

## First Sunday in Lent

One: God placed the humans in the garden of delight

Many: **to tend it,  
to enjoy it,  
to commune with God and one another in it.**

One: But we wanted to be in charge,

Many: **to know everything,  
to feed our own desires,  
to have it all.**

One: So we turned the garden into wilderness,

Many: **exploiting it,  
controlling it,  
turning our backs on the One who made it.**

One: Lord, have mercy

Many: **Christ, have mercy**

One: Lord, have mercy

Let us pray:

**Creator God,  
your steadfast love surrounds us.  
Teach us the way we should go.  
Help us to restore the beautiful garden  
of your creation.  
Inspire us to live in communion with you,  
with one another,  
with the whole of nature,  
so that all may shout for joy. Amen.**

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## Surviving a Cyclone that Took Everything

“You see that I’m just here, and this is what I have left. I don’t know what to do.”

While surveying the remains of her home in Mozambique, Amelia felt desperate. When Cyclone Idai pummeled the country one year ago, strong winds, rain and flooding took everything she had.

Amelia’s maize field—her main source of income—was mostly waterlogged. Only a few sodden husks survived the deluge. Desperate for food, Amelia and her children Noel, Gustavo and Luis dried them out to eat.

The storm destroyed more than their home. Noel and Gustavo weren’t able to go to school when parts of the building collapsed.

For Amelia and her children, support from PWS&D helped restore much-needed comfort and normalcy.

Through ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, PWS&D helped those impacted by the cyclone by providing food, clean water, sanitation and hygiene services, shelter and psychosocial support.

**This Lenten season faithfully respond to help provide brighter futures for those who have lost their homes and possessions.**

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## Second Sunday in Lent

One: God called Abram and Sarai to leave the familiar,  
Many: **to go to a new land,  
to travel in faith,  
to be a blessing to all the families of the earth.**

One: Jesus challenged Nicodemus  
Many: **to think new thoughts,  
to be born of the Spirit,  
to see the wider world that God loves.**

One: We are always tempted  
Many: **to stay where we are,  
to settle for what we already know,  
to shut out the unsettling Spirit.**

One: Lord, have mercy  
Many: **Christ, have mercy**  
One: Lord, have mercy

Let us pray:

**Creator God,  
you call into existence the things that do not exist,  
and promise new life beyond our imagining.  
Our help comes from you.  
Open us to the leading of your Spirit.  
Move us from where we are  
to where you want us to be,  
trusting always that we are in your gracious presence;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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## How Goats Make the Future Bright

In Tambala village in Malawi, Precious, Mariam and Tadala embrace their Aunt Yvonne the way a child clings to their mother—with comfort, love and absolute trust.

Yvonne has been caring for the small children since their mother died and their father left unexpectedly.

With three of her own children to also care for, Yvonne had been struggling to put food on the table. Things changed when she joined a PWS&D program helping lift up caregivers providing for vulnerable children.

Now, nestled in Yvonne’s backyard is a raised goat pen. Yvonne received the goat through the program as a way to earn an income from milk and manure. Yvonne also grows vegetables to sell at the market—another source of much-needed income.

Much to Yvonne’s relief, little Mariam’s life has transformed too. The two-year-old was severely malnourished but received a nutritional porridge to help her become the healthy little girl she was born to be.

**This Lenten season, faithfully respond to help vulnerable children get the support they need to thrive.**

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## Third Sunday in Lent

One: God led the people of Israel through the wilderness

Many: **from slavery to freedom,  
from scarcity to abundance,  
from suffering to songs of praise.**

One: To a thirsty and quarrelsome people, God provided

Many: **water from a rock, living water for all,  
a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.**

One: We are always tempted

Many: **to complain and worry,  
to forget that God is with us on the journey,  
to let differences fracture community.**

One: Lord, have mercy

Many: **Christ, have mercy**

One: Lord, have mercy

Let us pray:

**Creator God,  
you are our God and we are your people.  
Your love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit.  
Let that love open our minds and hearts  
to your liberating presence always.  
May our lives witness  
to your sustaining and refreshing grace—  
the living water which we are called to share  
with a thirsty world.  
So may all people come to know  
that you are among us in love,  
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## Adapting to a New Reality

In a world strained with conflict, climate change and displacement, hunger has become a reality for around 821 million people. Rosa Martinez, a farmer from Nicaragua, was one of them.

The effects of climate change made it difficult for Rosa to predict when to plant her crops. When she did, irregular rainfall ruined what little food she'd grown.

For someone whose livelihood depends on the weather, the past year brought considerable anxiety for Rosa.

Through a sustainable agriculture project supported by Canadian Foodgrains Bank and PWS&D, Rosa learned to store water, grow new plant varieties and start seedlings in cups for better plant growth.

Unpredictable rains and long dry spells are substantial burdens for many small-scale farmers around the world like Rosa. But because of what she's learned, Rosa is discovering ways to cope and growing the food that sustains her family.

Knowledge, training and tools help ensure a dependable source of food, which opens the door to abundant life.

**This Lenten season, faithfully respond to help farmers improve their ability to feed themselves and their families.**

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## Fourth Sunday in Lent

One: God provides for every need

Many: **guidance in right paths,  
presence in darkest valleys,  
nourishment beyond measure.**

One: God shines light on the world in Jesus

Many: **opening eyes that are blind,  
exposing prejudice and fear,  
offering new understanding of life's good  
purpose.**

One: But we persist in our own ways

Many: **judging by appearance,  
denying others' experience,  
hoarding what we can for ourselves.**

One: Lord, have mercy

Many: **Christ, have mercy**

One: Lord, have mercy

Let us pray:

**Creator God,  
you are the Source of light and love,  
rest and nurture, hope and peace.  
Open our eyes to your goodness.  
Empower us to live as children of light,  
bringing a rich harvest of all that is good  
and right and true.  
Enlighten us to see the world with your eyes of love.  
So may all people know  
your goodness and mercy forever;  
through Jesus Christ the light of the world. Amen.**

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## Clean Water: A Game Changer in the Journey to End Hunger

There is no doubt that access to clean water is vital to ensure communities around the world can have a reliable source of food.

When water sources are contaminated—due to lack of proper toilets and sanitation services—diseases such as cholera and typhoid can be widespread. It is essential to have clean water so that farmers, who plant and harvest the crops that feed their communities, can stay healthy and able to work.

Access to water also improves irrigation, which in turn increases food production and better sustains rural communities.

Unfortunately, our global community continues to experience major inequalities in access to water. Vulnerable and marginalized populations like women and smallholder farmers can face challenges getting the water they need.

When all farmers can access this important resource, women, men and children around the world have a better chance to enjoy nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

**This Lenten season, faithfully respond to provide communities with sanitation and safe sources of water.**

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## Fifth Sunday in Lent

One: God set the prophet down in a valley of dry bones

Many: **asking, "Can these bones live?"**

**commanding, "Hear the word of the Lord,"  
promising, "I will put my spirit in you, you shall  
live."**

One: Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend

Many: **hearing the grief, "Lord, if you had been here..."**

**knowing the doubt, "Could not he...?"  
commanding life out of death, "Lazarus, come  
out!"**

One: We are tempted by hopelessness and despair

Many: **in our own pain, at the world's brokenness,  
saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope is  
lost."**

One: Lord, have mercy

Many: **Christ, have mercy**

One: Lord, have mercy

Let us pray:

**Creator God,  
we wait for you and in your word we hope.**

**For with you is steadfast love  
and great power to redeem.**

**Help us to trust you and to share your resurrection life  
with all people and the whole creation.**

**So may all be raised from despair to hope,  
from darkness to light, from death to life;  
through Jesus Christ, who is  
the resurrection and the life. Amen.**

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## Reducing Costs and Doubling Crops

In a group of mostly women, Komani stands out. The 34-year-old is one of just a few male farmers assembled under the shade of a mango tree in Karonga, Malawi.

Komani is meeting with other members of a village savings group, where farmers come together to share loans to buy farming supplies and meet other needs.

The savings group is part of a PWS&D and Canadian Foodgrains Bank project teaching farmers to grow more food and overcome hunger.

Komani reports that with extra money and training in sustainable farming methods like conservation agriculture, he has doubled his maize crop.

“This area is affected by dry spells,” explains Komani. “With conservation agriculture, we’ve seen a difference. There is a positive outcome with both quality and quantity.”

A champion for women’s empowerment, Komani encourages his wife to decide how to allocate loans from the savings group. When women have more control over household savings, the well-being the whole family tends to improve.

**This Lenten season faithfully respond to equip farmers with the resources they need to combat hunger and care for their families.**

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## Palm/Passion Sunday

One: God calls the servant-Christ to sustain the weary:

Many: **the ones in exile,  
the ones in despair,  
the ones who are afraid.**

One: Jesus enters the city in humility:

Many: **lauded by the crowds: "Hosanna! Save us!"  
questioned by the powers that be,  
betrayed and denied by his friends.**

One: We watch with unease and bewilderment,

Many: **complicit with the fickle crowd,  
misunderstanding true power,  
frightened and looking to our own interests.**

One: Lord, have mercy

Many: **Christ, have mercy**

One: Lord, have mercy

Let us pray:

**Creator God,  
we give thanks to you for you are good,  
your steadfast love endures forever.  
We seek courage for the living of these days.  
Let the same mind be in us  
that was in Christ Jesus,  
so that we may give ourselves in love and humility  
to further your purpose of life for the world.  
So may all people come to know  
the height and depth of your redeeming love;  
through Jesus Christ our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.**

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## Bringing Health Care Closer to Home

In a poor village in Haiti, one-year-old Marcellus weighed only 10 pounds. He was losing weight rapidly and had a persistent cough.

Because of crop losses, Marcellus's single mother was struggling to feed the little boy and his five siblings. Marcellus needed medical attention, but the cost of transportation to the closest health facility was more than his family could afford.

Hope came in the form of a mobile clinic supported by PWS&D in collaboration with Canadian Foodgrains Bank partners. Vehicles carrying nurses, community health workers, medicine and Nourimanba—a therapeutic food that saves lives—arrived close to their home and set up a health post to treat malnutrition.

There, Marcellus received Nourimanba, antibiotics and multivitamins. Within a few weeks, nurses saw his health improve dramatically. Today, Marcellus is on course to grow up healthy and strong.

Good health starts with good nutrition—especially for young children.

**This Lenten season, faithfully respond to ensure children can have healthy bodies to carry them through life.**

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## Maundy Thursday/Good Friday

One: God sent the Son into the world  
Many: **not to condemn the world but to save the world  
that all may have abundant life.**

One: What shall we return to the Lord for such bounty?  
Many: **Let us lift up the cup of salvation,  
let us call on the name of the Lord,  
let us pay our vows to the Lord in the presence of  
all.**

One: We lift up the cup of salvation  
Many: **in remembrance of the crucified and risen one,  
in remembrance of those who know the cup of  
suffering,  
in remembrance of those who need liberation.**

One: Lord, have mercy  
Many: **Christ, have mercy**  
One: Lord, have mercy

Let us pray:  
**Creator God,  
your love for the world is infinite and unending.  
Your Son Jesus our Saviour commands us  
to love one another,  
to love our neighbour,  
to love our enemy.**

**So may we live this holy love day by day  
till all people and the whole creation  
know your love and abundant life;  
through Jesus the life of the world. Amen.**

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## How Leadership Can Transform

When 25-year-old Brenda decided to attend workshops on cooking and nutrition, she faced her share of criticism.

Members of her Guatemalan community didn't think she should spend time away from her three children—especially because she is a single mother.

But for Brenda, the opportunity to learn new skills was her best chance to ensure a better life for her children.

The nutrition workshop Brenda joined is part of a PWS&D project helping to improve the lives of indigenous women and their families, who have long faced discrimination, poverty and other injustices.

Brenda learned how important it is to feed her children nourishing food like beans, cucumber and radishes. She also joined other workshops that help build self-esteem and leadership skills, which was immensely valuable.

“I came to understand the importance of learning and that women have rights,” says Brenda.

Empowered by her experience, Brenda is now a nutrition promoter herself.

**This Lenten season, faithfully respond to help empower indigenous women in Guatemala as they discover their enormous potential and lead their communities towards a healthy future.**

---

Liturgy written by The Rev. Iona MacLean (The Church of Saint David, Halifax)  
Produced by Presbyterian World Service & Development  
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto ON M3C 1J7  
1-800-619-7301 • WeRespond.ca

## How Leadership Can Transform

When 25-year-old Brenda decided to attend workshops on cooking and nutrition, she faced her share of criticism.

Members of her Guatemalan community didn't think she should spend time away from her three children—especially because she is a single mother.

But for Brenda, the opportunity to learn new skills was her best chance to ensure a better life for her children.

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## Easter Sunday

One: God raised Jesus on the third day

Many: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: Let us take our tambourines and dance,

Many: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: With the risen one in our midst,

Many: **the graveyard becomes a garden;  
grief turns to gladness, tears to laughter.  
There is a new creation!**

One: With the risen one in our midst,

Many: **life defeats death,  
love overcomes hatred,  
hope replaces fear.**

One: This is the good news of the gospel!

Many: **Christ is risen! We are risen! Alleluia!**

Let us pray:

**Creator God,  
in raising Jesus from the dead,  
you have made the world brand new.  
We praise you with joy and thanksgiving!  
May we live daily as Easter people  
bringing life, love and hope to all the world;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.**

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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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