of Jesus, and we can place our hope in him. We proclaim this good news to asylum seekers and refugees who seek safety and refuge at our nation's border.

PRAYER

The prayer on the following page excerpted from Native American Christian author and speaker Kaitlin Curtice, reminds us to cry out to God in the midst of uncertainty, asking for help as we stand for justice for every person seeking safety.

WEEK 3: JOY

PRAYER



Show us what it means to be the face of love.

Show us what it means to have hands and feet that only work for good.

We acknowledge that we are called to be people who fight for human rights,
and it is not a choice.

O God,

Teach us what self-care looks like.

Show us what strength looks like.

Show us what Love looks like.

Because we are a nation that has always oppressed children,
deeming them worthless,

pieces moved on a chess board

to punish and control cultures and peoples.

This is hatred in every sense.

Teach us how to be people who stand against it again and again
for the sake of every child

and every person who wants a quiet,
safe place to lay their heads at night.

Teach us to be brave, we pray,

When we have no idea what it looks like.

Amen.

Excerpted from "Prayer for Action," by Katlin Curtice via sojo.net

WEEK 4: LOVE

SCRIPTURE

"We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." 1 John 4:19-21 (New International Version)

REFLECTION

Today's scripture is clear: If we truly love God, we must love one another. The love of God was present throughout the migration journey of the Holy Family as Mary and Joseph placed their hope in God's plan to guide them to safety. The love of God was present as his angels appeared to the shepherds announcing the birth of the Savior in the town of Bethlehem (Luke 2:8-20). As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this last Sunday of Advent, may we reflect on how to put our hope, joy, peace, and love in action for immigration policies that honor the God-given dignity of our immigrant community.

PRAYER

As Advent comes to an end, let us reflect on God's love for all, praying together:
God you walk with the immigrants –
You walk with all of us –
Through the pain of a world divided,
Into a new land of peace.
Oh Jesus, you stand at the border
Between our old world of violence
And your new world of Love.
Guide our hearts and hands
To tear down our walls,
To embrace our neighbors
As we let you in.

*Adapted from "Love Dissolves Borders: A Prayer for Immigrants"
by Lindsay Paris-Lopez, via sojo.net*

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STAY CONNECTED

Thank you for following our Caminando Juntos, Journeying Together Advent Devotional! We encourage you to share this resource with your community, congregation, and families throughout the years.

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