

Reflections around Station 1

Reading from Scripture: Matthew 2:13-18

“Now when the [wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

(Silence)

Helen's Story (excerpted from an interview with Helen Berhane:

<https://www.vomradio.net/episodes/detail/eritrea-to-know-him-more>)

(Silence)

Syrian Refugees' Stories (Film)

(Silence)

Poem by Azfa Awad ... 'War Memoir' (in *England: Poems from a School*, ed Kate Clanchy)

(Silence)

Lord of all journeys, chosen and forced
As we visit this first station of prayer,
We hold in your presence each person compelled to flee their home.
Inspire our thoughts and words,
And where thought is uncertain and words cease,
Send your Spirit to intercede.

After people have had time to consider station one, we will gather to share any reflections as we are moved, concluding with this prayer:

**Lord Jesus, who had nowhere to lay Your head,
We commend to Your loving care all who have fled their homes.
Grant them, we pray, the knowledge that they are held by you, wherever they are,
And keep them free from harm as they seek a place of peace.**

Reflections around Station Two

Places of remembering the past ... of making new connections for the present ...of sorrowing for grievous losses ...of hoping for a new life elsewhere or a safe return home. Places where conditions can be difficult or dangerous and uncertainty is constantly present ... places which feel permanent, maybe more than you'd like them too *Displacement*

Shamsu and Jahida's stories (Bangladesh): excerpted from interviews at <https://doctorsoftheworld.org/blog/the-rohingya-refugee-crisis-stories-of-survival/>

Marah's story from Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan: <https://vimeo.com/224032665>

Nyamvura's story (Tanzania): excerpted from <https://wfto.com/burundi-and-tanzania-weaving-stories-hope-refugee-camps>

Readings from Scripture: Psalm 137:1-4, Acts 28: 16, 17a, 23-24, 30-31

“By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.
On the willows there
we hung up our lyres.
For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
How shall we sing the Lord's song
in a foreign land?
If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand forget its skill!
Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy!”

Psalm 137

And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him.

After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews ... When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Acts 28

After people have had time to consider station two, we will gather to share any reflections as we are moved, concluding with this prayer:

**Lord Jesus, who pitched your tent with mortals
And blessed the houses you entered,
We bring before you all places
Which people who have been displaced
Now call their homes.
Where dwellings and services
Are inadequate to meet their needs,
We pray for improvements
And in all cases, we pray that people may know
Your presence dwelling amongst them.**

Reflections around Station Three

Caritas' reflection (contact CCOW for a link)

Asylum Welcome video: <https://vimeo.com/188183211>

Extract from Blackfriars' Case Study: <https://www.ccow.org.uk/case-study-blackfriars-community-sponsorship-group/>

Readings from Scripture: Leviticus 19:33-34, Romans 12: 9-13

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 12

After people have had time to consider station three, we will gather to share any reflections as we are moved, concluding with this prayer:

**Lord Jesus, when you welcomed into your presence
The strangers and people on the margins,
You revealed the all-embracing invitation
of God's Kingdom.
Help us through our hospitality to show your love
So that others may see the signs of that Kingdom
Which we yearn to see come, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Reflections around Station 4

Readings from Scripture: Acts 17: 5b – 10a

“They formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.”

Acts 17

Children separated from their parents (recording): <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jun/18/us-border-families-separated-audio-recording>

Eritrean Man's Story: <https://www.msf.org.za/stories-news/staff-patient-stories/mediterranean-testimonies-eritreans-rescued-argos>

Tony Perry's Story: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jul/18/they-erased-a-bit-of-my-life-windrush-generation-on-home-office-treatment>

After people have had time to consider station four, we will gather to share any reflections as we are moved, concluding with this prayer:

**Lord Jesus, you knew suffering and rejection,
Spurned by your own, condemned to torture and death.
We pray for all who are encountering hostility
In places they hoped would be safe.
May they be protected and sustained
By your love which never falters,
And find peace even amidst the turbulence of our fearful societies.
And we pray for these societies to recognise in each human being
A person made in the image and likeness of God,
And to commit in law and practice to respect each person's dignity.**

Reflections around Station 5

Take a look at the news materials scattered around the area and, if it's helpful, read the stories that touch your heart. Or perhaps you have a country which you know well and which is on your heart ... in which case, you can spend the time of preparation thinking about that country.

After people have had time to consider station five, we will gather to share any reflections as we are moved, we will hear the Scripture reading.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21: 1-4, 22: 1-5

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'”

“Then the angel[a] showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life[b] with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. “

And we pray, using a verse from Fred Kaan's hymn 'For the healing of the nations':

**Lead us, Father, into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
men may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.**

Prepared by Christian Concern for One World for use with the Reverend Ben Kautzer's 'Into deep and turbulent waters' prayer stations. All materials for the prayer stations can be found at <https://www.ccow.org.uk/resources/refugee-prayer-service-materials/>.