

“Beatitudes” by Pastor Alison Harrington, Southside Presbyterian Church

Blessed are you who journey with child on back or in arms
leaving behind war for the hope of peace
for you shall find sanctuary

Blessed are you who wait patient and impatient at the armored doors of our nation
for you shall find welcome

Blessed are you who sit in detention centers
for you shall find freedom

Blessed are you with ankle monitors
for you shall run free

Blessed are you who are deported
for you shall return once again

Blessed are you whose children are stolen away
snatched from your very breast
for they shall run back to you, leaping into your arms

Blessed are you who cross the desert
Blessed are you who make it
Blessed are you who don't
for you shall live forever

Blessed are you who protest
who march
who sit in
who go to jail
for righteousness shall be yours

And woe to you who deal in barbed wire and drones
for you shall climb a hundred walls and never reach the end

woe to you to call children “intruders”
for you shall have the doors of heaven closed upon
you

woe to you who name the love of a mother that walks for thousands of miles ‘criminal’
woe to you who call the love of a father that will traverse a

thousand deserts 'criminal'
for you shall be called the unredeemed and the
forsaken

woe to you who rip families apart
who steal children in the night
who traumatize and torture
and call it all deterrence
woe to you who laugh now
but you will mourn and weep

for as the Lord says 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

and so woe to you who laugh now
but you will mourn and weep

blessed are you who will stop at nothing until each and every child is found and placed back in the care of their families

and blessed are the children
orphaned
lost
afraid
calling out in the night
blessed are you
for you shall inherit earth and the stars and the moon and the sun
blessed are you
for you shall once again know the embrace of your father's sacred arms and the kiss of your mother's sacred lips.