When I look at someone I don't know, what do I see?

God, I am sorry that my first answer is now always

Another child of God,

A brother or sister,

A neighbor to be loved.

We have been encouraged to fear the other,

And suspicion has become a way of life.

We confess our complicity in creating a culture of hostility,

And our willing compliance with the demands of authorities, however unjust.

God of mercy, we pray,

Quell unfounded fears,

Forgive our distrustfulness,

And help us to see strangers through your eyes.

Give us opportunities to show welcome, to receive love,

And to build up the community you call us to share.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

~ Simeon Mitchell, JPIT

God of the nomad, asylum seeker and refugee,

Journey with those who have left all

To find safety on our shores,

Accused of lying, hungry and homeless,

Vulnerable, away from families and the familiar.

God of the stranger be with them we pray

And help us to open our arms and our hearts

To those who seek sanctuary from afar,

Following the one who left all for us,

Amen.

~ Revd Pat Nimmo

I should like a great lake of finest ale, for the King of Kings;

I should like a table of the choicest good, for the family of heaven.

Let the table be made from the fruits of the faith, and the food be forgiving love.

I should welcome the poor to my feast, for they are God's children.

I should welcome the sick to my feast, for they are God's joy.

Let the poor sit with Jesus at the highest place, and the sick dance with the angels.

God bless the poor, God bless the sick, and God bless our human race.

God bless our food, God bless our drink, all homes, O God, embrace.

~ Attributed to Brigit, the 5th Century Irish saint known for her hospitality.