

Into all the world – Reflections for Lent 2021

Week 7 – 4th April (Easter Sunday)
Written by Claire Welch from All We Can

A journey of triumphs and challenges

There are many journeys we take in life, whether that be physically travelling from one place to another or the journeys we embark on through spiritual, intellectual and relational landscapes. Often on a journey there will be parts that challenge us – for someone scared of flying that may be the airplane to and from a holiday destination, for a student embarking on a new academic course it could be the exams at the end, and for a person developing a relationship it may be the need to be vulnerable in order to be known. It would seem that even the best journeys still have their challenges.

In the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) we witness Jesus' journey from the Wilderness to Jerusalem. A three-year period where friendships are made, the gospel is preached, and captives are set free. Yet these wonderful acts are positioned alongside mounting criticism and backlash from political and religious powers. When Jesus finally reaches Jerusalem to joyful shouts of proclamation, it is alongside grumblings of criticism.

As Jesus' disciples seeking to journey faithfully with him today, we are warned that we too will face criticism and rejection (John 15:20). While some people will see Jesus for who he is through our witness – those who will pick up palm leaves and hail him as king – there will also be those who reject him, seeing him (and thereby us), as a threat to their own kingdoms.



This is a lady called Weyneshet Beuel, who is one of the farmers we are working with in Ethiopia.

To ponder:

- What have been the challenging aspects of the various journeys you've been on?
- How has God sustained you through the challenges you have faced?

Prayer: *Thank you loving Lord, for being present with us on our life's journey. As we wander through times of joy and challenges your love and faithfulness sustain us. May we come to know you more each day and share you with those around us. Amen.*

Bible link: Luke 19: 28–40

Hymn: *Singing the Faith* 45 Blessed be your name