



A Service of the Word

celebrating 60 years of
People, Partners & Progress



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

The Anglican Church of Canada

A Service of the Word

All Stand.

Officiant: The grace of our Redeemer
Jesus Christ
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and your blessing, and to celebrate the work of The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

People: Most merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

*Adapted from "Three
Supplementary
Eucharistic Prayers for
The Book of Alternative
Services and Two Services
of the Word," (Toronto:
Anglican Book Centre,
1998).*

Officiant: Merciful God,
grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

The peace is exchanged in the name of Christ.

A hymn may be sung according to parish tradition.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Almighty God,
People: From whom all thoughts of truth
and peace proceed:
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of
all, the true love of peace
and guide with your pure and
peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the
nations of the earth
that in tranquility your kingdom
may go forward,
till the earth be filled with the
knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect for the Peace of the World is taken from "Common Worship" as reprinted in the 2012 PWRDF Youth Council Advent Resource, "Living Justice - While We Wait." Alternatively, collects for the natural seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter can be found at pwrdf.org/PWRDFSunday.

The Proclamation of the Word

The Readings

The following readings are offered as suggestions only. They form the basis for the sample sermon found at pwrdf.org/PWRDFSunday. Alternatively, the worship leaders may wish to choose from the lectionary readings appointed for the Sunday that the service is taking place.

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Ezekiel 37:1-14 • The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live”? I answered, “O Lord God, you know”. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord”.

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live”. I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off

Writing from exile in Babylon to both exiles and those still in Jerusalem, Ezekiel uses highly sophisticated imagery and metaphor to address both Israel’s outer reality of exile and inner life — Israel’s relationship with God. The prophet’s vision of the Valley of the Dry Bones emerged out of this context and tradition. In the reading, the breath of life for the people of Israel will be breathed into them as God breathed life and spirit into the first human beings in Genesis.

completely'. Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord”.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People: Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 23 – The Divine Shepherd



The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.
She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk,
through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said She won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me,
in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever and ever.

African-American composer, conductor and musician Bobby McFerrin dedicated this setting of Psalm 23 to his mother: "She was the driving force in my religious and spiritual education, and I have so many memories of her singing in church... I realized one of the ways we're shown a glimpse of how God loves us is through our mothers. They cherish our spirits, they demand that we become our best selves, and they take care of us". An alternative version of Psalm 23 is found at pwrdf.org/ PWRDFSunday

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,
And to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
World, without end. Amen.

A Reading from the stories of PWRDF partners

Please choose a story from pwrdf.org/storiesforworship.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Life-giving Jesus Christ

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 25:31-46 • The Judgement of the Nations

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me’. Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food,

Matthew's “Judgement of the Nations” presents a rather black and white picture of what it means to follow Jesus. It comes near the end of a gospel narrative that portrays a humble and compassionate Messiah. Thus it challenges us who profess to be followers of Christ – Christians – to follow the example he set for us here on Earth as the means to attaining “eternal life”.

or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me’. Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me’. Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me’. And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life”.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.
People: Praise to you, Life-giving Jesus Christ.

Response to the Word

A sample sermon in response to the readings and focused on the work and witness of PWRDF is offered on pwrdf.org/PWRDFSunday. The worship leader may wish to write his or her own sermon or make use of the other PWRDF stories found at pwrdf.org/storiesforworship.

Affirmation of Faith

Either the Apostles’ or Nicene Creed may be used, or the following Profession of Faith:

Officiant: Let us confess our faith as we say,
All: We are not alone; we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who works in others and us through the Spirit. We trust in the Creator. We are called to be, to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and to resist injustice, to seek out models for hope and peace. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

Prayers of the People

This, or another litany appropriate to the worshipping community, may be used.

Reader: Remembering those who have gone before us, in hope for our future, and in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world, let us pray to God saying,

Response: O God, our strength and our redeemer.

Reader: We pray for the church of Christ throughout the world. We pray especially today for *(here are named those for whom prayers are offered in the worldwide Anglican Communion and the National, Diocesan and Indigenous cycles of prayer, according to the custom of the parish)*. We give thanks that together we worship God and seek in our lives to follow Jesus Christ

Response: O God, our strength and our redeemer.

Reader: We pray for the leaders of the church, for N, Primate of Canada, for N our bishop, and for all bishops, priests, deacons and lay leaders, that God's power working through them will reach out to the impoverished, the vulnerable and all those at the margins of society

Response: O God, our strength and our redeemer.

Reader: We pray for those whom we know are sick in body, mind or spirit, remembering especially...NN. We pray for those who are health care professionals and those who offer ministries of healing. Together with them, may we be instruments of God's healing love and compassion in the world.

Response: O God, our strength and our redeemer.

Reader: We pray for the staff and volunteers of The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, giving thanks for their leadership, compassion and vision through six decades of ministry. May their work for the reign of God inspire us all to reach out and accompany those in need.

Response: O God, our strength and our redeemer.

Reader: We pray for the partners with whom PWRDF works around the world. We pray for the communities they accompany. We give thanks for their work and witness, for their courage to face the many challenges that confront them, for all that they offer and teach us. We pray for our continuing journey together, that God will hold us as we hold one another.

Response: O God, our strength and our redeemer.

Reader: We pray for those who have gone before us, for those who have died and are now at rest, for NN... We give thanks to those both close to us, and unknown to us, whose lives have been a testimony of Christ's love and peace in the world. We pray that their example and their work will continue to be of benefit to the world.

Response: O God, our strength and our redeemer.

Reader: We pray for the political leadership of our country, for the leaders of all nations and those whose decisions affect our lives and the lives of all citizens. We pray that God will inspire their work with a vision of justice and peace for all people.

Response: O God, our strength and our redeemer.

Reader: Through your Son, Jesus the Messiah, you have shown us that... the grace of your good news is the path that leads to eternal life: Fill us with the power of your Spirit, that we may live with faithful courage, sharing in your sufferings so that we may share in your resurrection through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Closing prayer used with permission from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Accessed online at <http://stpaulsfay.org/>

A hymn may be sung, during which the offerings of the people are collected and presented. It is appropriate that a collection for the work of The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund be taken at this time. PWRDF donation envelopes are available at pwrdf.org/resources for this purpose.

When the offering is placed on the altar or other suitable place, all say:

**God of justice and mercy,
the gifts we bring are so small in
comparison to the vast needs in
your world...**

**Yet we come with open hands,
bringing what we can.
As you once multiplied
the five loaves and two fish,
multiply these gifts as well,
so that, once again,
those in need may receive
all they require, and more. Amen**

*Adapted from "Prayer
for the Offering,"
in Open Hands – A
worship resource for
World Food Day,
Canadian Foodgrains
Bank, 2018, accessed
online at [https://
foodgrainsbank.ca/](https://foodgrainsbank.ca/)
and used with permission.*

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: As our Saviour taught us,
let us pray,

People: Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On Earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

And the glory are yours,

Now and for ever. Amen.

*Two versions are offered.
A third, from the New
Zealand Book of Prayer,
is offered at
pwrdf.org/
PWRDFSunday.*

Or

Officiant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant:

Glory to God

All:

Whose power, working us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Officiant:

Go forth from this place filled with love and committed to
justice; guided by God's pure and peaceable wisdom.
(During Eastertide, the Deacon adds "alleluia, alleluia").

People:

Thanks be to God!

(During Eastertide, the people add "alleluia, alleluia").



Much of the written text for this service is taken from *The Book of Alternative Services* and *Three Supplementary Eucharistic Prayers for The Book of Alternative Services and Two Services of the Word* of the Anglican Church of Canada.

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