

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Leader: God holds us in a covenant of grace. The promise to Noah is our promise too: God will never again destroy the whole world in order to make things new.

People: Rather, God will work through us to make things new.

Leader: We need change that turns us inside out, focusing us on the needs of those around us.

People: May we embrace the changes that will leave fear behind and open up a whole new world ahead.

Assurance:

Leader: May the God of the rainbow assure us that the world is in good hands.

People: May Christ, who shared our humanity, open our hearts to the pain of all who suffer.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit give us courage and conviction to stand up to oppression.

People: May we be faithful to the God of covenant and change.

Liturgical Suggestion:
Sing verse 1 of hymn #202, "We lay our broken world."

Composed by The Rev. Dr. Emily K. Bisset

Produced by Presbyterian World Service & Development

The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto ON M3C 1J7 * 1-800-619-7301 * www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

THE JOURNEY TO FOOD SECURITY: MALAWI

Being food secure means that, at all times, you have access to sufficient quantities and an understanding of nutritious food, in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

Improved health, more food, increased soil fertility... these are some of the many benefits Tinkhani and other families in marginalized communities are realizing through a PWS&D-supported program in northern Malawi.

Before Tinkhani participated in the program, he could not afford to buy fertilizer for his crops so his family experienced food shortages and his children frequently went to bed hungry. After learning about intercropping and how to use organic farming practices, Tinkhani is now able to grow an abundance of nutritious foods with excess to sell at the market. Tinkhani happily reports that his family never goes hungry, even when the rains are bad.

This Lenten season, as we reflect on the abundant life Christ came to give, may we also remember that we can help others in their journey to food security through support of PWS&D.
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SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Leader: God's covenant continued through Abram and Sarai. God promised that things would change.

People: Even Abram and Sarai's names changed as a sign of God's constant presence with them.

Leader: The promise that God made is our promise too: when we journey with God, God will make us fruitful and the people of faith will increase.

People: May we embrace the changes that leave power, might and pride behind.

Assurance:

Leader: May the God of the covenant love us so much that we cannot stay the same.

People: May Christ, who called people to give up everything and follow him, also compel us to follow him.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit of comfort assure us that in every change, God is faithful.

People: May we hear the call of the God of covenant and change.

Liturgical Suggestion:
Sing verse 2 of hymn #202, "We lay our broken world."

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THE JOURNEY TO FOOD SECURITY: NICARAGUA

Being food secure means that, at all times, you have access to sufficient quantities and an understanding of nutritious food, in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

Elizabeth and her 14-month old daughter, Ashley, are learning to thrive in the midst of malnutrition, violence and substance abuse in an impoverished neighbourhood in Nicaragua's capital city, Managua. Thanks to a PWS&D program in their area, Ashley is overcoming anemia as her mother learns the importance of a balanced diet and proper nutrition.

Every week, program staff visit Elizabeth and Ashley to discuss a variety of issues, including nutrition, brain development and financial budgeting. For many families in this neighbourhood, raising healthy children is not just about earning enough money to put food on the table, but about learning to purchase and prepare nutritious foods instead of relying on pre-packaged snacks.

As a result of these teachings, malnutrition is on the decline as young families like Elizabeth's commit to leading stronger and healthier lives.

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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Leader: God gave us the covenant of the law to guide us and help us live with our neighbours in love.

People: When we break God's law, we leave our neighbours hurt and bruised.

Leader: God's law is a gift to us, showing us how to keep our part of the covenant.

People: Even through old pain and wounds, may we embrace the new life that Christ can bring.

Assurance:

Leader: May the God of the law guide us in living lives that keep the covenant of love.

People: May Christ's forgiveness grant us new life, even when we break God's law.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit of conviction lead us to confession and renewal.

People: May we respond in love to the God of covenant and change.

Liturgical Suggestion:
Sing verse 3 of hymn #202, "We lay our broken world."

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THE JOURNEY TO FOOD SECURITY: PAKISTAN

Being food secure means that, at all times, you have access to sufficient quantities and an understanding of nutritious food, in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

Farmers in Pakistan know what it is like to face recurring drought and the resulting damage water shortages inflict on their crops. If farmers are going to triumph over hunger and grow more food, they need steady access to water for irrigation. This is exactly what a PWS&D program is addressing in the Umerkhot region of Pakistan through the construction of water storage ponds.

Water storage ponds are a cost-effective means of storing water during the rainy season so that farmers have water available year-round to irrigate their crops. Community members work together to construct, maintain and share their pond, and farmers regulate the amount of water they use so that all members benefit without depleting supplies.

"This is a major achievement, because drought is one of our biggest challenges," says farmer Abdul Aziz Khan Muhammad. In his group, their storage pond provides water eleven months of the year to irrigate dry, cracked ground and instead grow lush, nutritious food.

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Leader: How often, like our brothers and sisters in the wilderness, we have failed to trust God's covenant!

People: We have let God down and hurt one another.

Leader: But Jesus came into the world and was lifted up in order that love might be reborn.

People: Let us be glad, for we are not condemned, but held in the covenant of grace.

Assurance:

Leader: May God provide for our every need as we wander through our own wilderness.

People: May Christ our Saviour never condemn us, but deliver us to salvation.

Leader: May the Holy Bond of Love keep us in eternal care.

People: May we be empowered by embracing God's covenant and accepting God's changes.

Liturgical Suggestion:

Sing verse 4 of hymn #202, "We lay our broken world."

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THE JOURNEY TO FOOD SECURITY: GUATEMALA

Being food secure means that, at all times, you have access to sufficient quantities and an understanding of nutritious food, in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

For millions of small-scale farmers in developing countries, livestock are an important source of nutrition and income, helping them rise above poverty and invest in their futures. Acquiring pigs, chickens, rabbits, goats and cattle allows farmers to sell extra meat, milk and eggs at the market, while adding a valuable source of protein to their diets.

In Guatemala, PWS&D is helping families establish small-scale pig farms, and is teaching farmers how to provide adequate housing, access veterinary services and ensure their animals are properly fed and cared for.

Families use the income from selling pigs to buy more piglets and expand their businesses, improve their homes, purchase nutritious food, access health care and ensure their children stay in school. Farmers are also transformed by the sense of accomplishment that comes from running a successful farm.

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Leader: God promised a new covenant through the prophet Jeremiah, who said that one day the law would be written on our hearts and all would know God.

People: Often, when we are confused and closed and worn, we wonder if that day will ever come.

Leader: God's promise throughout the law and prophets is made alive in us. God will always be our God and we will always be God's people.

People: Let us be glad, for God remembers our sin no more.

Assurance:

Leader: May the God of healing grace restore our weary souls.

People: May the Christ of glory teach us that it is through service that we gain honour.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit grant us a new sense of purpose and direction.

People: May we anticipate with eagerness God's coming covenant and the changes it will bring.

Liturgical Suggestion:
Sing verse 5 of hymn #202, "We lay our broken world."

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THE JOURNEY TO FOOD SECURITY: MALAWI

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Fletcher Jere and others in northern Malawi are all too familiar with the burden of poverty. For generations, people in the area struggled with hunger and malnutrition, until a PWS&D program began work in the community.

Fletcher is now the chairperson of the Village Development Committee, a group of volunteers receiving education as part of the program. Working with 12 nearby villages, Fletcher uses his training to teach other farmers how to care for their soil, grow nutritious beans, and establish seed banks. Community discussion groups address age and gender inequities that prevent families from improving the quality and quantity of food within the household.

Fletcher explains the training has improved harvests and now "there is enough food to eat, sell and store for later." Other farmers are quick to agree that hunger has been dramatically reduced.

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PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Leader: When the anointed of the Lord comes to fulfill the covenant, will we recognize him?

People: Will he find us despairing, cynical and power-hungry?

Leader: Or will he find us living in peace and hope and love?

People: May we stand ready to receive Christ in humility, praise and trust.

Assurance:

Leader: May the God of hosannas save us this day.

People: May Christ's humility govern our thoughts, words and actions.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit breathe on us with life and strength anew.

People: May we be lifted up in faith by the God of covenant and change.

Liturgical Suggestion:
Sing verse 6 of hymn #202, "We lay our broken world."

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THE JOURNEY TO FOOD SECURITY: PAKISTAN

Being food secure means that, at all times, you have access to sufficient quantities and an understanding of nutritious food, in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

Many subsistence farmers in Pakistan are well acquainted with the bondage of poverty and debt. These farmers cultivate plots rented from landowners, who charge exorbitant interest rates by taking a substantial portion of each season's harvest, leaving farmers little remaining food to feed their families. During a poor harvest, farmers may be forced to repay their debts by selling their houses or even their children into slavery.

Farmers are finding freedom through a PWS&D-supported program teaching them how to multiply yields through techniques such as intercropping, irrigation, organic farming and vegetable preservation.

Farmers are now celebrating a doubling and even tripling of their harvests, setting them free from debt bondage to landowners. As one farmer happily reports, "We used to buy vegetables by the kilo. Now we sell vegetables by the mound (40kg)."

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MAUNDY THURSDAY/GOOD FRIDAY

Leader: Eating the bread, we proclaim that we are the body of Christ.

People: Holding the cup, we say, “This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood.”

Leader: We remember.

People: We remember.

Assurance:

Leader: May the God of sorrows accompany us on this journey to the cross.

People: May the crucified Christ forgive us for the violence that plagues the human race.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit whisper reassurance through the darkness of this hour.

People: May the world be healed from violence and hatred by the God of covenant and change.

Liturgical Suggestion:
Sing hymn #202, “We lay our broken world” (verses 1-6).

THE JOURNEY TO FOOD SECURITY: TANZANIA

Being food secure means that, at all times, you have access to sufficient quantities and an understanding of nutritious food, in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

Small-scale farmers in the Shinyanga region of Tanzania often struggle to put food on the table as they are forced to contend with recurring drought and rising prices for farm inputs. In order to help increase food production and reduce their vulnerability, PWS&D partners have trained nearly 4,000 farmers over the last five years in sustainable agricultural techniques.

Through the program, farmers are learning about crop rotation and diversification, intercropping, making organic fertilizers and growing drought-resistant crops such as sorghum and cassava. The provision of tools has helped farmers increase the amount of land they cultivate to grow more food.

Farmers are also learning to grow a variety of vegetables in order to improve their families’ nutrition. Excess vegetables are sold at the market, and the income earned helps pay for school fees, medicine and home improvements.

This Lenten season, as we reflect on the abundant life Christ came to give, may we also remember that we can help others in their journey to food security through support of PWS&D.

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EASTER DAY

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen! The world is forever changed.

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen! We are forever changed.

Leader: We need not fear, for the God of the covenant promises to be with us through every change.

People: May we always be open to new ways of living, relating, serving and seeing.

Assurance:

Leader: May the God of life remind us that death never has the final say.

People: May the risen Christ prove to us that violence and hatred will never win.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit, our advocate, lead us to advocate for others.

People: May we go boldly forward to live out the love, justice and hope that Easter proclaims.

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CHRIST IS RISEN!

Every day that we journey with the poor, the suffering and the displaced, we discover God's resurrecting power: the hungry receive food, the neglected are cared for, the sick are healed and the poor are raised up.

For 65 years, our church has been working together with partners overseas and Canadians here at home in order to share Christ's hope and love through PWS&D by restoring human dignity, easing the pain of want and promoting community cooperation.

Thanks to your support and faith in action, we are providing people in need with food, education, health care, clean water, small loans, promoting human rights and supporting refugees in our global village.

As we reflect on the abundant life Christ came to give, may we also remember that we can reach out to our brothers and sisters around the world as they journey toward food security and self-sufficiency.

This Easter, please support PWS&D.

PWS&D is a proud member of Canadian Churches in Action (CCA), Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) and the ACT Alliance.

Make your donation go even further through regular, monthly donations.



Call today to enrol or visit

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