

## **Litany to Prepare the Sanctuary of our Hearts**

Spirit of compassion, we hear testimonies of the need for refuge for people fleeing violence and persecution, economic deprivation and discrimination and hate. Our hearts are broken.

For the times when we allowed rhetoric to obscure the issues that are core to the humanity of others – and that of ourselves, we say,

**All: “Free us from our complicity.”**

Spirit of compassion, we know how deep the suffering is among immigrants and refugees, documented and undocumented. We know how vulnerable our families are. We know how it is to feel small when the systems of oppression and dysfunction seem so big.

For the times we were too busy or preoccupied to listen or feel, we say,

**All: “Free us from our complicity.”**

Spirit of compassion, in our lack of inclusion and awareness, we have contributed to walls of separation, leading to our own small-mindedness and diminishment,

For the times we have failed to move out of our comfort zones and have neglected to see beauty and unity in our diversity, we say,

**All: “Free us from our complicity.”**

Spirit of compassion, we believe in laws, but neglect to protest when laws that provide for equal protection are not enforced, those to keep families out of detention, to protect people from deportation to violence and death, laws that hold to international standards against militarism and economic exploitation,

For the times, we have failed to see that just laws unenforced need to be challenged in the light of day, we say,

**All: “Free us from our complicity.”**

Spirit of light, life and love, as our Unitarian brothers and sisters say, “We stand on the side of love with immigrants and refugees.” Our hearts are broken, yet broken open with a greater capacity to love. We say,

**All: “We will act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.”**

Spirit of light, life and love, the values of faith, rooted in liberty, have much to teach our democracy, about human dignity, community and solidarity. We say,

**All: “We will act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.”**

Spirit of light, life and love, immigrant and refugee communities have dignity and voice and are the foundation for solutions to overcome oppression. We say,

**All: “We will act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.”**

Spirit of light, life and love, sanctuary, rapid response, and actions of accompaniment and solidarity are paths to freedom and social transformation. We remain steadfast in obedience to a higher law. We say,

**All: “We will act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.”**

**Amen.**

Written by Michael Ramos, Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle, for the May 1, 2017 Re-Launch of the Sanctuary Movement in Washington State held at Saint Mark’s Cathedral, Seattle.