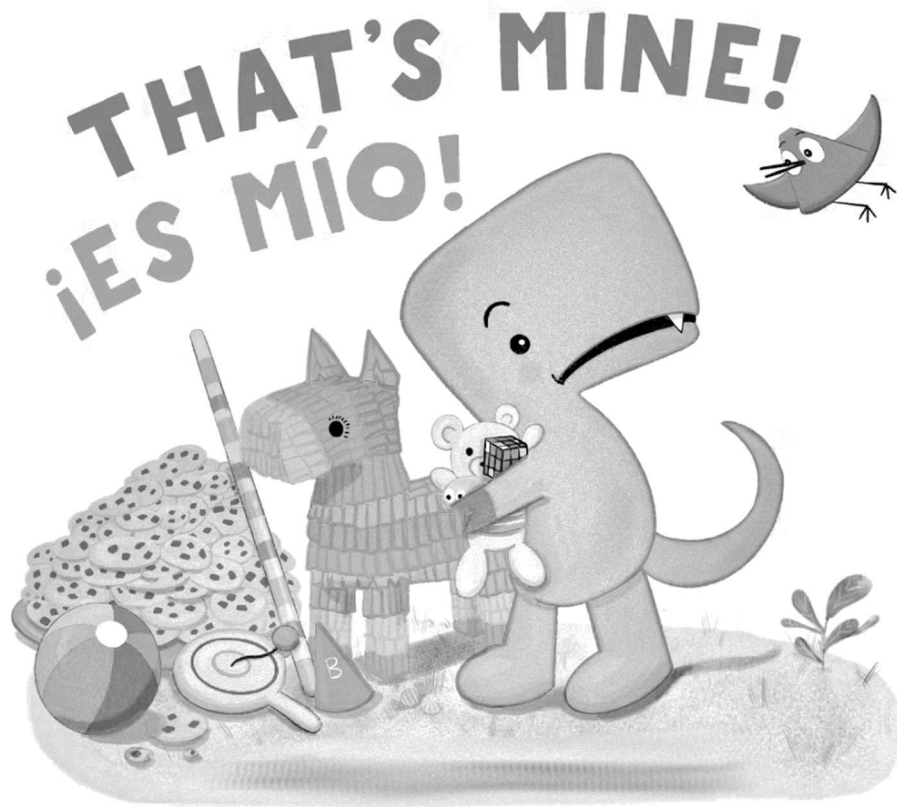


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Benton Harbor



Belonging

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 + Genesis 18:1-8 + Luke 10:25-37

October 4, 2026 + 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

# *We Are Welcomed*

## **Welcome**

**Opening Prayer** “Christ the King” by Malcolm Guite

## **Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship**

# *We Are Gathered*

## **The Call to Worship**

*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

We come from Dowagiac and Fairplain,  
Watervliet and Saint Joseph,  
from Stevensville and Three Oaks,  
Buchanan and Berrien Springs and Benton Harbor.

**Bridging the gulf of racial and class separation,  
we crossed borders and boundaries:  
Bienvenida, all are welcome here!**

As part of the Body of Christ in Benton Harbor,  
we come to claim Christ’s call on our lives  
as we proclaim the gospel and bear witness to Christ’s love.

**We do this together,  
as a community of faith:  
Bienvenida, all are welcome here!**

We come to share our faith - and to learn *how* to share our faith:  
with openness, love, and warmth, with respect for the dignity and individuality of all  
people.

**Bienvenida!  
We welcome and value diversity,  
as we will and work to meet our community’s needs,  
as we enrich and expand our own faith journey.**

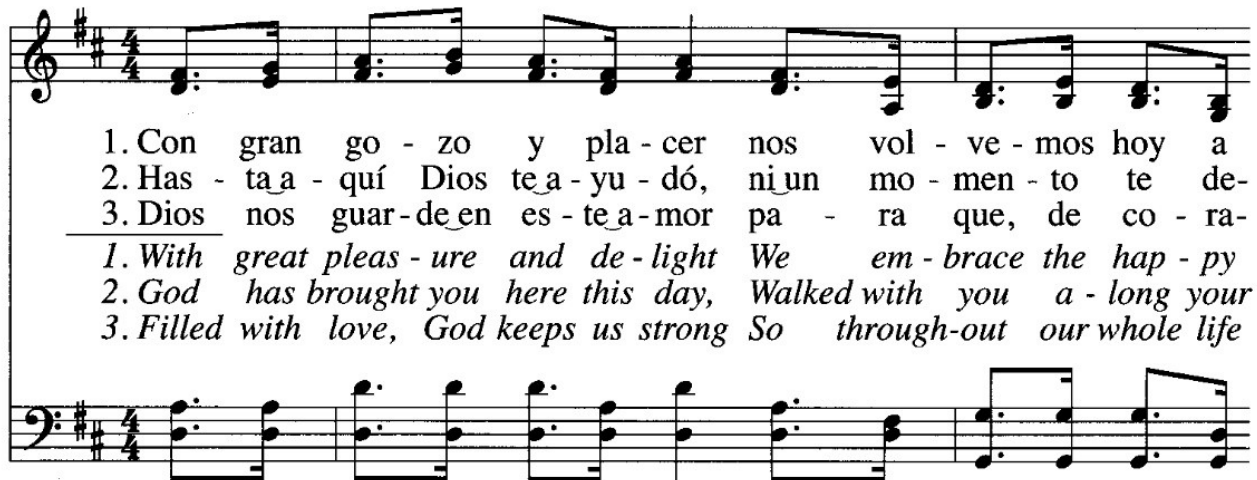
May we be as Christ calls us:  
**Love Centered, Community Oriented  
Servant-Hearted, Inclusive and Integrated.  
Bienvenida, all are welcome here!**

## **Song of Praise**

Con gran gozo y placer / With Great Pleasure and Delight  
*Santo, Santo, Santo: Cantos para el pueblo de Dios #399*

# 399 Con gran gozo y placer / With Great Pleasure and Delight

Estrofas / Verses



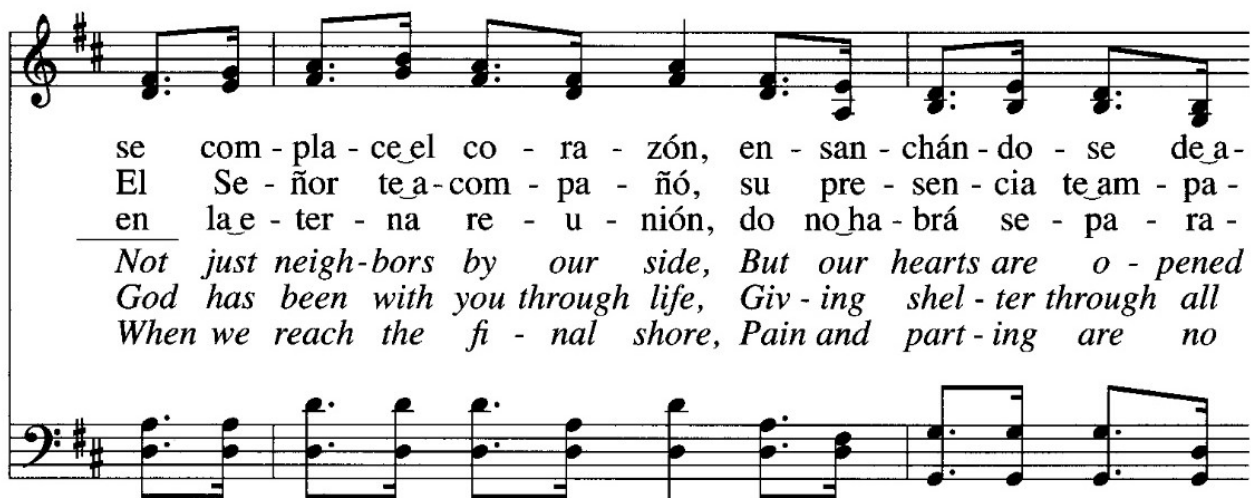
1. Con gran go - zo y pla - cer nos vol - ve - mos hoy a  
 2. Has - ta a - quí Dios te a - yu - dó, ni un mo - men - to te de -  
 3. Dios nos guar - de en es - te a - mor pa - ra que, de co - ra -

1. With great pleas - ure and de - light We em - brace the hap - py  
 2. God has brought you here this day, Walked with you a - long your  
 3. Filled with love, God keeps us strong So through - out our whole life



ver, nues - tras ma - nos o - tra vez es - tre - cha - mos;  
 jó, ya no - so - tros te vol - vió, ¡bien - ve - ni - do!  
 zón, con - sa - gra - dos al Se - ñor, le a - la - be - mos

sight Of our hands stretched out a - gain to each oth - er.  
 way, Nev - er let you go a - stray, ¡bien - ve - ni - do!  
 long In de - vo - tion to our Lord, we give prais - es.



se com - pla - ce el co - ra - zón, en - san - chán - do - se de a -  
 El Se - ñor te a - com - pa - ñó, su pre - sen - cia te am - pa -  
 en la e - ter - na re - u - nión, do no ha - brá se - pa - ra -

Not just neigh - bors by our side, But our hearts are o - pened  
 God has been with you through life, Giv - ing shel - ter through all  
 When we reach the fi - nal shore, Pain and part - ing are no

mor: to - dos a u - na voz a Dios gra - cias da - mos.  
 ró, del pe - li - gro te guar - dó, ¡bien - ve - ni - do!  
 ción, ni tris - te - za ni a - flic - ción, ¡bien - ve - ni - do!  
*wide, Thank-ing God for ev - 'ry sis - ter and broth - er.*  
*strife, And from harm has kept you safe, ¡bien - ve - ni - do!*  
*more, And no grief will still the song our heart rais - es.*

Estribillo / Refrain

¡Bien - ve - ni - da! ¡bien - ve - ni - do! los her - ma - nos de a -  
 \* ¡Bien - ve - ni - da! ¡bien - ve - ni - do! *Friends from near and far a -*

quí nos go - za - mos en de - cir: ¡Bien - ve - ni - da! ¡bien - ve -  
 way *Glad - ly join with us to say: ¡Bien - ve - ni - da! ¡bien - ve -*

ni - do! al vol - ver - nos a reu - nir, ¡bien - ve - ni - do!  
 ni - do! *And un - til we meet a - gain, ¡bien - ve - ni - do!*

\*Bienvenida / Bienvenido means "You are welcome."

## Call to Confession

### **Prayer of Confession** - *Vida en la tierra, Latin American Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches*

Living God, you unsettle us because you made all living beings in your image. Free us from insensitivity to our neighbor.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we are horrified at watching some sing songs of joy while millions cry out in pain. Free us from insensitivity to the suffering of others.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Just God, wake us from our comforts while others suffer and die in an unjust economic system that rules the world. Help us see your world through the eyes of Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we live in the shadow of a global financial empire which insists it is the only system that can advance societies, yet it converts everything into commodities, as a profit or loss, benefitting few at the expense of most people. Shine light on the reality of your creation through Jesus' eyes.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, this economic system plunders earth's treasures, destroys species daily, and threatens the ecosystem of those creatures who depend on it for survival. Liberate your earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

### **Song of Gratitude**

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" *Glory to God #582*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, amen.

World without end, without end, amen.

World without end, without end, amen.

World without end, without end, amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, amen.

## Passing of the Peace

# *We Hear God's Word*

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Scripture Reading** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Holy wisdom, Holy word.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **A Time for Young People**

*Young people of any age are invited to the chancel to hear a special message. Children are welcomed and encouraged to remain in worship following the message. They may remain at the prayerground at the front of the sanctuary or they may return to their adults. Children under 5 years old may go to the nursery with our childcare provider.*

### **Scripture Reading** Genesis 18:1-8

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

These words are trustworthy and true.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Song of Preparation**

God Welcomes All

*Glory to God #399*

*[see next page]*

# God Welcomes All

399

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends; God's love is strong and it nev - er ends." The score is presented in two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN

4.4.9

## Scripture Reading

Luke 10:25-37

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and 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 while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and

when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

For the Holy Word: written and read, proclaimed and lived,  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **Proclamation of the Word**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

"The Immigrant's Creed" Rev. José Luis Casal

**I believe in Almighty God,  
who guided the people in exile  
and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,  
the God of foreigners and immigrants.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,  
who was born away from his people and his home,  
who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger,  
and returning to his own country  
suffered the oppression of the tyrant Pontius Pilate,  
the servant of a foreign power.  
Jesus was persecuted, beaten, and finally tortured,  
accused and condemned to death unjustly.  
But on the third day, this scorned Jesus rose from the dead,  
not as a foreigner but to offer us citizenship in heaven.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,  
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries,  
and reunites all races.**

**I believe that the church is the secure home  
for the foreigner and for all believers who constitute it,  
who speak the same language and have the same purpose.  
Even now, may it be so.**

**I believe that the communion of the saints begins  
when we accept the diversity of the saints.  
Even now, may it be so.**

**I believe in the forgiveness of sin, which makes us all equal,  
and in reconciliation, which identifies us more  
than does race, language, or nationality.  
Even now, may it be so.**

**I believe that in the resurrection  
God will unite us as one people  
in which all are distinct  
and all are alike at the same time.  
Even now, may it be so.**

**Beyond this world, I believe in life eternal  
in which no one will be an immigrant  
but all will be citizens of God's kingdom,  
which will never end.  
Even now, may it be so.  
Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

### **Moment of Meditation**

*What good news did I hear God say to me and to this community this morning?*

*We Respond to God's Word*

### **The Offertory**

**Doxology + The Prayer of Dedication** *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Christ all creatures here below  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

### **Joys + Concerns**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

## **The Invitation to the Table**

*The opportunity to eat and drink at this table is not a right bestowed on the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who choose to come to the table are free to eat and drink, regardless of their age or understanding. All we ask is that you prepare yourself to celebrate by trusting in Christ, even with doubt. Come and be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.*

## **Song of Communion**

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

*[see next page]*

*Glory to God #418*

# 418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of eight systems of staves. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some lines split across multiple staves. The score includes a 'Refrain' section and ends with a double bar line.

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*  
 watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

## **The Sacrament of Communion**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Song of Trust**

“Amen” *Glory to God #600*

## **Announcements**

*We Are Sent by God*

## **Song of Sending** *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

“When the Poor Ones / *Cuando el pobre*” *Glory to God #762*

*[see next page]*

## When the Poor Ones

*Cuando el pobre*

1 When the poor ones who have noth - ing share with strang - ers,  
 2 When at last all those who suf - fer find their com - fort,  
 3 When our joy fills up our cup to o - ver - flow - ing,  
 4 When our homes are filled with good - ness in a - bun - dance,

1 Cuan - do el po - bre na - da tie - ne y aún re - par - te,  
 2 Cuan - do un hom - bre su - fre y lo - gra su con - sue - lo,  
 3 Cuan - do cre - ce la a - le - grí - a y nos i - nun - da,  
 4 Cuan - do a - bun - da el bien y lle - na los ho - ga - res,



when the thirst - y wa - ter give un - to us all,  
 when they hope though e - ven hope seems hope - less - ness,  
 when our lips can speak no words oth - er than true,  
 when we learn how to make peace in - stead of war,

cuan - do un hom - bre pa - sa sed y a - gua nos da,  
 cuan - do es - pe - ra y no se can - sa de es - pe - rar,  
 cuan - do di - cen nues - tros la - bios la ver - dad,  
 cuan - do un hom - bre don - de hay gue - rra po - ne paz,



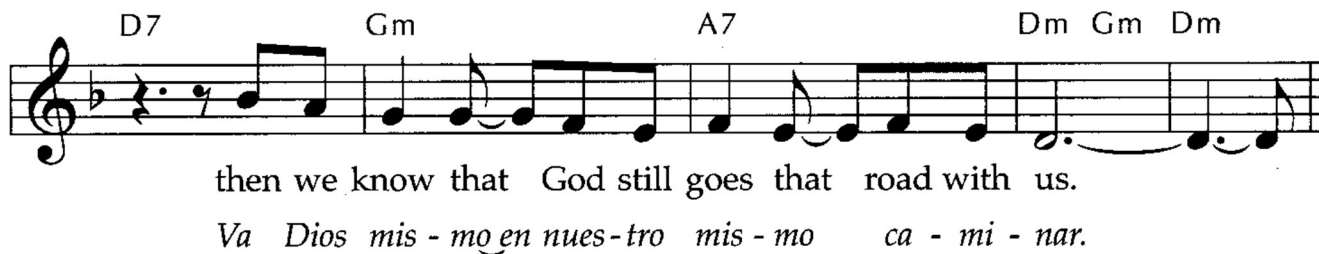
when the crip - pled in their weak - ness strength - en oth - ers,  
 when we love though hate at times seems all a - round us,  
 when we know that love for sim - ple things is bet - ter,  
 when each strang - er that we meet is called a neigh - bor,

cuan - do el dé - bil a su her - ma - no for - ta - le - ce,  
 cuan - do a - ma - mos, aun - que el o - dio nos ro - dé - e,  
 cuan - do a - ma - mos el sen - tir de los sen - ci - llos,  
 cuan - do "her - ma - no" le lla - ma - mos al ex - tra - ño,

## Refrain / Estribillo



then we know that God still goes that road with us,  
 va Dios mis - mo en nues - tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.



## Charge + Benediction

## Postlude

### Affirmations for Welcoming the Stranger *from hias.org*

A core value of my faith is to welcome the stranger, the refugee, the internally displaced, the other. I shall treat him or her as I would like to be treated. I will challenge others, even leaders in my faith community, to do the same. Together with faith leaders, faith-based organizations and communities of conscience around the world, I affirm: I will welcome the stranger.

My faith teaches that compassion, mercy, love and hospitality are for everyone: the native born and the foreign born, the member of my community and the newcomer.

I will remember and remind members of my community that we are all considered “strangers” somewhere, that we should treat the stranger to our community as we would like to be treated, and challenge intolerance.

I will remember and remind others in my community that no one leaves his or her homeland without a reason: some flee because of persecution, violence or exploitation; others due to natural disaster; yet others out of love to provide better lives for their families.

I recognize that all persons are entitled to dignity and respect as human beings. All those in my country, including the stranger, are subject to its laws, and none should be subject to hostility or discrimination.

I acknowledge that welcoming the stranger sometimes takes courage, but the joys and the hopes of doing so outweigh the risks and the challenges. I will support others who exercise courage in welcoming the stranger.

I will offer the stranger hospitality, for this brings blessings upon the community, upon my family, upon the stranger and upon me.

I will respect and honor the reality that the stranger may be of a different faith or hold beliefs different from mine or other members of my community.

I will respect the right of the stranger to practice his or her own faith freely. I will seek to create space where he or she can freely worship.

I will speak of my own faith without demeaning or ridiculing the faith of others.

I will build bridges between the stranger and myself. Through my example, I will encourage others to do the same.

I will make an effort not only to welcome the stranger, but also to listen to him or her deeply, and to promote understanding and welcome in my community.

I will speak out for social justice for the stranger, just as I do for other members of my community.

Where I see hostility towards the stranger in my community, whether through words or deeds, I will not ignore it, but will instead endeavor to establish a dialogue and facilitate peace.

I will not keep silent when I see others, even leaders in my faith community, speaking ill of strangers, judging them without coming to know them, or when I see them being excluded, wronged or oppressed.

I will encourage my faith community to work with other faith communities and faith-based organizations to find better ways to assist the stranger.

I will welcome the stranger.