Advent 4 Reflection

00:10

Why do you support refugees?

00:12

I support refugees because my family were refugees.

00:15

I support refugees because we are all God's children and we all deserve a safe place to grow in God's love.

00:21

I support refugees because God made us all in God's image.

00:25

I support refugees because I'm a legal guardian of a minor asylee named Carol from Burundi.

00:32

I support refugees because my Lord was a refugee.

00:36

Because I welcome and I love my neighbor.

**Allison Duvall** 00:42

Hi, and welcome to Hometown, a podcast from Episcopal Migration Ministries, the refugee and immigration ministry of the Episcopal Church. I'm Kendall Martin. And I'm Allison Duvall. Today's episode features a reflection from Ana Reza, Bridge Chaplain at the Diocese of the Rio Grande living in El Paso, Texas, and working in Juarez, Mexico. Ana works within one of the asylum shelters in Juarez.

**Kendall Martin** 01:07

Ana provides pastoral care and seeks and trains volunteers to go to the shelters and do a variety of activities from teaching to prayer. During COVID She is involved with EMM in building solidarity with other members of the community working along the border and with asylum seekers throughout the USA. We hope you enjoy today's reflection.

**Ana Reza** 01:30

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we get closer to the celebration of the birth of Christ.  The birth is our Salvation & Truth.  In a time where lies have become acceptable we need to speak the Truth louder & continuously.  We have even been lied to, concerning the image of Christ being a white man. To people of color this lie has caused so much suffering and death.   These lies create racist structures. Here we are looking specifically at refugees, asylum seekers & immigration. Once these lies are created it is easier for a few policy makers to control our reaction to the immigration process in our country. And create oppressive border policies.   We are called to prepare and be true followers of Christ by understanding our connection. In Spanish there is a saying Tu Lucha es mi Lucha. Your struggle is my struggle.  As we say, “Here I am” may we be open to the truth of our connections, our bond & our responsibility. We are family, we are a community, and we need to start treating each other this way.  If we trust & have faith in the Truth, the Way and not the lies then we will be given the freedom we so desperately need. We would create an awesome life, overflowing with equality for all people & our environment. We deserve it.

**Kendall Martin** 03:29

Thank you so much for joining us today listeners.

**Allison Duvall** 03:31

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter where we are emmrefugees.

**Kendall Martin** 03:36

In the season of giving we invite you to make a gift to support the refugee and immigration ministries of the Episcopal Church through the work of Episcopal Migration Ministries. Visit episcopalmigrationministries.org/give or text Hometown to 91999.

**Allison Duvall** 03:53

Our theme song composer is Abraham Mwinda Ikando. Find his music at abrahammwinda.bandcamp.com.

**Kendall Martin** 04:01

Until next time, peace be with you and all those you consider home.