

# St. Luke's Table

FOURTH SUNDAY  
in LENT and  
PWRDF SUNDAY

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him  
should not perish  
but have eternal life.

*John 3.16*



Planting the Seeds of Education Focus  
[www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org)

# Welcome and Good Morning!

A Service of Morning Prayer adapted from “Three Supplementary Eucharistic Prayers for The Book of Alternative Services and Two Services of the Word,” (Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1998).

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The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund has been inspiring Canadian Anglicans to share their time, talents and treasures to raise funds and awareness in support of vulnerable people around the world since 1958.

Climate change impacts the vulnerable intersecting with all programs and services offered by PWRDF from health and women's empowerment to food security, emergency relief and more.

This year the PWRDF introduced a three-year education focus called *Creation Care: Climate Action* focusing on engaging us through prayer, learning and action.

This morning we are supporting the *Planting the Seeds of Education* initiative by uniting in prayer through a special Liturgy developed for this purpose, as well sharing some Reflections from the daily “Learning through Lent Creation Care and Climate Action series.



**PWRDF**  
The Primate's World Relief  
and Development Fund

# The Gathering of the Community

## Opening Hymn

Come Now, O Prince of Peace, (4 verses)

**Come now, O Prince of Peace,  
make us one body;  
come, O Lord Jesus,  
reconcile your people.**

**2. Come now, O God of love,  
make us one body;  
come, O Lord Jesus,  
reconcile your people.**

**3. Come now and set us free,  
O God, our Saviour;  
come, O Lord Jesus,  
reconcile all nations.**



**4. Come, Hope of unity,  
make us one body;  
come, O Lord Jesus,  
reconcile all nations.**

## The Symbols of Lent: The Placard

We have added to the cross today the mocking sign that hung above the head of our Lord, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

This sign forever symbolizes our spiritual deadness. In our disobedience and death we mock a Kingdom we do not want---while through His death the Ruler of that Kingdom offers us life.

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**Lord Jesus, deliver us from our spiritual deadness.  
We do not know what it means to live  
the life of Your Kingdom, to walk in step with Your Spirit.  
Help us say “no” to our desire for earthly kingdoms.  
Help us say “yes” to the cross.**

The sign was meant to mock a “king” whose life ended, absurdly, on a cross.

Instead, it signifies our inability---or unwillingness---to believe in a Messiah who suffers, because we want a Messiah who conquers.

**Lord Jesus, in our desire for power and prestige  
we miss out on Your coming Kingdom.  
We think being seated with You means  
having positions of power.  
Help us say “no” to our passion for earthly success.  
Help us say “yes” to the cross.**

With this sign we passed judgment upon God's nature as revealed in Christ.

But the sign actually reveals our true nature as children of wrath.

**Lord Jesus, Your cross exposes all the ways we are not like You. We confess the difference between Your life and ours.**

**Help us say "no" to our self-confident boastings.**

**Help say "yes" to the cross.**

Let us pray together,

**Almighty God, Your cross reveals our true nature.**

**We look at Your Son, and we look at ourselves,  
and we confess the great difference.**

**Deliver us from our selves; we admit our helplessness  
apart from Your grace.**

**Thank You for Your kindness, for the riches of Your grace  
to us in Christ.**

**Create us anew in Christ Jesus for the way of life  
You have prepared for us.  
Make us like Your Son, we pray. Amen.**

*The Placard  
is placed at the cross*



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## The Grace

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have brought us together on this, your day, to praise you for your goodness and your blessing, and to lift up before you 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. **Amen**

## Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,  
As we turn our hearts and minds  
to worship Almighty God,  
let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

## Prayer of Confession:

Dear God,

**You asked for my hands  
that you might use them for your purposes.  
I gave them for a moment  
then withdrew them for the work was hard.  
You asked for my mouth  
to speak out against injustice.  
I gave you a whisper  
that I might not be accused.**

**You asked for my eyes  
to see the pain of poverty.  
I closed them  
for I did not want to see.  
You asked for my life  
that you might work through me.  
I gave you a small part  
that I might not get “too involved”.**

**Forgive me for the calculated efforts to serve you  
only when it is convenient for me to do so,  
and only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.  
Forgive me, renew me,  
send me out as a usable instrument,  
that I may take seriously  
the meaning of the cross. Amen**

Joe Sereman, South Africa (alt.), "Prayer of Confession," reproduced in From Hope to Harvest  
– A Worship Service for World Food Day, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, 2015

Merciful God,  
grant to us, 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. **Amen.**

Venite: (alternating verses)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.



**For the Lord is a great God  
and a great king above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his for he made it,  
and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand.  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

## The Collect of the Day

**Gracious Father,  
whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven  
to be the true bread which gives life to the world,  
evermore give us this 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.**

God of our salvation,  
**Your bow in the clouds proclaims your covenant  
with every living creature.**  
**Teach us your paths and lead us in your truth,  
so that by your Holy Spirit,  
we may remember our baptismal vows  
and be keepers of your trust with the earth and its  
inhabitants. Amen**

# The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Numbers 21: 4-9



Processional Cross with Serpent Motif  
Ethiopian Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22: *(alternating verses)*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
and his mercy endures for ever.

**Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

He gathered them out of the lands;  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

**Some were fools and took to rebellious ways;  
they were afflicted because of their sins.**

They abhorred all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.

**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.**



He sent forth his word and healed them  
and saved them from the grave.

**Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy  
and the wonders he does for his children.**

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

**O God, the divine seeker, you are light to the lost,  
bread to the hungry, deliverance to the captive,  
healing to the sick, eternal vision to the dying,  
and harbour to every soul in peril.**

**Gather the wanderers from every corner of the world  
into the community of your mercy and grace,  
that we may eternally praise you for our salvation in  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Canticle: You Are God  
(alternating verses)

You are God: we praise you;  
you are the Lord: we acclaim you;  
you are the eternal Father:  
all creation worships you.

**To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The glorious company of the apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of the prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

**Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:  
Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

You, Christ, are the King of Glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you became man to set us free  
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.

**You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come, and be our judge.**

Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints  
to glory everlasting.

Second Reading:  
Ephesians 2: 1-10



Drawing from a Christian fellowship meeting, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, China

## Psalm 111: (Alternating Verses)

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are the deeds of the Lord!  
they are studied by all who delight in them.**



His work is full of majesty and splendour,  
and his righteousness endures for ever.

**He makes his marvellous works to be remembered;  
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

He gives food to those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**He has shown his people the power of his works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all his commandments are sure.

**They stand fast for ever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

He sent redemption to his people;  
he commanded his covenant for ever;  
holy and awesome is his name.

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;  
his praise endures for ever.**

Gradual Hymn:

Forty Days and Forty Nights, (5 verses)

**Forty days and forty nights  
you were fasting in the wild,  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled:**

**2. Burning heat throughout the day,  
bitter cold when light had fled,  
prowling beasts around your way,  
stones your pillow earth your bed.**

**3. Shall not we your trials share,  
learn your discipline of will,  
and with you by fast and prayer  
wrestle with the powers of hell?**

**4. So if Satan, pressing hard,  
soul and body would destroy,  
Christ who conquered, be our guard;  
give to us the victor's joy.**



**5. Saviour, may we hear your voice~  
keep us constant at your side;  
and with you we shall rejoice  
at the eternal Eastertide.**

## The Good News:

Gospel of Christ  
according to  
John 3: 14-21  
(shared as a Reading)



Ugandan Risen Christ  
Basilica of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception  
Norfolk, VA

Creation: A Relationship of Respect  
(Reflections by Reverend Patrick Stephens)  
February 25 and 26, 2021



*Learning  
through  
Lent*  
with PWRDF

Genesis 1:24-26  
Matthew 25:34b-36,40b

## Genesis 1:24-26

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

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.'

Let us pray,

**The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies,  
the earth and the sea.**

**They share in the fortunes of human existence  
and have a part in human life.**

**God, who confers gifts on all living things,  
has often used the service of animals  
or made them reminders of salvation ...**

**We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these animals.  
As we do so, let us praise the Creator  
and thank God for setting us as stewards  
over all the creatures of the earth.**

Source, Occasional Services: A Service for the Blessing of Animals," The United Methodist Church Book of Worship

## Matthew 25:34b-36,40b

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 ... 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.



Let us pray,

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let me bring love.**

**Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.**

**Where there is discord, let me bring union.**

**Where there is error, let me bring truth.**

**Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.**

**Where there is despair, let me bring hope.**

**Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.**

**Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.**

**O Master, let me not seek as much  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love,  
for it is in giving that one receives,  
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,  
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,  
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life. Amen.**

*Prayer traditionally associated with St. Francis of Assisi*

The entire Lenten Series can be downloaded from:

[Lent 2021 - The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund \(pwrdf.org\)](http://pwrdf.org)

## Profession of Faith

**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. Amen.**

Prayers  
of the People



The Healing Touch, Tim Holmes, Commissioned by the Physicians for Social Responsibility as their annual PSR Peace Award

## The Peace

We are the body of Christ; in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn:

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, (3 verses)

**Precious Lord, take my hand**

**Lead me on, let me stand**

**I am tired, I am weak, I am worn**

**Through the storm, through the night**

**Lead me on to the light**

**Take my hand precious Lord,**

**lead me home**



**2. When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord linger near  
When my life is almost gone  
Hear my cry, hear my call  
Hold my hand lest I fall  
Take my hand precious Lord,  
lead me home**

**3. When the darkness appears  
and the night draws near  
And the day is past and gone  
At the river I stand  
Guide my feet, hold my hand  
Take my hand precious Lord,  
lead me home**

## Prayer over the Gifts

**God of mercy and compassion,  
your Word calls us home to faith and love.  
Accept all we offer you this day,  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

## Collect for Spring\*

Creator of the universe,

**We thank you for the changing seasons,  
and for the ever-growing light and warmth  
which brings forth new life  
out of the darkness and decay.**

**As our environment begins to reawaken  
may we too continue to be reborn  
in your eternal light and warmth,  
now and forever. Amen.**

\*The Canterbury Hills Group, Earth Eucharist (Ancaster: Canterbury Hills Group, 2000), 4-5.

## Prayer of General Thanksgiving

**Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise  
for all you have done for us.**

**We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation,  
for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life,  
and for the mystery of love.**

**We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,  
and for the loving care  
which surrounds us on every side.**

**We thank you for setting us tasks  
which demand our best efforts,  
and for leading us to accomplishments  
which satisfy and delight us.  
We thank you also for those disappointments  
and failures that lead us to acknowledge  
our dependence on you alone.**

**Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;  
for the truth of his word and the example of his life;  
for his steadfast obedience,  
by which he overcame temptation;  
for his dying, through which he overcame death;  
for his rising to life again,  
in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.**

**Grant us the gift of your Spirit,  
that we may know Christ and make him known;  
and through him, at all times and in all places,  
may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.**



## The Lord's Prayer (Maori & Polynesia)

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;  
The way of your justice be followed  
by the peoples of the world;**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trial too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me, (4 verses)

**Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure,  
cleanse me from its guilt and power.**

**2. Not the labours of my hands  
can fulfill thy laws demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone:  
thou must save, and thou alone.**

**3. Nothing in my hand I bring;  
simply to thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Saviour, or I die.**

**4. While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar through tracts unknown,  
see thee on thy judgement throne,  
rock of ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.**

## Closing Prayer

As we prepare to leave  
and embrace the challenges  
of our lives and our world,  
let us ask for God's blessing.  
May God bless us with wisdom  
to care for our earth.

**Amen!**

Please respect Social Distancing when exiting.  
Kindly exit from back to front.

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