



Community Prayer Vigil For the Freedom of Ernesto Manuel-Andres

Musical Prelude

Emily Lindsey

Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Rev. Steve Pankey

God our Creator: We ask for your loving presence and for your peace to be with immigrants and refugees in our local communities, our country, and around the world. Be with all who live in fear of unlawful and unjust arrest. Be with those whose lives and livelihoods are under threat, and whose religious freedoms are compromised. Be with us as we strive to enact your will in our welcome and support. Be with those in positions of leadership, that their decisions may bend toward peace and not division, and that they might realize the power they hold to do justice. Give us all strength and courage. Equip and empower us to be witnesses to your love and bearers of hope. In your Holy name we pray. **Amen.**

Getting to Know Ernesto Manuel-Andres

Deacon Zachary Brandt

Musical Interlude

“Imagine”

John Lennon

Performed by Carla Lafontaine

Our Faithful Response

The Rev. Steve Pankey

A Prayer for Those in Immigration Detention

**God of all consolation,
our hearts break for those held in immigration detention
in the U.S. and abroad.**

**We grieve the deaths of your beloved children in ICE custody,
and we mourn with those fearful and suffering.**

**Send your spirit of mercy and wisdom upon those in power,
that they may safeguard the human rights and dignity of those
detained. Strengthen those who work and advocate for the release
of those unjustly detained,
especially your beloved child, Ernesto Manuel-Andres,
and for reform of the immigration system,
in the name of your Son, Jesus, who sets the captives free. Amen.**

Musical Interlude

Emily Lindsey

*During this time of prayer and meditation, you are invited to come forward and light
a candle, asking God's light to shine in the darkness of this moment. Prayers and
cards of support may also be written by God's children of all ages using the supplies on
the side table.*

A Litany for Immigrants and Refugees

The Rev. Kellie Mysinger

As we lift our prayers for this beautiful and broken world, we remember
our own sacred stories and how they call us to strive to bring forth God's
dream of a Beloved Community. With all our heart and all our mind, let
us pray to our God, saying, "hear our prayer."

Sovereign God, may we who are the Body of Christ, the Church, embrace and welcome our immigrant and refugee siblings in God, and all who seek shelter from any danger.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

God of Protection, whose Son fled violence from his own home with his earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, and sought refuge in a foreign land, hear the cries of all who suffer because of hatred, war, violence, greed, and famine. Help us peacefully to mend our divisions, that all you have created may be whole.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

God Who makes us One, we pray for our nation and all the nations of the world, that those who govern the people and have authority over them may consider each life to be of value and may serve the people of their nation with equity and fairness, dedicating themselves to mercy and justice.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for our newest neighbors, that those individuals and families who have sought refuge from the ravages of war and violence may find not only shelter and sustenance, but also a loving and supportive community in which to create a new beginning with dignity.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

Almighty and Loving God, you who have crossed the boundaries of Heaven and Earth to be with your people, visit those who must flee their homes because of violence and oppression and lead them to a land of safety.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

Loving God, you sent Jesus to proclaim release to the captives, we pray to you especially for Ernesto, that you might turn the hearts of those in power to act in holiness and justice and release him immediately. Bring him safely back to his Bowling Green home.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

We give thanks to you, Source of All Being, that you hear our intercessions on behalf of immigrants and refugees. We thank you that love swallows fear, that in your compassion we learn to walk with those who suffer, that when we give of ourselves we receive far more, and that when we receive those who stand knocking at our doors, we receive Christ the Beloved One. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Amazing Grace” v. 1, 3, 4

Hymn 671

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

#FreeErnesto Statement from Local Faith Leaders

The Clergy and Faith Leaders in Warren County and Bowling Green lament the illegal arrest, detention, and incarceration of Ernesto Manuel-Andres by the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. We demand his immediate release on humanitarian, legal, and moral grounds.

Ernesto has followed all legal requirements as set forth by our country on the path to legal citizenship in the United States. He entered the country as an unaccompanied minor, was processed by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, and obtained Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status that allows him to be in the United States *legally*.

Ernesto has followed the rule of law; ICE has not.

No matter our faith, each of us is committed to recognize the dignity of every human being and to follow the laws of this land. Ernesto's dignity and legal rights have been violated since being kidnapped by ICE Agents on June 4th. His right to habeas corpus has been denied as the federal government has yet to offer him due process, an inalienable right for ALL in this country.

Ernesto has not committed any crime. He is being illegally detained. The rights that we are all entitled to, that Ernesto is entitled to, are being willfully violated. The United States was founded on principles of faith, including liberty and justice for all. None of us can stand idly by as these principles, so dear to all of us, are blatantly and willfully violated.

Those of us who follow Jesus are motivated to speak out because Scripture tells us, “Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt.” (Exodus 23:9) And elsewhere, when asked what was most important, Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27). The very words of our faith call for us to stand and demand our government follow the rule of law and the guidance of God.

We ask all of our citizens commit to the following actions:

- Regular vigils, praying for Ernesto’s immediate release;
- Fasting (as we are able) to suffer alongside Ernesto while he remains illegally imprisoned in a jail cell in Louisiana;
- Advocating publicly to and with our elected leaders at the local, state, and federal levels to end this unconstitutional and unconscionable wrong perpetrated against Ernesto Manuel-Andres.

Please join us in prayer at Christ Episcopal Church (1215 State Street) on Tuesday, June 17 at 7pm and at Broadway United Methodist Church (1323 Melrose Street) at 7pm on Thursday, June 19. Friday is a regular day of fasting in many of our traditions, and so, on Friday, June 20 from 8am until 6pm, please join us in fasting as a sign of our commitment to the relief of Ernesto’s suffering.

Ernesto Manuel-Andres is a child of God and a child of Bowling Green. May we work for his liberty and justice. May we welcome him home soon.

#FreeErnesto

The Rev. Megan Huston, First Christian Church

The Rev. Dr. Steven Pankey, Christ Episcopal Church

The Rev. Kellie Mysinger, Christ Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Adam Shourds, Broadway United Methodist Church

The Rev. Louis Tagliaboschi, Broadway United Methodist Church

The Rev. Laura Vincent, Broadway United Methodist Church

The Rev. Joe Patterson, Broadway United Methodist Church

The Rev. Jason Brown, Broadway United Methodist Church

The Rev. Dr. Kourtney Warren, State Street Baptist Church

The Reverend John C. Lee, Jr., Mount Zion Baptist Church

The Right Reverend Terry A. White, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky

The Rev. Robert Tackett-Evans, St James United Methodist Church

The Rev. Ashley Tackett- Evans, Scottsville First United Methodist Church

The Rev. Craig Tuck, State Street United Methodist Church

The Rev. Dr. Weston Williams

The Rev. Philip G. Johnson, Taylor Chapel AME Church

ERNESTO MANUEL-ANDRES

IS BEING HELD ILLEGALLY WITHOUT DUE PROCESS

BROADWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WILL
HOST A PRAYER VIGIL FOR HIS IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THURSDAY
JUNE 19TH**

7:00 PM



BROADWAY

BROADWAY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
1323 MELROSE ST
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42104



ERNESTO HAS
NO CRIMINAL HISTORY
NO DEPORTATION ORDER
COMMITTED NO CRIME
FOLLOWED THE RULE OF LAW
NO REASON TO BE DETAINED