

Lent Event church resources

Week 4: Sunday 15th 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.



This week, as we learn and pray for our global Church partners, we're in Zimbabwe, where school hubs are an innovative way of creating change in the whole community.



Children and students everywhere face huge challenges in our complex and ever-changing world.

In rural Zimbabwe, schools face these issues on top of even more urgent challenges: children come to school hungry or malnourished. They may drop out because they're needed at home to look after younger children and animals. When rains fail, they may have to walk long distances for water instead of attending school.



Changing weather patterns have created unseasonal drought, failed crops and widespread hunger in these communities. Gains made against poverty and hunger have slid backwards in the face of these challenges.

UnitingWorld's partner, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, realised that one of the best ways to reach whole communities to create change is through school hubs.



Through their Relief and Development Agency, MeDRA, the Church is turning dry land into school vegetable gardens, installing solar powered water systems and training students and their families in climate-smart farming.

Parents know their children are eating well at school, and using the solar powered water systems, they can also access enough water to improve their own vegetable gardens. This means they have enough to feed their families and also create some income.



MeDRA's projects show people that the Church is responsive to their most urgent challenges – how to feed themselves, get clean water and provide an income in the face of a changing climate.

Children are learning to care for their land in a climate-crisis, and members of the community are stepping up to advocate for better environmental policies.



Slide 7:

UnitingWorld plans to help the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe extend the school hub model across more communities, and funds we raise through Lent Event this year will support this critical work.



Slide 8:

This prayer is suitable to be read by a child or student as we remember today schools as centres of learning on the front lines of changing climate in Zimbabwe.

Let us pray together.



Slide 9:

Dear God,

We pray for the people of Zimbabwe
who are living with very little rain.
When the land is dry and the food is scarce.

We pray for families who are hungry,
for children who are thirsty,
and for people who are sick and tired.
Bring clean water, healing, and hope.



Slide 10:

Thank you, God, for the schools
that are becoming places of learning and care.
Thank you for teachers and trainers
who show people how to grow food wisely,
even when the climate is changing,
and how to stay healthy and strong.

Thank you for all those who pray, who give, and who speak up boldly,
so this work can happen, and changes can be made.

Help us to remember that we are one family in your world,
and teach us how to care for one another.
Amen.