

First Sunday in Lent



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

L: Lent is a journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem,
toward the cross, toward resurrection and new life.
We will be transformed and blessed on this journey.

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

L: We undertake the journey knowing we will not remain the same.

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

L: The journey will take time.
We will feel the strain in our bodies and in our souls,
yet love will urge us onward.

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

L: Let us start the journey with prayer:

All: God of all times and places,
as we begin the pilgrimage
from life to death to new life,
you will surprise us
and nurture us.
We put our trust in you,
knowing you will guide
and provide for us.
In the name of Jesus we pray,
Amen.



Igniting the Power of Women and Girls to Decide Their Future

In the small village of Bihar in India, 13-year-old Poonam learned that her parents had arranged for her to be married in a few months.

In many parts of India, early marriages are a common practice and a significant issue—58 percent of girls are married before the age of 18. Girls who are forced into early marriages are taken out of school and made vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections and early pregnancy.

At a PWS&D-supported information session that addressed issues of gender, sexual and reproductive rights in her village, Poonam shared her worries about her marriage with the session leader, Meera.

The next day, Meera met with Poonam's family. The information shared by Meera helped Poonam's parents understand how important it was for Poonam to stay in school. As a result the wedding was postponed and a jubilant Poonam will be able to complete her education.

This Lenten season faithfully respond to empower women and girls with the tools they need to break down barriers of inequality.

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