

## Prayer Vigil at the Home Office for Victims of Global Borders July 2025

*Leader invites a few moments of silence and contemplation before the icon.*

### Opening Prayers

Leader We pray for those who will spend time during our service handing out leaflets to the public. We ask that our message will reach the hearts of people of good will on this street today.

Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives, as the refreshing rain falls on the just and unjust alike,

All **Refresh us with your mercy, you who know our own injustice.**

Leader As the stream flows steadily on, defying all the odds of stone and water,

All **Flow over every boundary and border that separates us from each other.**

Leader As the waters of our baptism washed us and welcomed us,

All **Renew us now in newness of life and unity of love.**

### Hymn – “When I Needed a Neighbour”

When I needed a neighbour,  
Were you there, were you there?

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

**(Refrain:)** And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter,  
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty,  
Were you there, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there? **R**

I was cold, I was naked,  
Were you there, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there? **R**

When I needed a shelter,  
Were you there, were you there?

When I needed a shelter, were you there? **R**

When I needed a healer,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer, were you there? **R**

Wherever you travel,  
I'll be there, I'll be there.

Wherever you travel, I'll be there. **R**

*Sydney Carter*

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### Psalm 121

**A** I will lift up my eyes to the hills – from  
where does my help come? My help comes  
from the Lord who made Heaven and Earth.

**A** The Lord watches over you – the Lord is  
your shade at your right hand. The sun will not  
strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

**B** He will not let your foot slip – He who  
watches over you will not slumber. Behold, He  
who watches over Israel will neither slumber  
nor sleep.

**B** The Lord will preserve you from all evil – He  
will preserve your life. The Lord will watch over  
your coming and going, now and forever.

## Prayers of Repentance

*Leader:* Loving Jesus, as a child in fear of your life, you were forced to seek refuge in Egypt. You know what it is like to be rejected, and to be an outsider. You call us to love our neighbours as ourselves, but we have hardened our hearts against strangers.

**All: Forgive us, and help us to change.**

*Leader:* You told us to welcome strangers in our land, but we have hated, humiliated imprisoned, and killed those who have asked for our hospitality.

**All: Forgive us, and help us to change.**

*Leader:* We are called today to welcome those fleeing from war, famine and poverty. Open our hearts, and those of our neighbourhood, of our city, of our country and of our continent, to those who need shelter.

**All: Forgive us, and help us to change.**

## The List of the Dead

These are the known names and details of those who died trying to obtain sanctuary in Europe or the UK in July 2024. We share them here so as to honour their lives and mourn the injustice of their deaths; we remember also the many whose deaths remain unrecorded.

Date	Details
1/7	162 people drowned when their boat capsized off Ndiago (Mauritania) on their way to the Canaries (Spain). 9 others survived.
3/7	A man from Afghanistan, aged 28, died in hospital after he was stabbed in an Asylum centre in Krefeld (DE).
4/7	23 people from Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa drowned on their way to Spain when their boat capsized off Casablanca (Morocco). 22 others survived.
6/7	19 people on their way to Europe, including children of 10 and 16, got lost and starved in the Belguebbour desert (Algeria) after they were pushed back by Libya.
7/7	Youssef, aged 17, and 2 others drowned when their boat from Tunisia sank during its landing at Lampedusa (Italy). 44 others survived.  A man from North Africa, aged 20, drowned while attempting to swim from Morocco.
8/7	A man, aged 28, from Ethiopia died in a fire in a refugee shelter in Buchholz in der Nordheide (DE). 20 others were injured.
9/7	8 people drowned when their life raft hit rocks off Oinousses (Greece) after a push back by Greek Coast Guards. 19 others survived.
10/7	A person died of unknown causes. Their body was recovered from the Mediterranean Sea off Lampedusa (Italy).
11/7	16 people drowned off the coast of Marsa Della (Libya) in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to reach Europe. 15 others survived.  A person died of unknown causes. Their body was found in the Mediterranean Sea off Lampedusa (Italy).
12/7	16 people from Sub-Saharan Africa missing, presumed drowned, after their boat got lost in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to travel from Algeria to the Balearic Islands (Spain).

	Mohamed, Gissam, Jonathan, Ammanuel, Abdallah Ahmad Huseyn, Ahmed Salaad, Ibrahim Huseen, Abdul Rani, and Abdiqani Mohamoud all drowned attempting to reach Britain when their boat deflated off Boulogne-sur-Mer (France). 56 others survived.
13/7	A person died of unknown causes. Their body was found in the Mediterranean Sea off Lampedusa (Italy).
16/7	A man (aged 20) and a girl (aged 2) from Sub-Saharan Africa died of exhaustion in hospital in the Canaries after travelling for 7 days in a boat from Senegal to El Hierro. 49 others survived.
17/7	Dakhlac, a woman from Eritrea aged 32, died of unknown causes. She was found unconscious in a boat off Gravelines (France) on its way to Britain. 71 others survived.
19/7	Abdelaziz Shomo Mohammed from Sudan, aged 15, died of unknown causes on their way to Britain. Their body was found on a sinking boat off Calais (France). 85 others survived.
22/7	210 people from Sub-Saharan Africa drowned off the coast of Nouakchott (Mauritania) on their way to the Canaries. 90 others survived.
23/7	62 people from Nigeria died in a vehicle accident near Madama (Niger) while crossing the Sahara desert on their way to Europe.
25/7	50 people from Western Africa died of unknown violence near Séguédine (Niger) while crossing the Sahara desert on their way to Europe.
28/7	Dina Al Shammari, a woman of 21 from Kuwait, died in hospital in Boulogne-sur-Mer (France) after she was crushed in an overcrowded boat on the way to Britain. 34 others survived.
29/7	Mohamed Abouzayd, an 11 year old boy from Libya, died of a cardiac arrest in France a day after returning from an attempt to cross the English Channel.
31/7	34 people, including 2 children, drowned in the Mediterranean near Bouri Oil Field, north of Zuwara (Libya) on their way to Europe. 2 survived.  44 people from Sub-Saharan Africa, including 1 child, drowned on their way from Sfax (Tunisia) to Lampedusa (Italy) when their boat sank. 1 survived.

**All: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

### **Hymn – “Wait for the Lord”**

by Communauté de Taizé

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart! **(x3)**

### **Scripture Reading**

(Luke 10:25-37) And behold, a lawyer stood up to put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your

heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and you shall love your neighbour as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have answered right; do this and you will live." But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and he fell among robbers who stripped and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now, by chance, a priest was going down that road but when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was and, when he saw him, had compassion and went to him, bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him and whatever more you spend I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three do you think proved a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer replied, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

### **Reflection by Brother Johannes**

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Everyone present reads in turn. All say the **response** in bold.*

We pray for the thousands of men, women and children, known and unknown, who set out to seek safety and a better life in Europe, but who were drowned in the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the Aegean, or the English Channel, and for those who mourn them. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for migrants who have met hostility or violence from authorities or vigilantes. We pray for those pushed back into the sea, those forced into the desert, and for those who commit these crimes. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for the protection of all people in refugee camps in Calais and elsewhere and the communities they build. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for refugees arriving in the UK and being placed in detention in poor conditions at arrival, and those made homeless on being granted asylum. We pray for their mental and physical well-being and for the recognition of their right to decent housing. We pray for Ibrahima Bah and all imprisoned people. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for the Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, those working in this building, and all others who work to maintain border regimes, that they will be guided by their conscience to change policy. We pray for the end of the hostile environment, and the creation of safe, legal routes for people anywhere to claim asylum in this country. We pray also for all of those detained or deported by the American government. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for a resolution to the conflicts and oppression which displace people, for the end of the arms trade, and the realisation of the right of people to remain in their homes. We pray for the realisation of the right of return for all Palestinian refugees. We pray for the people of Congo, Iran,

Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Eritrea, Sudan, Ukraine, and Russia. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for those who are fleeing the effects of climate change, rising sea levels, drought, flood or crop failure; for those who make decisions about compensation, and those who continue to exploit the earth for profit. We ask forgiveness for our complicity in this. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for the safety and success of those serving aboard the rescue ships: the *Safira*, the *Nihayet*, the *Solidaire*, the *Sarah*, the *Maldusa*, the *Life Support*, the *Mission Lifeline*, the *ResQ*, the *Imara*, the *Nadir*, the *Humanity I*, the *Ocean Viking*, the *Louise Michel*, and others; of the volunteers of the Alarm Phone; and of all activists working against borders. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray that you create in all of us the strength and resilience to resist unjust immigration laws and to support one another in this struggle. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

*Leader invites those present to add other prayers if they wish.*

### **Concluding Prayer**

*by the Baptist Union of Great Britain*

**All:** God of all humanity,  
When your people were enslaved and displaced  
You led them to a land that they could call home.  
When your people were in exile  
Your promise was that one day  
They would live in streets of play and laughter.  
When your disciples were afraid and uncertain,  
You spoke of your Father's House  
With mansions and places prepared.

We pray today for all those who have no place to call home,  
Hearing the heart-cry of your word  
For those who are without refuge.  
Where shelter is ours to offer  
Grant us the will and resolve to reflect the generosity of our Creator.  
Where others stand in the way of those who need safe haven  
May our cry for justice never falter.  
May the idols of self-interest and economic gain  
Never deflect us from the ways of your Kingdom.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Hymn – "Christ, Be Our Light"**

**1** Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

**2** We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;

**4** I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

**5** When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,

we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

**3** I will hold the Christlight for you  
in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

**6** Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

*by Richard Gillard*

*All introduce themselves briefly. Any announcements are given.*

*[List of the dead produced by UNITED for Intercultural Action – campaign 'Fortress Europe No More Deaths'  
unitedagainstreugeedeaths.eu – [listofdeaths@unitedagainstracism.org](mailto:listofdeaths@unitedagainstracism.org)]*

***Next Home Office Vigil August 18<sup>th</sup> 2025***