

Ashrey

Pitchu li sha'arei tzedek

Amidah for Peace and Immigrant Justice

Each line to be called out and repeated.

Avot –

God of our ancestors.

God of immigrants.

God of refugees.

We are border crossers.

We tie our fate with You who cannot be contained by customs offices

You who requires no passport

Gevurot –

You are the power that nurtures,

You support the fallen,

You free the captive,

You give faith to those who sleep in the dust.

Kedusha –

We call out to each other

We turn in every direction

Your holy image is the face of every human

Binah –

Help us to act with understanding

Teshuva –

Return us again and again to your service

Selicha –

Forgive us for retreating to our own comfort,

Forgive us for not taking responsibility,

Forgive us for letting little fears

Stop us from helping with compassion.

Ge'ulah –

Release us from captivity,

Release us from persecution,

Release us from misfortune

Help us to heal when rational arguments are insufficient.

(Rational arguments are not enough to cure hatred. Therefore we look to you for heal hostility. Rabbi J.H. Hertz p.117 Koren Siddur)

Refuah Healing –

Heal the suffering that causes people to flee their homes.

Single Reader: _____

Home, by Warsan Shire (British-Somali poet)

no one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a shark.

you only run for the border
when you see the whole city
running as well.

Your neighbours running faster
than you, the boy you went to school with
who kissed you dizzy behind
the old tin factory is
holding a gun bigger than his body,
you only leave home when home won't let you stay.

no one would leave home unless home
chased you, fire under feet,
hot blood in your belly.
it's not something you ever thought about
doing, and so when you did –
you carried the anthem under your breath,
waiting until the airport toilet
to tear up the passport and swallow,
each mouthful of paper making it clear that
you would not be going back.

you have to understand,
no one puts their children in a boat
unless the water is safer than the land.

who would choose to spend days
and nights in the stomach of a truck
unless the miles travelled
meant something more than journey.

no one would choose to crawl under fences,
be beaten until your shadow leaves you,
raped, then drowned, forced to the bottom of
the boat because you are darker, be sold,
starved, shot at the border like a sick animal,
be pitied, lose your name, lose your family,

make a refugee camp a home for a year or two or ten,
stripped and searched, find prison everywhere
and if you survive and you are greeted on the other side
with go home blacks, refugees
dirty immigrants, asylum seekers
sucking our country dry of milk,
dark, with their hands out
smell strange, savage –
look what they've done to their own countries,
what will they do to ours?

the dirty looks in the street
softer than a limb torn off,
the indignity of everyday life
more tender than fourteen men who
look like your father, between
your legs, insults easier to swallow
than rubble, than your child's body
in pieces - for now, forget about pride
your survival is more important.

i want to go home, but home is the mouth of a shark
home is the barrel of the gun
and no one would leave home
unless home chased you to the shore
unless home tells you to
leave what you could not behind,
even if it was human.

no one leaves home until home
is a damp voice in your ear saying
leave, run now, i don't know what
i've become.

(Continue Amidah)

Birkat Hashanim

All Bountiful one let every person live with abundance.

Kibutz Galuyot

Blast the great shofar for freedom
Gather in all those in exile!

Din

Restore justice with love and compassion.

Birkat Haminim

Let all wickedness be lost.

Tzadikim

Protect all the righteous people
fleeing war and
fleeing poverty.
Be with those seeking safety
and seeking security.

Binyan Yerushalayim

Build everlasting peace in Jerusalem.

Yeshu'ah

Plant your help in every land.

Kabbalat Tefillah

Hear our voice!
Hear the voice of refugees
Hear the voice of immigrants
Help us hear your voice

Avodah

Take pleasure YHVH in our work.
Lovingly accept our prayer.

Hoda'ah

Modim anachnu lach
We give thanks to you

Birkat Shalom

Insert

Single Reader: _____

New Colossus By: Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

Sing Oseh Shalom