

First Sunday in Lent

Reader: During this season of Lent,
let us repair the breach,
and mend what is torn.

**Unison: Let us weave the threads of our lives
into the quilt of community
where bread is shared,
and all have a home.**

Reader: We are called to repair the breach,
to restore the streets to live in.

**All: So let us choose to delight in the Living
Word, to seek the One
who gives colour to our lives,
and stitches us together.
Let us worship God.**

Written by the Rev. Janet Ryu-Chan
Produced by Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto ON M3C 1J7
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Winter in War-Torn Syria

Caught in the middle of a war zone in central Syria, Rabeha was living a nightmare.

In a recent bomb blast, her brother had been killed and her mother lost her legs when the family's home was destroyed. Rabeha's father suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed.

Rabeha struggled to carry on — unable to secure a job, she couldn't afford food, medical care for her parents, or heat for the winter.

Rabeha and her family are among the over six million people displaced in war-ravaged Syria, trapped where bombs fall and basic services like schools and hospitals lie in ruins.

Rabeha's family endured cold, hungry nights before they enrolled in a PWS&D food aid project with Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

After receiving monthly food baskets, Rabeha was able to save money for other needs and face the harsh winter with greater peace of mind.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to serve the vulnerable and displaced. Through support for PWS&D, we can help ease the suffering of families facing seemingly endless turmoil in Syria.

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Second Sunday in Lent

Reader: During this season of Lent,
let us repair the breach,
and heal what is afflicted.

**Unison: Like a hen who gathers her chicks,
let us shelter the weak
and nurse the sick.**

Reader: We are called to
repair the breach,
to bring wholeness to
the heart, mind, body,
and soul.

**All: So let us serve the One
who restores the lame,
cares for the wounded,
helps the hurt
and gathers us close.
Let us worship God.**

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A Hopeful Journey to Recovery

Sita had spent nearly all of her savings visiting different medical clinics in Nepal. Still, a persistent illness went undiagnosed.

Sita first noticed something was wrong while working at her tailoring shop. Her hands went numb and looked strangely white.

The numbness worsened, spread, and made her feel very weak.

Though anxious for a cure for her unknown illness, Sita was happy when she learned she was pregnant. She delivered a healthy baby girl, but the onset of a severe fever shortly after shattered her fragile hope.

Sita tried one last hospital where she was finally diagnosed with leprosy and referred to the PWS&D-supported Shining Hospital. In a poor region of Nepal, the hospital provides treatment for people with leprosy. There, her journey to recovery got its start.

Holding her smiling baby girl, a grateful Sita shares, "I hope more people like me will be helped by this clinic."

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to care for the vulnerable. Through support for PWS&D, we are lifting barriers that prevent people from living healthy and productive lives.

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Third Sunday in Lent

Reader: During this season of Lent,
let us repair the breach,
and preserve the harvest.

**Unison: Let us cherish the dark, rich earth
that nurtures the tiny seed
to reach for the sun
and bear much fruit.**

Reader: We are called to repair the breach,
to tend the gardens of the earth.

**All: So let us honour the One
who cares for creation,
waters the fields and the farms,
grows the harvest
and calls us to
protect the crops.
Let us worship God.**

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Resilience in Rural Haiti

Under a stretch of blue sky, Charles works a patch of land with members of his farming co-operative.

The farmers share more than land — their futures depend on growing food in an increasingly precarious climate.

In parts of Haiti, poor soil quality and crop failure are the consequences of unpredictable weather events. But with seeds and training provided by PWS&D and Canadian Foodgrains Bank partners, farmers like Charles are becoming more resilient to the harmful effects of a changing climate.

“I learned to plan the distance between each plant,” Charles reports. He explains that because the crops have their own space and no longer compete for nutrients in the soil, his yields are more abundant.

Charles also learned to dig canals around his plot which keep heavy rains from washing away his crops and soil.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to serve those in need. Through support for PWS&D, we are helping those most vulnerable nurture healthy soils and improve food security.

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

Reader: During this season of Lent,
let us repair the breach,
and protect the powerless.

**Unison: Let us speak for those without a voice,
like a chorus that crescendos
with power and strength,
joined together in songs for justice.**

Reader: We are called to repair the breach,
to leave no one behind.

**All: So let us work in the power
of the Holy Spirit
so that the prisoner is set free,
the enslaved released
and the oppressed
unburdened.
Let us worship God.**

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Leaving No One Behind in Ghana

For being born a paraplegic, Konle was punished by her parents. They refused to enrol her in school and neglected her at home.

Unfortunately, this is not uncommon in many parts of Ghana.

Women, men and children with disabilities are often discriminated against, unable to access opportunities to build brighter futures.

For Konle, life truly began years later, when a program officer from the Garu Community Based Rehabilitation Centre visited her village.

Konle was enrolled in a program run by PWS&D partners that teaches vocational skills and equips people with disabilities to use their God-given gifts.

Konle was provided with a tricycle for mobility, as well as agricultural training so she could harvest vegetables to support her family. With a source of income and the ability to go where she wanted, Konle saw a future of hopeful possibilities.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to those in need with compassion and justice. Through support for PWS&D, we are building a world where everyone is included in opportunities that are the right of every person.

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

Reader: During this season of Lent,
let us repair the breach,
and ensure equal opportunity for all.

**Unison: Let us remember our God
who does a new thing,
making a way in the wilderness
and moving in the impossible.**

Reader: We are called to repair the breach,
to embrace the forsaken and the forgotten.

**All: So let us bless the One
who gave his life for us,
ensuring that
all are welcome,
and all are included
in God's kingdom.
Let us praise our Lord.**

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Quality Education, Greater Confidence

“Honestly, neither the students nor I were actually enjoying the lessons.”

Inayatullah, a teacher at Zangue Girls School in Afghanistan, knew that his lecture-based teaching style wasn’t interesting or effective. His students couldn’t identify letters of the alphabet or spell — things they should have mastered at that level.

To ensure access to education also translates to learning outcomes for students, PWS&D is helping train teachers so they can develop engaging and useful teaching methods.

Inayatullah learned to make his lessons more interactive by incorporating teaching aids, games and question-and-answer activities. “The biggest change I have observed is the improved learning ability of the students,” Inayatullah reports.

Inayatullah has seen another benefit — his students are learning that their participation matters. With greater involvement in their education, girls are gaining confidence to ask questions and voice their ideas and opinions.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to serve those in need. Through support for PWS&D, we are helping girls get the most from their studies and discover their passions.

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Palm/Passion Sunday

Reader: During this Holy Week,
let us repair the breach,
and rebuild the earth's resources.

**Unison: Let us return to ways
that listen to the murmurings of the
ocean,
the sighing in the soil
and the cries of the people.**

Reader: We are called to repair the breach,
to never take for granted the gifts of the
Lord.

**All: So let us confront our sin,
and the harm we have caused,
in order that we would waken
to the greatest sacrifice,
the greatest love,
the only One worthy of our
worship.**

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The Power of a Farm Visit

When it comes to ending hunger in vulnerable communities, education and training for farmers is vital.

In Badin, Pakistan, PWS&D supports exposure visits to farms and agricultural institutions where small-scale farmers learn to rehabilitate their land and cultivate more plentiful harvests.

Qadir had been discouraged by his declining crop yields. But as he listened to other farmers present solutions to challenges he also faced — like a lack of water to keep plants hydrated — he finally felt real hope return.

Best of all, the demonstrated techniques to improve irrigation, enrich soil and produce animal feed are environmentally friendly, low-cost and easy to implement.

“I never knew such a quick way to grow maize and wheat,” Qadir shares of method used to grow plants in water, without soil. “I plan to implement this new technique on my land.”

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to serve the vulnerable. Through support for PWS&D, the exchange of resources and knowledge inspires farmers as they work to combat hunger in their communities.

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Good Friday

Reader: On this Good Friday,
may we confess the ways
we have broadened the breach.

**Unison: Let us look honestly,
no matter how painful,
at the harm we cause
and the divide that deepens.**

Reader: We are called to repair the breach,
to see the face of Christ in the others.

**All: So let us confront the darkness in our
lives, the sin that leads to the cross.
Let us bravely follow Jesus
to the Place of the Skull
where he will overcome death.
And let us
worship the One
who suffered in love
for us.**

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Guardians of Hope in Malawi

Playing with friends, going to school, growing in a nurturing environment — a safe and joyful upbringing is the right of every child.

Many children in Malawi, orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS, experience a different childhood.

As parents get sick and pass away, children are forced to take on responsibilities like caring for other family members. Often, they drop out of school to help earn money. Stigma around HIV endures, leaving children living with the disease to suffer in isolation.

With help from PWS&D, volunteer guardians like Annie are giving girls and boys their childhood back — and ensuring it is healing and hopeful.

Annie has been trained to prepare nutritious food, ensure children stay in school and reduce stigma. She also received a goat, which has been a good source of income and a way to meet the needs of the children in her care.

This Lenten season, let us respond to help others lead stronger lives. Through support for PWS&D, orphans and vulnerable children are getting what they need to thrive.

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Easter Sunday

Reader: He is risen!
The deepest breach is repaired
for Christ is risen!

**Unison: Christ is risen indeed —
the One who restores
who rebuilds,
and makes whole!**

Reader: We are called repairers
of the breach,
and through Christ we will
restore the streets.

**All: The houses we build
will be home to families,
and their bellies will be full
from the fruit of our gardens.
Because of the risen Lord,
we will enjoy the work
of our hands.
So let our joy dance
and our faith leap
as we praise and worship our God.**

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Christ is Risen!

Every day that we respond to the poor, the hungry and the displaced, we discover God's resurrecting power. The poor are raised up, the vulnerable are cared for and the sick are healed.

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life and rooted in the living hope of Jesus Christ, our church responds to the call to serve those in need with compassion, justice and love. Through PWS&D, we are working in some of the most vulnerable communities in our global village to restore human dignity, ease the pain of want and promote community cooperation that benefits all.

Thanks to your support and faith in action, we are creating positive change. In a world filled with need, we are responding with medical care, sanitation services and emergency relief. We are responding with educational opportunities, sustainable agriculture practices and skills training. Together, we are promoting human rights and supporting refugees.

Faithful to our calling, we respond together.

This Easter, please support PWS&D.

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