

2019

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

through the Waters of Baptism



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

The Anglican Church of Canada

Vision

A truly just, healthy and peaceful world.

Mission

As an instrument of faith, PWRDF connects Anglicans in Canada to communities around the world in dynamic partnerships to advance development, to respond to emergencies, to assist refugees and to act for positive change.



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

*le fonds du Primat pour le secours
et le développement mondial*

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The Venerable Charlene Taylor

PWRDF Diocesan Representative for the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Charlene Taylor grew up on the east coast of Newfoundland in the Town of Conception Bay South. She completed a Bachelor of Arts degree, Sociology and English, at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Master of Divinity, Queen’s College, Newfoundland. As a theological student, Charlene completed an international internship in the Diocese of the Windward Islands, West Indies. Ordained in 1999, she has served in multi-point isolated, rural and urban parishes including 11 years in Labrador. She is a parish priest in the City of Mount Pearl and is Chaplain to the Bishop and a territorial Archdeacon. Charlene recently served on her Diocesan Society and Justice Committee and has been a PWRDF Diocesan Representative for more than 10 years. Charlene has promoted and supported PWRDF since childhood.

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March 2019

Introduction

Lent 2019

Today we begin the season of Lent, a time for reflection, prayer and giving. This year PWRDF's Lenten reflections will concentrate on these three actions daily through the words found in the baptismal covenant (Book of Alternative Services, page 158). During the first four days, March 06 through March 09, we will pray for The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) and its 60 years of ministry. Each of the following weeks starting on Sundays will begin with a statement from the baptismal covenant. These statements will focus our reflection, prayer, knowledge of and giving to PWRDF. Stories about the work of PWRDF partners in Canada and around the world will highlight programs that are supported by your generous donations.

As baptised Christians, we are called to live a life of reflection, prayer and giving. May this resource strengthen your faith and expand your knowledge of the ministry of The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. Blessings for a Holy Lent and Easter.

Archdeacon Charlene Taylor

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6

As we enter this holy season, we know it will bring us to the pain and suffering of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. It was through pain, suffering and loss that The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund was created, beginning 60 years of work to advance sustainable development, respond to emergencies, assist refugees and act for positive change.

In 1958, a bump in a coalmine in Springhill, Nova Scotia killed 75 men. The tragedy moved Anglicans and other Canadians to respond with assistance for the stricken families. Because of this experience, the Anglican Church recognized the need for an efficient process to channel assistance quickly in situations of emergency. One year later, The Primate's World Relief Fund was established by the Anglican Church of Canada's General Synod, named for the Primate, or Archbishop of Canada.

REFLECT:

How has a personal moment of pain, suffering and loss moved you to respond in a tangible way?

PRAY:

Collect Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

GIVE:

Give thanks today for the actions of those people who 60 years ago saw a need and responded. Make a thank you offering to PWRDF for their continued work of responding to the needs of others at home and abroad.

THURSDAY

March 7

PWRDF Staff

The Primates World Relief and Development Fund relies on staff to organize and carry out the daily work of PWRDF.

PWRDF staff work in downtown Toronto, sharing office space with the Anglican Church of Canada. PWRDF staff have a diverse range of experience working in International Development, Administration, Finance and Public Engagement. Together they speak a dozen languages and come from 12 different countries including Canada.

...

REFLECT:

How have you used your skills or gifts today to make a difference in the life of someone else?

PRAY:

Creator God, through our baptism you have given us gifts of reason, language and skill to do the work you have called us to do. May we use these gifts daily to help make a difference in the world. **Amen**

GIVE:

When making a gift to PWRDF today, remember the staff who ensure our gifts are used in the best ways for humanity.

FRIDAY March 8

PWRDF Volunteers: Board of Directors, Diocesan Representatives, Parish Representatives and Youth Council members

The success of any organization requires the passion of volunteers to assist in its mission – PWRDF is no different! For the past 60 years, PWRDF has been blessed with the dedication of volunteers who raise funds, educate others, and give of their time and financial gifts for the ministry of PWRDF.

PWRDF Board of Directors

PWRDF's Board of Directors is composed of 17 lay and clergy from across Canada including members with international development experience, governance and finance expertise, health sector experience and extensive public engagement expertise.

Diocesan Representatives

PWRDF's network of volunteers connects Anglicans and others to the work of PWRDF and partners in Canada and internationally. Diocesan representatives represent PWRDF in their dioceses and bring together PWRDF Parish Representatives to engage in the work of PWRDF.

Parish Representatives

Parish Representatives share the good news of PWRDF with their fellow parishioners. They work with the PWRDF Diocesan Representatives to report news of parish events and efforts to support PWRDF.

Youth Council

PWRDF's Youth Council is a forum for significant dialogue and engagement by and for youth with the wider PWRDF organization. Members participate in developing and sustaining the *just* generation network of Anglican youth throughout Canada to support and promote PWRDF.

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REFLECT:

When has passion for a cause motivated you to get involved?

PRAY:

Passionate Christ, who called disciples to join in the mission of your ministry. Continue to call your faithful followers to engage with that same passion in the ministry of PWRDF. Give us courage to speak and give of ourselves boldly in this ministry we share together. **Amen**

GIVE:

Take time today to learn more about how you can give to PWRDF through your time and talents.

<https://pwrdf.org/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/>

SATURDAY

March 9

PWRDF and Partnership

From its beginning, PWRDF has been committed to “partnership” both as a way of being and as a way of working. PWRDF are not “operational” overseas, that is, it does not have offices with staff outside of Canada, but works with partners on the ground who are PWRDF’s eyes, ears and hands. Partners know the needs of the communities they serve. PWRDF comes alongside to offer financial and technical support to meet those needs.

...

REFLECT:

Our baptism calls us to be in relationship with others. The ministry of PWRDF depends on relationships and partnerships to do the work to which it is called. How often do you take on a task thinking you can do it alone when in reality you need the assistance of others?

PRAY:

God of partnerships, thank you for putting people in our lives that aide, assist and share with us the journeys of life. May we value the people you put in our lives to share in our joint ministries. **Amen**

GIVE:

Give thanks for partnerships and take time to seek out partnerships in your community.

SUNDAY

March 10

First Sunday in Lent

Q: *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?*

REFLECT:

On this first Sunday in Lent, we continue our journey with Christ. As Jesus went into the wilderness, he was tempted but did not sin. Our baptism calls us to connect with Christ through the apostles' teaching, to join in fellowship with the faithful, to share in the breaking of bread through the Eucharist and to pray. How will you connect with this week's baptismal statement as a way to resist temptation and know the saving grace of Christ?

PRAY:

Almighty God whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

GIVE:

On this first Sunday in Lent make an offering to PWRDF and tell someone else about PWRDF's ministry.

MONDAY

March 11

The Apostles' Teaching

Q. *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?*

REFLECT:

Jesus taught his disciples through preaching, parables, healings and miracles. These teachings were the examples that the apostles told and taught as they spread the Good News. They are teachings for us today as they were for the early believers. Our baptism calls us to connect and reconnect with these teachings to be nurtured and nurturing in that same faith. Choose a teaching of Jesus and reflect on how that teaching informs your daily ministry.

PRAY:

Great Teacher, may your teachings be an example to us so that we may teach others the Good News of Christ the Lord. **Amen**

GIVE:

First Nations Adult & Higher Education Consortium

First Nations Adult & Higher Education Consortium (FNAHEC) is a development project supported by PWRDF that provides courses that contribute to understanding among the Blackfoot people of their origins, culture and language. Blackfoot knowledge is not readily available except through local oral histories facilitated by instructors called Knowledge Keepers and ceremonial bundle holders. Students who took the courses or are currently enrolled expressed their gratitude for learning about their history and regaining some of their traditional Indigenous knowledge. A reawakening is happening amongst Blackfoot youth. Some are joining cultural and ceremonial groups, and ensuring the revival of these ancestral traditions for, by and with their communities.

TUESDAY

March 12

Fellowship

Q. *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?*

REFLECT:

But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. (1 John 1:7)

When we think about fellowship in the Christian context, it includes our relationship with God and with others. Fellowship cannot occur alone. Our baptism calls us to be in fellowship with one another.

PRAY:

Great Gatherer of the faithful, thank you for gathering us together in the fellowship of your name. May we who have joined together be guided by you, the Light of the world. **Amen**

GIVE:

Teaching Music to make a Change

In 2012 Jen Hoyer left her job as a librarian in Edmonton to volunteer overseas as a music teacher. She wanted to make a difference in the lives of children in an isolated rural community in South Africa. Jen trained children to play musical instruments at the Keiskamma Music Academy in Hamburg. The Academy is part of the Keiskamma Trust, a former PWRDF partner and community organization in the rural area of the Eastern Cape that addresses the challenges of widespread poverty and disease through holistic and creative programs including health, art, education and music. The children are 10 to 16-year-olds and the Academy provides an opportunity for extracurricular activity, self-expression and talent development for these vulnerable children.

WEDNESDAY

March 13

The Breaking of Bread: Fills our Bellies

Q. *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?*

REFLECT:

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts. (Acts 2:46)

How lovely to enter a home and smell bread baking. The smell makes our mouths water and our bellies ache. Bread is a staple in the diets of many people and a staple that can be shared. One of the greatest acts of fellowship is to gather over a meal. Jesus and his disciples often shared food together and through food, great conversations and learnings were also shared. When was the last time you gathered in fellowship to make and share a meal with others in the name of Jesus the Christ?

PRAY:

Gracious God, you provide food for us to eat and share. Food that feeds our bellies and feeds our relationships with others. May the breaking of bread that fills our bellies remind us that we are called to ensure that others receive the same privilege of feeding their bellies and relationships as well. **Amen**

GIVE:

Food security in Cuba

Roberto Chavez, a smallholder Cuban farmer, has received agricultural training from PWRDF partner the Cuban Council of Churches (CCC). He established a family farm on the roof of his home that provides him with fruits and vegetables, as well as an area to raise animals, which are valuable protein sources. Roberto's project has been so successful that his family does not need all of its produce, so he is able to sell it to other

households that are in need. PWRDF has worked with the CCC to provide education for households like Roberto's and to encourage communities throughout Cuba to use sustainable agricultural practices. Roberto and other farmers have found that sustainable agriculture is an effective way to provide for their families and to help their community.

THURSDAY

March 14

The Breaking of Bread: Fills our Souls

Q. *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?*

REFLECT:

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty'. (John 6:35)

Jesus often fed the bellies of those who were hungry and during the meal taught about the kingdom of heaven. In the time spent in fellowship with the disciples and those who longed to hear the teaching of Jesus, souls were fed. Jesus reminds us that he is the bread of life that fills all earthly hunger. How do you take time to allow the Bread of Life to feed you?

PRAY:

Bread of Life for the world, continue to feed us with your bread, the life giving bread that sustains body and soul. **Amen**

GIVE:

Good Things are Growing in West Carleton

Ending global hunger can seem like a daunting task, but for Gary Weir it's an essential one to tackle. Weir is a member of St. George's Anglican Church in Fitzroy, Ontario. "It's important for us to give back because we are a wealthy country", says Weir. "We live in a global society, so we need to support other people as well". In 2009, Weir and his brother Ron began sharing proceeds from their dairy farm to help people experiencing hunger overseas. "It was my brother's idea", says Weir. "He thought it would be a good way to contribute back". Each year, they would donate money to Canadian Foodgrains Bank, designating it to The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund's (PWRDF) account for its work in reducing hunger worldwide.

FRIDAY

March 15

The Prayers: Personal Prayer

Q. *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?*

REFLECT:

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray'. (Luke 11:1-1)

Prayer is something that is personal and communal. Jesus is our example of the need for personal prayer. He prayed 40 days and 40 nights while in the desert. Personal prayer helps us to develop a personal relationship with the Great Intercessor - the Christ. Sometimes as we pray we do not know what to say – the disciples were no different, so they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. When you do not know what to say, do you ask the Great Intercessor how to pray?

PRAY:

He said to them, 'When you pray, say:
Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial'.

GIVE:

Refuge Egypt

PWRDF partner Refuge Egypt, a ministry of the Episcopal Church in Cairo, provides services to newly arrived asylum seekers waiting for UNHCR refugee status determination, repatriation, resettlement or local integration into Egyptian society. Cairo is one of the largest urban refugee centres in the world. The situations in Sudan, South Sudan and Syria

generated a large influx of refugees increasing the number of arrivals. For refugees who have had to leave everything behind and flee for their lives from violence or persecution, finding a place of safety, a new home, can feel like a Godsend. Even when they have arrived at a haven, refugees are often restricted in their ability to work, go to school or access medical care. In 2017, the project improved the health status of close to 8,000 mothers and children through health education sessions on preventable diseases.

SATURDAY

March 16

The Prayers: Communal Prayer

Q. *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?*

REFLECT:

And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah. (Acts 5:42)

When we gather for worship, committee meetings and group retreats, we often share in communal prayer. Praying as community gives us the opportunity to bring to one place at a specific time the prayers and needs of the gathered community. The prayers shared in a communal gathering are often for the needs of the current and global community. What prayers do you offer in a communal setting?

PRAY:

Great Intercessor you call us to pray. Today we pray with all those gathered in prayer in your name. As a community of faith, we bring our needs and thanksgiving, our confessions and supplications. May our prayers rise to you as incense and may you hear the prayers of individuals and gathered groups who pray in your name, Christ the Lord. **Amen**

GIVE:

Ride for Refuge 2018 raised \$26,839

On Saturday, September 29, family, friends, colleagues and supporters of PWRDF's nine Ride for Refuge teams across Canada gathered together to raise \$26,839. Proceeds from the 2018 Ride will feed hungry people living with drought, famine and displacement through PWRDF's membership in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and provide the means for women in Guatemala to start their own businesses and build their dreams of

a better life for themselves and their families through PWRDF partners Madre Tierra and Ixmucane. Improving the lives and situations of girls and women addresses the injustice of gender-based gaps and leads to greater benefits for the whole community.

Get involved in this year's Ride for Refuge on October 5, 2019! Contact PWRDF for more information.

SUNDAY

March 17

The Second Sunday in Lent

Q. Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

REFLECT:

On this second Sunday in Lent, we continue our journey with Christ through the statements found in the baptismal covenant. This week we will focus on the aspects of sin and resisting evil, seeking repentance and forgiveness, and changing our ways to return to Christ and follow his ways. The glory of the cross is the gift of forgiveness and eternal life to each believer. Think of a time when the forgiveness received through Jesus Christ has changed your life.

PRAY:

Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross, give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

GIVE:

On this second Sunday in Lent make an offering to PWRDF and tell someone else about its ministry.

MONDAY

March 18

Resisting Evil

Q. *Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?*

REFLECT:

See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. (1 Thessalonians 5:15)

Many of us would like to believe that evil does not exist. However, if we believe there is goodness in the world then the opposite can also exist. We are called to resist all things that are opposite to the goodness that God provides. Resisting evil is a personal struggle and perseverance is what we are called to have so that we do not succumb to it. When have you resisted evil to do good?

PRAY:

Almighty God, give us courage and perseverance to resist evil and seek to do your good daily. In Jesus name. **Amen**

GIVE:

OfERR

The refugee situation in Tamil Nadu, India is protracted. With the ongoing support and advocacy of PWRDF partner OfERR, (The Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation), more than 10,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees have returned to their homeland since the war ended in 2009. OfERR has worked with women in the refugee camps to create and promote “Self-Help Groups” (SHGs) bringing small groups of women together to engage in micro-credit loans. The women used the loans to start small businesses to support their families and as the program grew, SHGs began to meet at the regional and district levels as well. Members of the groups took on leadership roles, received training, and developed decision-making and policy making skills. This grassroots level training has helped the women to look beyond being refugees in their roles in their communities when they return to Sri Lanka.

TUESDAY

March 19

Sin: By our Thoughts

Q. *Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?*

REFLECT:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

When we gather for the Holy Eucharist we share together in the general confession. In the confession we say, *we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed.* God has given us minds to think and learn. Our minds and thoughts help us to make choices, sometimes good choices sometimes not as good. Our thoughts are something that are very personal and are only shared if we choose to do so. However, God is very aware of our thoughts and our thoughts can be a form of sin. How do you transform your mind and thoughts to choose what is good and acceptable?

PRAY:

Thank you God for giving us minds to think. Help us to use our minds to do those things that are good and acceptable, and perfect in your sight. May the choices we make be the right ones that will benefit our relationship with you and others. This we pray in your gracious name.

Amen

GIVE:

Nepal Flood

In 2017 torrential rainfall fell in the Morang district in Nepal, ravaging the area and causing massive flooding. PWRDF contributed 20,000 Euros (\$27,318 Cdn) to support the response and with the help of it's partner, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), these funds helped those affected by

the flooding begin to get back to a normal life. According to the district authority, 19 lives were lost, two people went missing and more than 3,100 were displaced. The community also suffered from the loss of crops, and 800 livestock, greatly diminishing their ability to generate food and income. PWRDF's local implementing partners, local government and the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC), began life saving support. LWF initiated a rapid assessment to determine the most urgent needs of the Nepalese people and to establish cash-for-work programs. These programs enabled people to earn an income in exchange for community rebuilding, helped to restore their livelihoods and went toward educational support for local children.

WEDNESDAY

March 20

Sin: By our Words

Q. Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

REFLECT:

Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety. (2 Timothy 2:16).

As much as we persevere in resisting those things in life that are sinful, we are not always able to do so. Sin is anything that separates us from our relationship with God and others. Often our words can hurt others and in turn separate us from them and God. Once we realize the words we have used are hurtful to a person or a group of people it is difficult to take them back without seeking forgiveness. When have your words hurt someone else? Did you seek forgiveness?

PRAY:

Creator God, you give us the gift of words. Help us to use our words to build up and not to tear down, to spread love rather than hate so that we may understand each other in the way you intended. In Jesus name. **Amen**

GIVE:

KORLCC

In Québec Kanien'kehaka Onkwawén:na Raotitiohkwa Language and Cultural Centre (KORLCC) works to preserve and strengthen the Kanien'kéha language and increase community access to culturally relevant programs and cultural workshops that promote, reinforce and increase traditions. The students and instructors take part in monthly community activities and ceremonies, Confederacy Sings, live talk shows, elder visits, socials, workshops and presentations on traditional teachings. At the end of Year 1, Oral Proficiency Interviews indicated that many students

advanced from novice level to intermediate level in oral comprehension and 16 students graduated. Almost 500 people, adults and youth, have benefitted directly from the KORLCC programs.

THURSDAY

March 21

Sin: By the lack of our deeds

Q. *Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?*

REFLECT:

*Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin.
(James 4:17-31)*

Sometimes we interpret our sin by the things we have said or done that separates us from God and others. St. James reminds us today that when we ignore doing what is right and good, that this is sin too. Our God, our neighbour and our Earth depend on us doing what is right. Have you ever realized that by not doing something you have not done what is right and good?

PRAY:

God of all good things, our baptism calls us into acts of righteousness. Please help us to understand that our lack of action and doing right also separates us from your creation. This we pray in your holy name. **Amen**

GIVE:

PWRDF donor enables food distribution in South Sudan

A generous individual donation of \$100,000 to The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund's equity in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank has enabled a large food distribution project to continue in South Sudan, where it is estimated that 63% of the population is facing severe food insecurity. Retired Enbridge executive Richard Bird made the offering to PWRDF's equity in the Foodgrains Bank and asked that the money go to fighting food insecurity in South Sudan. A member of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Calgary, Bird has been donating to PWRDF and other causes around the globe for years

through his organization, the Ptarmigan Foundation. The idea of giving through PWRDF appealed to Bird, who said he knew it to be a trusted organization.

FRIDAY

March 22

Repent

Q. *Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?*

REFLECT:

*Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.
(Acts 3:19).*

The word repent means to turn around, to turn away from sin. When we decide to turn away from sin, we have accepted or recognized that we have sinned in thought, word or deed. When we realize our sin, it is Jesus who assures us of forgiveness and thus our sins are wiped away. True repentance gives us the opportunity to turn around and start afresh with God and others. Remember a time when you turned from sin and felt the joy of forgiveness.

PRAY:

God of reconciliation, you give us the opportunity to turn from sin and to be made anew. May we always turn to you in repentance so that we may live as forgiven people to do always that which is right. We pray this in your reconciling name. **Amen**

GIVE:

Experiencing Truth and Reconciliation

Both truth and reconciliation can be explored but in order to break apart colonial structures, we have to start by listening and learning. This is where PWRDF's "Mapping the Ground We Stand On" exercise and the KAIROS "Blanket Exercise" come in.

PWRDF Mapping the Ground We Stand On:

In this exercise, participants trace their own family history and relationship to Turtle Island. The exercise walks participants through the waves of

immigration to Canada and the impacts that this has had on Indigenous peoples. It also explores the concept of *terra nullius* or *empty land*. The exercise is followed by a sharing circle.

<http://pwrdf.org/2017/mapping-a-future-of-reconciliation/>

KAIROS Blanket Exercise:

In the blanket exercise, participants step into the shoes of Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island. The experiential workshop takes participants through the history of settlement, reserves, residential schools, the 60s scoop, stories from today and hopes for the future. The exercise is followed by a sharing circle.

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise>

SATURDAY

March 23

Return to the Lord

Q. *Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?*

REFLECT:

Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord. (Lamentations 3:40)

This past week in the baptismal covenant we have reflected on resisting evil, the kind of sin we fall into and the act of repentance. Lent allows us the time to examine our ways and especially the ways that have separated us from God. Our baptism calls us into a right relationship with God and others. As we have recognized our sin, examined our ways and need for repentance, we have the opportunity to return to the Lord. How will you move beyond sin and return to the Lord to exercise your baptismal ministry in the world?

PRAY:

God of the prodigal, you welcome back to you those who are truly repentant. May we see in others the repentance you see in us, so we may also forgive others as you have forgiven us. This we pray in your name.

Amen

GIVE:

South Sudan

Studies show that peace deals have a 35% higher chance of success when women are involved. To that end, PWRDF supported the work of a KAIROS (Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives) program to facilitate Healing and Rebuilding our Community workshops within the National Women's Program in South Sudan. PWRDF invested \$20,000 in the program because it conducted training very efficiently at the community level. "We added value to the project already being supported by KAIROS

without creating another layer of partner management for the National Women’s Program”, says Naba Gurung, PWRDF’s Humanitarian Response Coordinator. PWRDF is a member of KAIROS, whose connections to local organizations make it an excellent partner in programming and advocacy.

SUNDAY

March 24

The Third Sunday in Lent

Q. Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

REFLECT:

On this third Sunday in Lent, we continue our journey with Christ through the words found in the baptismal covenant. This week we will focus on how we are called to make the good news of God in Christ known to the world. We are all gifted in our own way to proclaim by word and example the mercy, love and grace of Christ. We also know that to exercise this part of our baptismal covenant requires courage and strength. In proclaiming Christ, we also need to have a deep faith in Christ. Think of a time when the strength of your faith in Christ allowed you to share that with someone else.

PRAY:

Father of mercy, alone we have no power within to help ourselves. When we are discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

GIVE:

On this third Sunday in Lent make an offering to PWRDF and tell someone else about its ministry.

MONDAY

March 25

Be Imitators

Q. *Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?*

REFLECT:

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)

At the time of our baptism, our parents stand with our baptismal sponsors, chosen by them, to support us in the new life of Christ. In cases of adult baptism, these baptismal sponsors are often selected or chosen by us because of their faith and belief in Jesus Christ. Our baptismal sponsors are often mature in faith and imitators of Christ, thus an example to us of how to grow in faith and be Christ-like in the world. How does your life imitate and teach others about the good news of God in Christ?

PRAY:

Gracious God, help us to be imitators of Christ so that our words and deeds may be an example to others in spreading the good news of God in Christ. **Amen**

GIVE:

Doctor Training in Rwanda

In Rwanda PWRDF and Global Affairs Canada are co-funding medical training to reduce infant mortality rates. At the Rwinkwavu District Hospital, doctors and nurses are learning how to resuscitate a newborn baby without vital signs. General Practitioners like Joselyne Uwinkesha, 26, have the chance to learn and practise techniques that are usually reserved for specialists. Dr. Uwinkesha graduated from medical school just four months before taking the weeklong course. During her rotation on the maternity ward, Dr. Uwinkesha witnessed a baby being born without vital signs. She quickly and calmly initiated the steps to prevent birth asphyxia and, perhaps, save this baby's life. "The baby slowly turned from

purple to pink and started to struggle and cry under the mask”, said Dr. Werdenberg, Lead Neonatal and Child Health Technical Advisor at the hospital. “Dr. Uwinkesha – with the help of adequate training, mentorship and a team of nurses – saved this baby’s life”.

TUESDAY

March 26

Youth: Proclaiming By Word and Example

Q. Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

REFLECT:

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

In years past how often did we hear that children/youth should be seen and not heard? Yet our children and young people are created in the image of God as spiritual beings with much to offer all believers. Children and young people have much to teach us about the good news of Christ. They offer us a perspective of this good news in powerful and refreshing ways. All believers of all ages are gifted in ways to make Christ known – all we have to do is be open to them and what they have to share in the name of Christ. How has a child or young person shared their faith in a way that helped you to know more fully the good news of Christ?

PRAY:

(We pray these words after the baptism. Book of Alternative Services page 160).

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen**

GIVE:

Youth Rep advocates to end hunger

“As part of my internship with PWRDF in 2018”, writes Clare Urquhart, “I had the opportunity to participate in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Hunger on the Hill event in Ottawa, to learn about global hunger and advocacy and to meet with Members of Parliament. This event was part of the larger Foodgrains Bank I Care campaign – aiming to share the message with the Canadian government that Canadians care about ending global poverty and hunger. By writing and sending our postcards to the Prime Minister, we hope to inform the government that Canadians care about international aid. Global hunger is on the rise and we are asking the Canadian government to step up and take action on such an important issue. Since Canada started contributing to a better world, extreme poverty has been cut in half and the rate of hungry people in the world has decreased by nearly 100 million. But we can still do more! Currently, only 1.7% of Canada’s budget goes toward international aid – around \$5 billion”.

WEDNESDAY

March 27

Q. Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

REFLECT:

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. (Isaiah 61:1)

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that the spirit of God is upon us and has anointed us to bring the good news into the various situations we find in our world. God has chosen us to use our words and abilities to seek out those in our families and in society who are often the most vulnerable. Often we feel inadequate about doing the things we are called to do - but we are not in this alone! When have you brought good news to the oppressed, the broken hearted, the captive and to those literally and figuratively imprisoned?

PRAY:

Thank you Lord for sending your spirit upon us to do the things you call us to do. In times when we feel inadequate thank you for guiding us and leading us in ways to do your will. **Amen**

GIVE:

NCKK

PWRDF has partnered with the National Council of Churches of Kenya working in the Kakuma Refugee Camp since 1994. They deliver services and education on reproductive health care, and HIV and AIDs prevention. They also carry out projects to improve the livelihood of refugee communities, such as food production and income generation for youth. The refugee camp now has a population of 182,000 refugees, with numbers still increasing due to regional conflicts and famine affecting the region. The project has led focus groups with women and helped ensure

they are attending ante-natal care visits. Although life in a refugee camp is a struggle, income generation programs supported by NCKK and PWRDF are helping to improve the lives of those waiting for the opportunity to return to a home they have not seen in years.

THURSDAY

March 28

Q. *Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?*

REFLECT:

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:9).

As human beings, we are constantly learning and adding to our storehouse of knowledge. As Christians, our spiritual learning fills our storehouse of faith. Along our journey of faith, the more we learn and experience enables us to share our relationship with God and with others. In the learning and the sharing of faith, we may often experience the peace of God. When have you learned, received or seen the peace of God and shared that with others?

PRAY:

God of learning and faith, in the experiences of life we become closer to you and our understanding of what it is you call us to do and to be. May all that we learn and believe continue to grow and may we know the peace that comes from the knowledge of knowing you. **Amen**

GIVE:

Making Health Care more Accessible in Mozambique

Health care infrastructure in Mozambique is rarely built with patient comfort, cost or logistical considerations in mind. The poor design of the buildings makes seeking treatment more difficult and makes patients less likely to make use of the medical facilities. This is why PWRDF is working with partner EHALE, as part of its All Mothers and Children Count Program (AMCC) to build three Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) dispensaries in Nampula province. Each dispensary will cost approximately \$52,500 to build. With a 6:1 match from Global Affairs Canada, that means a donation of \$7,500 is all it takes to complete one dispensary. In PWRDF's 2018 World of Gifts guide, donors were encouraged to give \$2,500 to be a "brick" supporter, \$5,000 to be a "mortar" supporter, or \$7,500 to be a "brick and mortar" supporter. Through World of Gifts, donors generously provided all of the funds needed to build all three dispensaries.

FRIDAY

March 29

Q. *Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?*

REFLECT:

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. (Acts 9:36)

The bible is filled with examples of faithful people who proclaimed Christ in acts of kindness and love. These examples remind us that sometimes words are not needed to proclaim the good news. Sometimes people need to see through our actions that Christ is alive in the things we do. St. Francis of Assisi reminds us; *preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.* When have your actions spoken louder than words?

PRAY:

God of word and actions may the acts we perform each day speak to others of your goodness and grace. **Amen**

GIVE:

In El Salvador **CoCoSI** (Committee Against AIDS) is made up of young community-based educators in HIV and gender-based violence programs who develop workshops for women, children, adolescents and teens, people living with HIV, prison populations and the public at large. CoCoSI focuses on HIV prevention, community education against bullying, hate crimes, and the reduction of violence against women and LGBTQ people. It also aims to reduce adolescent pregnancies by carrying out reproductive and sexual health education. The CoCoSI radio program broadcasts messages addressing issues of HIV, adolescent reproductive and sexual health and the prevention of violence against women. Workshops are held in schools on gender identity and gender-based violence, HIV prevention, adolescent reproductive and sexual health education, and dating violence. CoCoSI was presented with the Red Ribbon Award at the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna, Austria in July, 2010.

SATURDAY

March 30

Q. *Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?*

REFLECT:

So it was for an entire year (Barnabas and Saul) met with the church and taught a great many people. And it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'. (Acts 11:26)

This past week in the baptismal covenant, we have reflected on proclaiming by word and example the good news of God in Christ. There are many ways for us to use our words and actions to bring that good news to the world. As baptised children of God, each one of us young and old have words and actions to share with others about Christ working in and through us. It was through the words and actions of the early disciples that others saw Christ in them and thus while in Antioch were called Christians. Will you be recognized through your word and example as a Christian?

PRAY:

Creator God, thank you for giving us imitators of your word and example so that we may be an example to others. May young and old alike share the learning of faith so that others may also learn of your love and care for them. As we journey on in our baptismal ministry we always remember that your spirit is upon us and that you have anointed us for this ministry.

Amen

GIVE:

Fort McMurray

People in Fort McMurray are very grateful for the funds donated to PWRDF that have in many ways allowed their churches to have a meaningful and healing impact in the community. These funds contributed to the construction and launching of a youth recording studio and music program through a local high school. The first youth event was held and young people were invited to share their musical and artistic gifts, many of these gifts expressed thoughts and emotions related to the fire. It was

a powerful and healing event for all involved. PWRDF funds have also gone towards the building of a community garden on the property of All Saints' Church in downtown Fort McMurray. The garden was built in collaboration with YMCA community members and many other donors, who saw the importance of making a beautiful space in the downtown and creating the opportunity for people to come together to build something new and living in the wake of the fire's destruction.

SUNDAY

March 31

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Q. Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

REFLECT:

On this fourth Sunday in Lent, we continue our journey with Christ through the words found in the baptismal covenant. This week we will focus on how we seek and serve Christ in relationship to our neighbour and to ourselves with love. It is not always easy to love all, especially if someone else has hurt us. We have Christ as our example of truly loving others – even those who are difficult to love. To seek and serve others we need to know the love of Christ in our lives. How has Christ’s love for you enabled you to love others?

PRAY:

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ, came from heaven to be the true bread, which gives life to the world, evermore give us the bread that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

GIVE:

On this fourth Sunday in Lent make an offering to PWRDF and tell someone else about its ministry.

MONDAY

April 1

Love and Serve the Lord

Q. *Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?*

REFLECT:

If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today—loving the Lord your God, and serving him with all your heart and with all your soul— then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil; and he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you will eat your fill. (Deuteronomy 11:13)

Our ancestors in faith were given directions, a commandment of how to love and serve the Lord, with heart and soul. To love and serve God requires the offering of our entire selves, not just a bit of ourselves but all of ourselves. It is by loving and serving God with our whole being that we are able to serve others in the way of Christ. How do you love and serve God with all your heart and with all your soul?

PRAY:

Loving God, help us enrich our relationship with you so that we may love and serve others in your name. **Amen**

GIVE:

Bishop Griselda leads by example

“People in Cuba used to look for help from outside”, says Bishop Griselda Delgado. “Now, they have learned what they can do with their own two hands”. She says Cubans who benefited from PWRDF funded programs have transformed the lives of their friends and neighbours throughout the towns where they live. “It is not about receiving, but about sharing”. When Bishop Griselda was consecrated a bishop in 2010, she started to explore a closer partnership between the Episcopal Church of Cuba and PWRDF.

She was aware of the partnership between PWRDF and the Cuban Council of Churches in training church leaders in Cuba, but she was keen on developing projects in partnership. Community vegetable gardens have increased knowledge, skills and capacity in food production. Community members have also learned how to raise small animals organically and ecologically. This has led to greater self-sufficiency in the bishop's constituency, mainly in poor rural communities. It has also provided work, income, leadership training and improved nutrition levels for mothers and children.

TUESDAY

April 2

Gifted for Service

Q. Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

REFLECT:

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10)

In baptism, we see visible signs of baptism such as water and the marking of the cross on the forehead making the newly baptised Christ's own forever. There is also the invisible at work in baptism and that is the gift of God's grace. Baptism gives us the required gifts to serve – gifts of humility, empathy, grace and love. These gifts will help us to serve “the neighbour”. How has your baptism gifted you to serve God and others?

PRAY:

God of gifts, you bless us with your grace to recognize you in others and to serve others. May we never waste the opportunity to use these baptismal gifts. **Amen**

GIVE:

Diocese of Masasi

PWRDF and Global Affairs Canada worked with the Diocese of Masasi to bring clean, drinkable water to over 33,000 people living in 10 villages in Tanzania. In a country where the dry climate makes growing food very difficult for most of the year, access to clean water is incredibly important! Neema Ndedya, a resident of Mkwapa village, said:

“I used to walk 8km to carry a bucket of 20 litres of water every day. Overall, I spent four hours a day fetching water. Of course, 20 litres was not enough for my family, who needed 120 litres, an average of 40 litres per person per day. Those days are behind us. Now, it takes me less than 30

minutes back and forth from the water well. Because of the short distance, my family helps and we can each carry a bucket. It makes my burden lighter and we can have more water for domestic use and keep ourselves clean”.

WEDNESDAY

April 3

Who is my Neighbour?

Q. *Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?*

REFLECT:

*But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’
(Luke 10:29)*

A certain lawyer wanted to know *who is my neighbour?* Have you ever asked that question? Neighbours are the people living in the apartment, condominium or house near the place where we live. Neighbours are the people of our community, province, country and world. Neighbours are the people we know well enough to ask to borrow a cup of sugar and they are the people we have never met. The parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that we are called to be a neighbour to all. Read the parable (Luke 10: 25-42) and reflect on how you have or have not been a neighbour.

PRAY:

Great Neighbour, you show us how to be a neighbour to those we know and those we do not know. Help us to see that every human being is our neighbour and that we are called to serve and love all neighbours in your holy name. **Amen**

GIVE:

Partners In Health

For Rwandan farmers no two growing seasons are alike and dealing with unpredictable weather can mean a struggle to maintain a healthy farm. When crops fail in areas that are already impoverished, the results can be catastrophic. Amazina Nyiramaronko is a farmer in the Kayonza district where she is the caretaker for her five grandchildren who help her around the farm, but when crop yields are small she struggles to feed her family.

Recognizing Amazina's need, PWRDF partner Partners in Health (PIH) enrolled her in their Program on Social and Economic Rights (POSER) program, a food security program that is assisting 2,500 families across three districts in Rwanda. The program is supported by PWRDF's All Mothers and Children Count Program with a 6:1 match from Global Affairs Canada.

THURSDAY

April 4

Genuine Love

Q. Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

REFLECT:

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.
(Romans 12:9-10)*

St. Paul taught the early believers how to serve Christ and one another. He taught them the true marks of being a Christian – genuine love, holding fast to what is good, love with mutual affection and showing honour. To seek and serve Christ in all persons requires us to be genuine in all we do in Christ’s name. People can see when we are not genuine. When we are not genuine in what we believe and how we serve others, we create a barrier between Christ and our calling to serve in his name. When in your life do you feel you are being most genuine to the true marks of being a Christian?

PRAY:

Faithful God, help us to be genuine in our loving and service to you and others. May our acts of faith be seen as a way of helping us and others to seek and serve Christ. **Amen**

GIVE:

CCM Pemba

CCM Pemba is a micro-finance cooperative for low-income women in the city of Pemba in the province of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. CCM Pemba is an alternative savings and lending institution at the service of their membership to counter the high interest rates of almost 25% offered by traditional banks in Mozambique. The funding allowed the organization to make 452 loans to low-income women. Women who set

up a number of diverse businesses including chicken rearing, catering and cake decoration, convenience stores, hairdressing salons, restaurants, production of animal feed, food trucks and construction materials stores. The women support their families and their neighbours through their membership in the cooperative.

FRIDAY

April 5

Return That Same Love

Q. *Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?*

REFLECT:

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 12:34)

Jesus speaks often of love. Love that surpasses all the concerns of the world. Love that heals the wounds of hatred. Love that builds up instead of tearing down. Love that forgives the sins of the whole world. Jesus' love is an example of how we are truly loved. It is not good enough to know Jesus' love for ourselves but that we should love one another in the same way. When have you realized Christ's love and then returned that love to others?

PRAY:

Loving Christ, your love for us reminds us that we are to love in that same way. May our neighbours see your love in how we serve them and all neighbours. **Amen**

GIVE:

Relief Funds Keep B.C. Friendship Centre Open after Wildfire

A lightning storm sparked wildfires in British Columbia that led to the evacuation of approximately 14,000 people. That included all 2,000 residents of 100 Mile House, where the Stemetewuw'1 Friendship Centre at St. Timothy's Anglican Church offers holistic support to all people in a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment. This First Nations centre is vital to the wellbeing of the surrounding community and has made a notable difference since opening its doors in 2015. PWRDF provided relief funding to the centre through the Territory of the People (formerly the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior). Were it not for the generosity of PWRDF donors, the centre would have had to close its doors.

SATURDAY

April 6

Nothing Greater

Q. *Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?*

REFLECT:

“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these’. (Mark 12:31)

To love takes a lot of work. There is much at play when we are called to love. This week we have reflected on seeking and serving Christ in all persons and this requires much love. Knowing love and loving are two very different things. We know the love of Jesus from scripture and being recipients of that love from others. For us to love we must love ourselves. There is much pressure in society to act and look a certain way to be loved. True love begins with Christ loving us so that we can love ourselves and in turn share that love with someone else. God tells us there is nothing greater than loving our neighbour and loving ourselves. May we, because of Jesus’ love, seek and serve all we meet in his name. Who will be the recipient of your God given love today?

PRAY:

Gracious God, thank you for teaching us that there is nothing greater than love. Thank you for teaching us how to love our neighbours – those we know and those we do not know. Thank you for loving us and showing us how to love ourselves so that we may reveal you to the world. **Amen**

GIVE:

Village Health Works

Founded in 2005, Village Health Works is a grassroots organization that provides quality, compassionate, dignified health care in rural Burundi. With funding from PWRDF, Village Health Works has continued to operate ambulances, expand a maternal and newborn health clinic and

facilitate educational sessions that emphasize the importance of women, female youth, pregnant and lactating women, and infants and children accessing health services. The clinic saw an increase in the number of patients, especially women and children under 5. On an average day, more than 150 people visit the clinic. Skilled birth attendants attended 95% of births and 99% of mothers and newborns received post-natal care within two days of birth. 77% of pregnant women attended at least four ante-natal care sessions. This positive result was partly attributed to the ultrasound machines they were able to purchase.

SUNDAY

April 7

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Q. *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

REFLECT:

On this fifth Sunday in Lent, we continue our journey with Christ through the words found in the baptismal covenant. This week we will focus on justice and peace, respect and dignity for all. Our thoughts, actions, prejudices and ignorance are revealed when we reflect on this part of the covenant. How do you reveal peace and justice, respect and dignity to others?

PRAY:

Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you created humanity anew. May the power of his victorious cross transform those who turn in faith to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

GIVE:

On this fifth Sunday in Lent make an offering to PWRDF and tell someone else about its ministry.

MONDAY

April 8

Justice Brings Joy

Q. *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

REFLECT:

*When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.
(Proverbs 21:15)*

Justice is about fairness. There are many places and situations within society that lack fairness, creating injustice which in turn denies respect, denies dignity and exploits the lives of people. Proverbs reminds us that when justice is done there is reason to celebrate the joy it brings to the lives of individuals, families, communities and the world. When justice is realized, all is right in the world and those who perpetuate injustice lose their power. When have you experienced the joy of justice?

PRAY:

Creator God, we pray for a just and fair world. Make us people who strive for justice so that we can celebrate the joy it brings. **Amen**

GIVE:

IXMUCANE

Asociacion Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas (IXMUCANE) is a women's association that runs women's rights and health programs for women living in Petén, the northern most region in Guatemala. It was set up by women who fled the civil war in Guatemala in the 1980s and returned to Guatemala in the mid 1990s. The focus of the project is to empower rural Indigenous women to assert their rights to education, to sexual and reproductive health, to end violence against women and to prevent discrimination. PWRDF funds contributed to leadership training, to the group having its own location in Santa Elena and to supporting

the organization's grassroots structure. Ixmucane was able to fight for and obtain co-ownership of the land when titles were given to families; it preserved the right of women to own land.

TUESDAY

April 9

Called to Peace

Q. *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

REFLECT:

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. (Colossians 3:15)

Peace is something we pray for, peace is something we strive for and yet often we feel as if it is something unattainable. We pray for world peace and yet every day there seems to be more chaos. We teach peace in schools and workplaces and yet bullying continues to bring distress to life. We can become cynical about peace as some sort of ‘pie in the sky’ ideal, but we are called to peace. We have Christ the Prince of Peace as our ideal and example of peace — peace for the world, peace in our relationships and peace within ourselves. We are people of hope and we persevere in our praying and striving for peace because we are called by Christ to do so. When has the peace that Christ brings helped you find peace in your life even in the midst of chaos or distress?

PRAY:

Prince of Peace, you call us to know peace in a way that the world cannot give. You call us as the body of Christ to know peace and to be that example of peace in the world. **Amen**

GIVE:

Just what does a truly just, healthy and peaceful world look like?

To find out, PWRDF’s Youth Council asked youth across Canada to put it on a t-shirt. The winning design came from Natalia Beattie, a 21-year-old student at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton. “My design shows two individuals hugging to forgive each other for the mistakes we’ve made”, she writes. “The shaking hands show the

agreements being made to keep peace in the future”. The whole concept is about forgiveness and trusting that we will figure out future hurdles together with the view of the collective and less of the individual. Beattie was thrilled to win. “I got really excited when I saw the reveal on Instagram and I immediately called my friends and family. I am so thankful for being chosen”. Beattie was introduced to PWRDF and this contest by one of her best friends Leah Marshall, a Youth Council member. “Leah knows I love a challenge. When I saw that the topic of the contest was based on what I believe a truly just, healthy and peaceful world means to me, my first thought was there’s no such thing as world peace. A peaceful world cannot be sustainable in the present context of how we exist. Currently when we make mistakes, we fight with each other, get angry, struggle to forgive and so on”, Beattie writes. “Everyone should be allowed to believe what they want to believe, but no one should push their beliefs on others. When everyone respects others and is respected, we will take a step in the right direction towards world peace”.

WEDNESDAY

April 10

God Requires....

Q. *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

REFLECT:

And what does the Lord require of you. To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

The prophets in the Old Testament taught us how to treat one another. Our actions toward other human beings are directly connected to how we live out our faith in God. Micah taught us what God truly requires of us. It is not enough to bring offerings and enter God's temple to worship. That alone is not what God requires. For peace, justice, and dignity to exist God requires us to act justly in all our interactions and choices in life - to love mercy and show it to others – to walk humbly with God. How do you act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God?

PRAY:

Generous God, you guide us in the ways of peace and justice. May we remember the words of Micah to act, to love and to walk humbly with God. These are the things that God requires of us. **Amen**

GIVE:

South Sudan

As South Sudan marked the seventh anniversary of its independence from Sudan in July 2018, six community leaders began participating in a course to promote healing and reconciliation in the fragile state. The three week course was taught in Kigali, Rwanda by Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC). Born out of the trauma of the Rwandan genocide, HROC's goal is to promote peace education to establish a future generation guided by nonviolent and harmonious values. PWRDF's

association with HROC began in July 2016, when Rebecca Deng, a former lost girl from South Sudan now living in Winnipeg and Atong Mayol Juuk, a woman from the Mother's Union in Bor, South Sudan, completed a HROC facilitator's workshop in Kigali. Deng then founded the Winnipeg Women's Resource Centre in Bor with the help of the Winnipeg South Sudanese community's Emmanuel Mission and its host church, St. Matthew's Anglican.

THURSDAY

April 11

The Effort for Peace

Q. *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

REFLECT:

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy, without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14)

Living in peace is not just the absence of war. We live in a privileged part of the world. We do not fear corrupt governments that use people as collateral. We do not know what it is to run from a bombed out home or community. We live in a country of peace that is absent of war. However, we do live in a place and time where we long for peace in our personal lives and for peace that is respectful of every human being. The kind of peace we want in our lives and the lives of those around us can only happen when we make the effort to live in peace with everyone. How will you make an effort to live in peace with everyone?

PRAY:

Lover of all, you love us and care for us despite the differences the world creates. May we make every effort to live in peace with everyone so that we may quell the things that lead to personal conflicts. **Amen**

GIVE:

ECLOF

ECLOF Kenya is an expanding, locally rooted, micro-finance institution concentrating on rural and peri-urban areas in Kenya. Founded in 1994, it has served poor and low income entrepreneurs and farmers in Kenya for over 20 years. Besides loans, ECLOF Kenya provides clients with access to micro-insurance for health or agricultural purposes, and non-financial services and training. ECLOF Kenya is currently transforming into a socially motivated deposit-taking micro-finance institution and scaling its work to

be both broader and deeper, reaching clients at the lowest income levels and in more remote areas. ECLOF carried out a “training of trainers” initiative and designed training programs and teaching materials. Close to 4,000 micro-finance solidarity group leaders are now financial literacy trainers.

FRIDAY

April 12

Respect to Everyone

Q. *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

REFLECT:

Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers. (1 Peter 2:17)

In life, we interact with many people on a regular basis - at school, at work, at the grocery store. We know how we like to be treated by others, with kindness and with respect. We also know how it feels when we are not treated in that manner. Respect is something that should come easily but sometimes our own ignorance and personal opinions interfere with our treatment of others. At times, we judge others by social status, level of education, occupational choice or by the life partner they love. When we judge we take away a level of respect from those with whom we interact. St. Peter reminds us to show proper respect to everyone. Proper respect comes without judgement. May we love the family of believers with the respect and kindness with which we want to be treated. When have you felt disrespected and how did it make you feel? When have you disrespected others and how do you think they felt?

PRAY:

God of love, you showed respect to all people. Your respect challenged others but it did not strip people of their dignity. You showed respect when others clearly disrespected you. Help us always to treat others in the way we would want to be treated. **Amen**

GIVE:

Cristosal

The Fundacion Cristosal's Human Rights and Community Development Program aims to strengthen the capacity of five community organizations to run integrated development projects. The program promotes awareness

and carries out training on human rights for local community members. Cristosal provides legal advice to community members and successfully carried out negotiations with a local power company to connect individual homes to the power and water grids. They have been successful in finding a positive and peaceful resolution for existing individual debts of community members and carried out advocacy and negotiations with the Ministry of Public Works regarding the completion of the construction of a road project. Communities now carry out discussions with governmental and non-governmental institutions around cooperation on development initiatives.

SATURDAY

April 13

Water That Sustains Life

Q. *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

REFLECT:

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5:24)

We know the importance of water for human survival, without it we cannot physically exist. This week we have reflected on justice and peace, respect and dignity for every human being without which humanity cannot exist. We strive for peace within our communities, the world and ourselves. We strive for justice so fairness and equality may rule the world. We strive for respect and to respect each other so all know dignity.

As water sustains our physical bodies may the waters of justice and ever-flowing streams of righteousness sustain us as the human race, the Body of Christ. What sustains you as the Body of Christ?

PRAY:

God of justice, rain down on us the water of life. The water that sustains our bodies and the waters of justice, peace, respect and dignity that sustains our human race. **Amen**

GIVE:

ARUWE

Odetta is a 23-year-old mother of two living in the Kyankwanzi District of Uganda. She dropped out of school because she was unable to pay the tuition and struggled to make ends meet. When PWRDF partner Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE) offered skills training for rural women farmers, Odetta was selected from among 250 applicants. The women were given access to loans to purchase land, plant crops or

whatever else they needed to be successful farmers. They also received quality seeds and equipment. Odeta secured a loan and purchased two acres of land, as well as rice seeds and labour. With her harvest, she will reinvest part of her profits back into farming in order to create a sustainable income for herself and her children.

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 14

Q. Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

REFLECT:

Today we celebrate the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem. A time when Christ was greeted with shouts of “hosanna” but a journey that led to shouts of “crucify him”. The path of suffering and death, led to shouts of “He is risen” and the glory of new life. During this week, we will reflect on the baptismal statement regarding our relationship with creation. The cycle of life for the created order is parallel to the cycle of Christ's life on this Earth. In creation, we see life, death, new life again. How will you during this Holy Week and Easter see yourself in the life of Christ and our connection to the creation?

PRAY:

Assist us mercifully with your help, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you give us life and immortality, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

GIVE:

On this Palm Sunday in Lent make an offering to PWRDF and tell someone else about its ministry.

MONDAY

April 15

Q. *Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?*

REFLECT:

All things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being. (John 1:3)

Today take a moment to look around at your surroundings. What do you see? You may see other people- children, co-workers, complete strangers, you may see animals - loving pets, a spider spinning a web, a crocus forcing its way through the remnant of the winter ground, and you may see the glory of the ocean, the magnificence of the mountains or the vastness of the prairie lands. Where did all this come from? St. John reminds us today that all things came into being through a wonderful Creator and without the Creator, nothing came into being. How does this reflection impact how you look at the things around you?

PRAY:

Collect Prayer for Monday in Holy Week

Almighty God, whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory, may we, walking in the way of the cross, find this is for us the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

GIVE:

UBINIG & OfERR

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund is pleased that the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) is supporting two ongoing projects in Bangladesh and India. The project in Bangladesh involves training locals in the coastal regions to be more resilient to the effects of climate change. PWRDF partner UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternative) has begun to set up farmers' field schools in six villages in climate vulnerable areas. These schools are sharing knowledge about farming in drought and flood prone areas as well as discussing the

challenges that climate change is presenting. In India, the project supports refugees from the Sri Lankan civil war who have been living in camps in the Tamil Nadu region to acquire civil documents and other requirements so they can return home to Sri Lanka. PWRDF partner OfERR (Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation) has been preparing and assisting the refugees to return home and is grateful for the assistance of MCIC.

TUESDAY

April 16

Q. *Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?*

REFLECT:

'But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?

In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being. (Job 12:7-9)

Sometimes we need to be reminded that God has given life to every living thing including the very breath we breathe. Every living being and thing has been given a purpose for its life and the ability to teach through the existence of its life. However, sometimes we think human kind has a monopoly on all living things. We need to remember that we are but one part of the living order and we are called to live in harmony with it. We are called to live together respecting all that God has created. When has God's creation taught you something about your place in the created order?

PRAY:

Collect Prayer for Tuesday in Holy Week

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son, you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. May our lives be so transformed by his passion that we may bear witness to his grace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

GIVE:

Steeley Determination: Youth Council Rep Fights against Climate Change at COP24

PWRDF Youth Council member Jessica Steele is one of two women climate activists representing KAIROS (Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives),

as observers at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), in Katowice, Poland. Along with Cameroon based Georgine Kengne, Jessica's mission is twofold: to urge the Canadian government to increase its greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets backed by an ambitious action plan and to join other women climate activists in adding their voice to the COP24 process on the gendered impacts of climate change.

“It is time that Canada steps up to this challenge by agreeing to more ambitious climate targets”, says Steele. “We need to commit in word and in action to facilitate a transition away from fossil fuels and support communities both in Canada and abroad that are most affected by the climate crisis”. “I think world leaders and polluters have had enough time to discuss and it is time to save the planet”, says Kengne.

WEDNESDAY

April 17

Q. *Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?*

REFLECT:

The Earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the Earth. The Earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant". Isaiah 24:4-5

The way in which we care for things entrusted to us says a lot about our character. The Book of Numbers reminds us today that we shall not pollute the land in which we live. We teach our children not to litter, we know the impact plastic is having on our oceans and landfills, and we are encouraged to recycle, yet God's creation is still being polluted. Our actions or lack of action to care and respect creation speaks volumes to our relationship with the Creator. How will your actions work to safeguard the integrity of God's creation?

PRAY:

Collect Prayer for Wednesday in Holy Week

Lord God, your Son our Saviour gave his body to be whipped and turned his face when men spit upon him. Give your servants grace to accept suffering for his sake, confident of the glory that will be revealed, through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

GIVE:

Modern Day Prospectors

PWRDF volunteers in the Diocese of Yukon are modern day prospectors. Only they are not panning for gold. On any given day in Dawson City, Yukon, parishioners from St. Paul's Church can be found collecting recyclables from local businesses. The group is led by Betty Davidson, PWRDF Diocesan Representative for the diocese since 2011. For the last eight years Davidson and dedicated members of the parish have

been gathering, sorting and counting recyclables and returning them to their local recycling centre for cash, which is then donated to PWRDF. Sourdough Joe's, a local restaurant, provides an average of 14 dozen empties to the cause twice a week, while a local campground delivers their recyclables directly to Betty's home. The recyclable mining group got a helping hand from Bishop Larry Robertson and current PWRDF Board of Directors President, Valerie Maier, who were in Dawson City in 2016 for a Vacation Bible School. Valerie and Bishop Robertson were touched by the groups desire to make our world a more just, healthy and peaceful place for all.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 18

Q. *Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?*

REFLECT:

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth'. (Genesis 1:26)

On this Maundy Thursday, we gather at a table to feast on the Body and Blood of Christ that sustains our spiritual life and enriches our faith. When God created us, we were blessed with all of the other things that were created. We were given fish, birds, cattle, wild animals, fruits and vegetables that in turn sustain our life as a food source. Yet we live in a world where many live and die of hunger — why?

PRAY:

Collect Prayer for Maundy Thursday

O God, your Son Jesus Christ has left to us this meal of bread and wine in which we share his body and his blood. May we who celebrate this sign of his great love show in our lives the fruits of his redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

GIVE:

Fred Says – It all Starts with Food

Those five words sum up the main message of PWRDF's three-year food security campaign, 2014-2016, called "Fred Says", named for then President of the Board, Archbishop and Primate Fred Hiltz. Without food, people don't have good health, can't learn in school or work effectively. Passionate about the work of PWRDF, Hiltz calls it "one of the best good news stories of the Anglican Church of Canada". So when asked to be the face of the campaign, he didn't hesitate before saying yes. The goal was to move people to understand food security as being the availability of

food and one's access to it, and the mission of PWRDF in ensuring that people and communities have enough good, healthy food to eat. Through a series of ads called "Fredisms," promotional and educational resources, videos highlighting partner stories and volunteer engagement, Hiltz's message resounded with the constituency and beyond. New Fredisms were promoted every two months and linked to a PWRDF project. People were invited to learn more online and in the Church about the issue of food security and the work of PWRDF and its partners. People donated and hosted events to raise awareness of the importance of food in the lives of every person around the world. <https://pwrdf.org/fredsays/>

GOOD FRIDAY

April 19

Q. *Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God’s creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?*

REFLECT:

But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys, watered by rain from the sky, a land that the Lord God looks after. A land that the Lord your God looks after. The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. (Deuteronomy 11:11-12)

On Good Friday, we are made aware of the eyes of God on the entire Earth and specifically on a piece of land containing a hill and a cross. The land in Calvary brought redemption to the human race. Through creation, God gave us land to use and look after. God gave us land for building homes, growing food, building communities and for making a living. Yet, we have not been good stewards of his bounty. Families fight for their share, countries declare war over boundaries and others have fled their homeland for safety. What do God’s eyes see when we do not look after the land that was given to us? How can our actions be redeemed?

PRAY:

Collect Prayer for Good Friday

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

GIVE:

Canada

Mapping the Ground We Stand On

“What is the map that you want to stand on, individually and together, as we move forward into the future?” This question is the final one asked in the PWRDF workshop called, “Mapping the Ground We Stand On”. Developed in 2015 in response to PWRDF’s commitment to, “Deepen

relationships with aboriginal peoples”, the workshop invites Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants to trace their own family history and relationship to Turtle Island. The exercise walks participants through the presence of Indigenous people over millennia, the waves of immigration by settlers to Canada and the profound impacts that this has had on Indigenous peoples. It also explores the concept of terra nullius or empty land and is followed by a sharing circle. As Jessica Steele, a member of the Youth Council wrote, after participating in the workshop in the fall of 2018, “The term ‘Truth and Reconciliation’ is thrown around a lot both in the media and in general conversation and I often have to ask myself: What does that term really mean? How do we actively engage through our personal and professional lives in the work of Truth and Reconciliation? It’s important to note that ‘Truth’ comes before ‘Reconciliation’. Both of these can be explored at the same time but in order to break apart colonial structures, we have to start by listening and learning”.

HOLY SATURDAY

April 20

Q. Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

REFLECT:

For six years, you shall sow your field, and for six years, you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; but in the seventh year, there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. (Leviticus 25:3-5).

Holy Saturday is a time of waiting and quietness. As Christ rested in the sepulchre on this day, it is a time for us to wait and rest too. The act of resting, waiting and quietness is sabbath. God calls us to take time to rest. This same act of sabbath is needed for the renewal of the Earth. We cannot continue to take what is offered by the Earth and expect it to keep on giving. Leviticus reminds us of the need and necessity of sabbath for the Earth. How do you allow for sabbath for the Earth?

PRAY:

Collect Prayer for Holy Saturday

O God, Creator of heaven and earth, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy sabbath, so may we await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

GIVE:

Hurricane Matthew

In October 2016, a devastating hurricane tore through Haiti, leaving behind a path of destruction. Hurricane Matthew was a category 4 storm that caused great damage to physical structures, destroyed crops and killed livestock. Canadian Anglicans responded with close to \$90,000 in donations to help the country recover. As with most disasters, the recovery

would be long-term as families struggled to rebuild their communities. PWRDF Partner Fondation Nationale Grand'Anse (FNGA) worked hard to ensure that the families most affected were empowered with the resources to rebuild from the storm. FNGA targeted the most vulnerable members of the population and worked to ensure the active participation of women. FNGA identified 208 beneficiaries, 90 of whom were female, who were the most vulnerable following the hurricane. They also looked for people who had farming experience and land to cultivate in order to ensure the work of the project was in line with the ministry of agriculture. The project sought to provide beneficiaries with the ability to generate their own sources of food again through the rehabilitation of livestock, by providing agricultural training and inputs and taking measures to protect farmlands.

EASTER DAY

April 21

Q. Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

REFLECT:

We have spent the last few weeks reflecting on the words found in the baptismal covenant. This covenant reminds us of the ministry our baptism calls us to share with the risen Christ. Today our self-reflection calls us to respond to each of the covenant statements with the new life offered to us by the crucified and resurrected Lord. **Alleluia!**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

I will, with God's help.

PRAY:

Collect Prayer for Easter Day

Lord of life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son, you have overcome the old order of sin and death and have made all things new in him. May we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, reign with him in glory, who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

GIVE:

Make an offering today for the Risen Christ and for your baptismal ministry that calls you to spread the good news of PWRDF.



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