

Lent Event church resources

Week 3: Sunday 8th 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.



In our third week, we're visiting West Papua, where people and planet are learning to thrive together in the care of our partner, the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua.



West Papua is a land of staggering beauty and diversity. But children are going hungry as poverty and climate change collide.

Food gardens are being ruined by floods, storms and saltwater. Fish stocks are diminishing. As incomes shrink, many families are being forced to cut down forests or sell land just to survive.



UnitingWorld's partner, the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua, with the support of a fresh injection of funding provided by generous Uniting Church people, is taking bold action on locally-driven solutions.



They're helping families to:

- Plant climate-resilient food gardens that keep children fed
- Restore and support traditional farming and fishing practices
- Start small businesses and eco-tourism initiatives for families to earn a sustainable income and overcome poverty.
- Train women and youth as climate champions in their villages

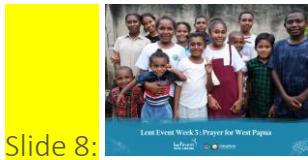


Project leader Donaltus is helping families to adopt climate smart farming methods instead of cutting down trees on their land for quick cash. He says "It's simple for us in the Church. We do what Jesus did – serve people."



Uniting Church people in Australia have long been strong supporters of the people of West Papua. As changing climate creates uncertainty for families who have traditionally lived in complete harmony with the

land, our partner is grateful for the love, prayer and funding provided by UCA congregations.



Let's pray together for our neighbours in West Papua.



God of creation and life,
We give thanks for the land of West Papua,
for forests rich with life,
for rivers, reefs and mountains
that have sustained communities for generations.

We remember our sisters and brothers
whose lives are deeply connected to this land,
where food, culture and faith
are woven together with the earth itself.



God of compassion and justice,
we hold before you communities
where poverty and climate change are colliding,
where changing seasons bring uncertainty,
and where children are going hungry
despite the abundance around them.

We give thanks for our partners,
the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua,

walking alongside villages with care and courage,
drawing on traditional knowledge,
protecting creation,
and nurturing ways of life that are rooted in the land.



God who calls us to love as Jesus loved,
turn our prayers into solidarity
and our compassion into faithful action.

Shape us to listen humbly,
to give generously,
and to stand with our global family in Christ,
so that together
we may share in your work of renewal,
and witness hope taking root
across your people and all creation.
Amen