

Lent Event church resources

Week 5: Sunday 22nd March

Notes for Lent Event Church presenter

Please feel free to re-word or summarise these notes. They're designed to be used alongside the Powerpoint presentation. Not all content is on the slides – the presenter notes contain extra information.

Yellow highlights are presenter notes – large text is for reading.



Slide 1 intro slide



Slide 2

For our fifth week of Lent, we're hearing the story of how our partners in India are saving lives in the midst of disaster.



In August and September last year, the Punjab region of India and Pakistan was lashed by monsoon rains that caused the worst flooding in decades.

Hundreds of thousands of acres of bright green rice paddies – due to be harvested – were destroyed.

Homes collapsed and families were left living on roof tops as they watched their food sources and livelihoods disappear under thick mud.



Slide 4

UnitingWorld's partner, the Church of North India's Diocese of Amritsar, was right in the midst of the tragedy.

They immediately sprang into action, well prepared by many years of disaster preparedness training undertaken in partnership with UnitingWorld.

UnitingWorld's emergency appeal helped provide funding.



Slide 5

The Church was able to deliver dry rations, drinking water, hygiene items, mosquito nets and medicines. They also brought in tarpaulins and mats and help for families repairing damaged homes.

Longer term, they've been able to help the community by setting up temporary learning spaces and supporting schools to re-open. For families who lost everything in the flooding, including their ability to earn an income when their crops were destroyed, they're helping set up alternative small business opportunities.



Slide 6

UnitingWorld sends Uniting Churches like ours a huge thank you, on behalf of the Church of North India, for the support we've provided.

UnitingWorld church partners have helped provide emergency support in recent times in the Philippines, Myanmar, Lebanon, Gaza, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Our gifts to Lent Event this year will help to provide funding for this life saving work.



Slide 7

Lent Event Week 5 : Prayer for Emergency Response

UnitingWorld

Let us pray for those affected by emergencies and disasters, and those who help.



Slide 8

We pray
God of all peoples and nations,
we cry out for communities in India and across the world
where rising heat, flood, and drought steal safety, food, and future,
and where the most vulnerable bear the heaviest cost.

God of steadfast presence,
we give thanks for partner churches standing in the midst of crisis—
serving, organising, and offering hope
as signs of your justice and compassion made real.



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Slide 9

We bring before you our faithful friends in the Church of North India,
the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka, the Christian Evangelical Church in Timor,
the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and ACT Alliance members
working in the Middle East and Myanmar,
as we remember those who offer practical love with those
who are bereft in the face of disaster.

God who calls us beyond comfort,
help us to pray with urgency and evaluate how we live,
that our lives may answer the crisis of the earth and its people,
and together we may work for healing, dignity, and hope.



We bring before you our faithful friends in the Church of North India,
the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka, the Christian Evangelical Church in Timor,
the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and ACT Alliance members
working in the Middle East and Myanmar,

as well as all those who share your practical love with those who are bereft in times of disaster.

God who calls us beyond comfort,
stir us to pray with urgency and to evaluate how we live,
that our lives may answer the cries of the earth and its people,
and together we may work for healing, dignity, and hope.

Amen