



First Sunday in Lent

Written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls

One: In the wilderness, Jesus was tempted to abandon God

All: for the false hopes of indulgence, arrogance and certainty.

One: During our Lenten journey, we recognize we too are tempted

All: to turn aside from seeking only God and God's ways.

One: As we worship, may we celebrate all the bounty of God's grace

All: and always return with mindfulness and gratitude to God.



Overcoming Adversity in Ghana

Abdul Razak Ayawin, a 23-year-old from Bugri community in Northern Ghana, faced a life-altering accident that led to the amputation of his left leg. Unable to continue his education due to financial constraints and fear of stigma, Razak was distraught.



Then, the Presbyterian Church of Ghana's Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program identified him to provide support. Razak enrolled in a dressmaking apprenticeship and received a sewing machine and a small stipend. He learned quickly, became self-employed and gained confidence in his new skills.

The CBR program, which is supported by PWS&D, also facilitated his assessment for a prosthetic limb. Despite the financial challenges, Razak is determinedly raising funds so that he can get the prosthetic. "I am working hard to raise enough with the dresses that I am making for my customers. I hope I will be able to get the prosthesis. Thanks for your love and support," he expresses.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to help ensure people have the tools they need to create a livelihood and learn new skills.



Second Sunday in Lent

Written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls

One: As we seek your face, O God, on our
Lenten journey,

**All: may we remember your covenant of grace
with your people.**

One: Give us eyes to see your compassion and glory
in Christ Jesus

All: that we may be astounded by your greatness.

One: Help our hearts to take courage as we wait
for you, O God,

**All: so that together we can sing and
make melody.**



From Student to Teacher

Jessica is an inspiration at Francisco Coll School in Guatemala, where she teaches Grade 6.



Her journey with Francisco Coll began when she was just 11 years old, attending elementary school there. With a scholarship supported by PWS&D, she continued her studies beyond elementary school—through middle school, high school, and even teacher training.

Now, after 13 years of teaching at Francisco Coll, Jessica exemplifies the school's holistic approach to education. She doesn't just teach subjects like math, language, science and social studies, she instills values of productivity, citizenship and character development—reflecting the community.

Jessica believes in walking alongside her students and helping them apply what they have learned to the real world.

For Jessica, Francisco Coll is more than a school. It is her second home, a place where success and achievement are not just ideals but lived experiences shared with her students and community.

"What I love is to be a teacher, to be here with my students," she shares.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to open classroom doors and provide necessary supplies to help children reach their full potential.



Third Sunday in Lent

Written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls

One: In Lent, we hear Jesus' call to mend our ways:

All: repentance is necessary no matter who we are.

One: So we come to listen and respond to Jesus' word of life,

All: for the Holy One will abundantly pardon.

One: In returning to the Lord, we trust that mercy will be ours

All: and our lips will again praise the God of life.



Alice Embraces New Techniques

In Malawi, Alice has struggled with food insecurity for many years. Due to frequent dry spells and unpredictable rains caused by climate change, her family was harvesting little. She knew something had to change.

Alice attended a community gathering organized by PWS&D's partner Churches Action in Relief in Development, where she was introduced to a project focusing on innovative and sustainable farming techniques.

"They explained the importance of conserving the environment amidst effects of climate change, which have negatively impacted agriculture production, including our area," Alice recalls. She hoped that participating would change her situation by reducing soil erosion and minimizing water needs, two crucial problems they were facing.

Alice embraced conservation agriculture practices, transitioning away from the less productive methods she had been using. The shift yielded remarkable results, as she doubled her harvest on the same plot of land.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to help farmers learn to improve crops and conserve resources—providing food for today and an income for the future.





Fourth Sunday in Lent

Written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls

One: Like the prodigal son, we sometimes waste our lives

All: running toward arrogant and unthinking excess.

One: Like the older brother, we sometimes lose our way

All: resenting the blessings others receive.

One: But to all, Christ offers grace—a new creation and a reconciled world,

All: so let us be glad and rejoice in the steadfast love of the Lord.



Creating an Environment for Success



Any instance of violence, whether in public spaces or in the home, is one too many. PWS&D's partner in Nicaragua is helping to create safe environments that foster equitable, non-violent relationships within the family and community. The project works to protect children and adolescents, especially girls, who might be at risk, promote their rights, and strengthen and improve family dynamics.

One 13-year-old girl, who joined the project with her mother, reflects on what has changed. "I've learned a lot, and I see things differently. At home I can talk more, and my mom tries to help me. I feel like we have changed a lot, and I feel safer. I know that I want to continue studying and learning and improving and I'm motivated to do it. I think I can do a lot of good and beautiful things—to help my family, and in the future, to help other girls like me."

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to help build safe environments where families and communities can thrive.



Fifth Sunday in Lent

Written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls

One: Anointed before his death by a faithful woman disciple,

All: but betrayed by a self-serving disciple, Jesus confronted death.

One: But through his death on the cross and the power of the resurrection,

All: in faith we believe that Christ has made us his own.

One: And so with shouts of joy we declare God's praise

All: for the Lord has done great things for us.



Lilawati Stands Against Child Marriage



Sixteen-year-old Lilawati Kumari is an active participant in the Adolescent Girls Group classes in her village. Facilitated by the Duncan Hospital in northern India, these sessions explore crucial gender justice issues. In one class, Lilawati learned about early marriage, its effects, prevention, and the helpline number people could call for help.

At the same time, her parents were considering arranging her marriage. When Lilawati found out, she stood her ground, “I aspire to pursue my education and fulfill my dreams, not to have my life predetermined in this way.”

Through conversations with her parents about child marriage, the laws against it, and its effects on girls, Lilawati helped them understand the negative impact of early marriage on a child’s life, and on the broader society. They are now supportive of Lilawati as she pursues her education.

“I have taken the first step in my family and will be a role model to other girls so that they can take a stand against child marriage in their homes and work towards fulfilling their dreams,” she shares.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to raise awareness on gender issues and create a more equitable and just world for girls.



Palm/Passion Sunday

Written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls

One: Jesus enters Jerusalem as a humble king,
riding on a donkey.

**All: The disciples proclaim the one who comes
in the name of the Lord,**

One: but the powers that be see a troublemaker,
challenging their authority.

**All: The prophetic traditions envision the
peaceable kingdom,**

One: but the empire sees a disturber of the peace,
so death awaits him.

**All: Give thanks to God who overcomes
all the powers of death!**



An Inspiration for Change

In the quiet village of Chigwere in northern Malawi, 18-year-old Agnes Bambi found a sense of belonging and purpose as a member of the in-school youth club.



Supervised by two knowledgeable volunteer leaders trained by the project of the Livingstonia Synod AIDS Project, the youth club became a platform for empowerment and education. Working with both boys and girls, the club challenges social norms that favour men and boys and addresses the systemic marginalization of women and girls, which are especially challenging around issues of sexual and reproductive health.

Through the youth club, Agnes discovered the importance of staying in school and actively engaged in discussions about sexual reproductive health.

Equipped with knowledge, she took it upon herself to become an agent of change in her community, teaching her friends about the critical aspects of staying in school and making informed decisions for their futures.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to ensure youth are empowered with the knowledge they need to make informed choices.

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Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday

Written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls

One: Gracious host and servant Lord, Jesus washes
his disciples' feet

**All: then shares a last supper,
sign of the new community in him.**

One: We behold him: a king holding no political office,

**All: God becoming mere human, a saviour dying
on a criminal's cross.**

One: "My God, why have you forsaken me?" echoes
from ancient traditions

**All: into the story we remember today.
Let us worship God.**



Caring for Creation Together



Eulalio Pérez Félix, 53-years-old, is the justice mayor in Tuilelen, Guatemala.

While experienced in his role, he's faced moments of disappointment as the community's focus sometimes shifts away from holistic community improvement to focusing on individual pursuits.

AMMID, PWS&D's partner in the area, focuses on the well-being of Maya-Mam Indigenous communities. This year, two organizers from AMMID are engaging the community to develop a Community Life Plan and a Community Water Plan. These plans involve a broad range of community leaders

"Thanks to AMMID, our Community Life Plan and our Water Plan have been built, which will serve to improve the development of our community," Eulalio shares. "I am grateful for the support of the AMMID Association and PWS&D for getting us involved in these activities in favour of the natural assets of our community, since only by protecting water, forests and mother earth will we leave a better future for new generations to inherit," he adds.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to help communities protect their natural resources from the effects of a rapidly changing climate.



Easter

Written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls

One: Words of faith's story help celebrate this day
of resurrection:

**All: God creates a new heaven and a new earth,
be glad and rejoice!**

One: God's steadfast love endures forever;
the Lord has become our salvation.

**All: The stone was rolled away—he is not here,
he is risen.**

One: We say with joy: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!



Easter

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are reminded of the power of God's love and mercy. Every day, we witness the transformative effect of responding to the needs of the hungry, marginalized and displaced.



Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, our church is committed to serving those in need with compassion, justice and love. Your faithful support through Presbyterian World Service & Development is making a transformative impact in communities worldwide.

Together, we are restoring human dignity, alleviating suffering and fostering community cooperation. We are providing critical food assistance, access to health care and sanitation services, and other emergency relief to those affected by crisis and disaster. Our partners also work to address inequalities by strengthening communities through education, community health, sustainable agriculture practices, and skills training, while also supporting the rights and needs of refugees.

Faithful to our calling, we respond together.

This Easter, please support PWS&D.