

WELCOME THE STRANGER

“Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt.” Leviticus 19:33,34 CEB *“He (Jesus) replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.’”* Matthew 22:37-39 CEB

“Welcome the stranger into your land:”

open your heart to the Scripture’s demand.

Work to assure they’re never reviled,

for we are each an immigrant’s child.*

Refrain:

God loves all people, each one the same,

whatever country, color, or name,

or how they worship, or speak in prayer --

inclusive Love will listen and care.

Jesus our Savior issued this call:

“Love God completely, it’s first, above all:

and, love your neighbor just as yourself.”

So may God’s world find wholeness and health.

When we are fearful of those unknown,
God's gracious Spirit will speak to our own:
"Greet your new sister, brother, in peace;
let trust unite and justice increase."

Words: R. Frederick Crider ©2017 Some rights reserved Scripture: Lev. 19:33-34 CEB; Matt. 22:37-39 CEB

Suggested Tune: "ASSURANCE" Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873 9 10.9 9 with refrain (cf. "Blessed Assurance" p. 369 UMH)

(*except in North America, i.e. Native American/First Nation peoples)