

## Second Sunday in Lent



*Adapted from the original  
written by the Rev. Mary Whitson*

**L:** We are not the first to make the journey to Jerusalem; many have gone before us and many will come after us. From near and far, God's people gathered to celebrate God's goodness on the holy mountain.

**P:** We are pilgrims on a journey.  
We are travelers on the road.

**L:** Jesus often went to Jerusalem as a child to celebrate Passover. Now he has set his face toward Jerusalem again, knowing this time will be different.

**P:** We are pilgrims on a journey.  
We are travelers on the road.

**L:** Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem is sombre. He has no illusions about what is to come. Still, he goes ahead, doing God's will.

**P:** We are pilgrims on a journey.  
We are travelers on the road.

**L:** Let us pray.

**All:** God of light, we want to follow in Jesus' footsteps, but we have our fears and doubts. We would rather avoid the pain and darkness on our journey. Give us courage and perseverance when the journey is difficult and the grace to help others on the road. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.



## Empowering Women in Guatemala

In many indigenous communities in Guatemala, women face domestic violence, poverty and discrimination. Consequently, it's difficult for women to feel safe to voice their concerns, both in their households and local civil society.

PWS&D, through workshops led by local indigenous partners, empowers women to improve self-esteem, learn about their rights and encourage political participation. Women learn the importance of health, nutrition and hygiene, in turn improving their home and family lives.

For Marta Crisóstomo, a 30-year-old mother of a young son, these workshops meant she was able to change the health of her entire family. "I learned how important it is to clean my kitchen, wash my dishes and practice good handwashing to avoid illness," she shared. Marta used the skills she learned to empower herself and her family.

This Lenten season faithfully respond to Christ's call to serve and equip vulnerable communities by empowering women with the skills and knowledge to advocate for themselves and their families.

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