



## Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship

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### *Extending the table: We all belong*

Migrant, alien, sojourner, foreigner, stranger...

The Bible is full of stories where its main characters have been labeled in such ways. As we look to the Biblical text, we see that immigration is an issue of the ancient world. We continue to witness a world where the stranger is feared, mistrusted, unwanted and denied equal standing. Indeed, from the time that Adam and Eve were sent from the garden, God's people have been on the move. Our whole human history is a series of stories of immigrants, stories of people displaced, people escaping hunger, war, political oppression; people searching for opportunity, a better way, new hopes and dreams. Throughout history, including Anabaptist history, we have seen God's people as both guests and hosts, always dependent on one another.

This weekend, many celebrate the founding of the country in which we all live a great nation, founded on principles of freedom and liberty, a land of opportunity. A land founded at the expense of and for the sake of immigrants. For Christians, we proclaim our allegiance to another Kingdom. One where true freedom from division, hate and all evil reigns. We recall our true identity as sojourners, together on the move, towards this Heavenly Kingdom.

*-Content gathered from Missio Dei: Immigration and the Bible by Daniel Carroll R.*

#### **Gathering Songs**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Children's Time**

#### **Circle Sharing**

#### **Offering/Gifts of Notes**

#### **Congregational Response**

We have all come together at God's table.  
Some of us came with apprehension, some with curiosity, some with joy.  
We have come both as hosts, and as guests.  
As we have gathered to share a sacred space of listening and learning.

Thank you for being our guest and sharing your story.

Thank you for hosting us within your story.

We see the image of God in you,  
And we recognize that your story is God's story,  
And that your story is our story.

We are the displaced,  
The persecuted,  
The immigrant,  
The refugee,  
We are the sojourners transiting this world.

We leave here continuing to carry forward the narrative of people on the move.

Like Abraham, Ruth, Mary and Joseph and countless others,  
Including our Savior Jesus Christ who ultimately binds us together.

We are all a part of God's larger story,  
And we are all welcome at the table.

#### **Sending**

#### **Worship Participants**

Worship Leaders: Elisabeth and Rafael Barahona

Children's Time: Lindsay Rheinheimer

Song Leader: Deb Detwiler

Accompanist: Angela Shenk

Visuals: Elisabeth and Rafael Barahona

Ushers: Merrill and Clare Krabill

AV Operators: Phil Bauman

*Hearing assistance devices are available in the room beside the doors to the sanctuary. Please see the AVV operator if you would like one.*

*We offer childcare during worship after children's time for infants & toddlers. Children under 2 years of age may go to the Cherub Corner room, while 2 and 3 year olds may go to the MYF room.*

Infant Care: Jenny Yoder, Barb and Greg Smucker

Toddler Care: Anna Sawatzky, Sherry and Lyman Hug

#### **Fellowship Time**

You are invited to enjoy a time of fellowship after the worship service. Please consider these conversation questions during this time:

- What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
- What drew you to Berkey?
- What was a highlight from your week?

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