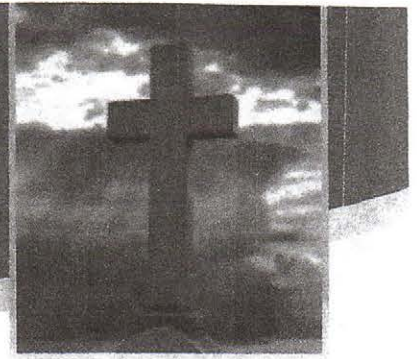


First Sunday in Lent



Produced by Presbyterian World Service & Development

Reader: The Lenten journey has begun.

All: Lent's questions confront us.

Reader: Where will the road take us?

All: What kind of people will we be?

Reader: Will we have the courage to withstand temptation?

All: Will we trust in God's faithfulness as we travel through the wilderness?

Reader: The quest will test us and try us.

All: We pray that Jesus will be our guide.

Reader: Let us pray.

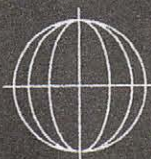
God of the wilderness:

We experience your call compelling us to join the Lenten journey.

We hear your voice inviting us into the wilderness
where the journey begins.

We know that the wilderness is a frightening place,
a place where we need courage and your grace.

All: Stay with us as we
face our own demons.
Stay with us as we
listen for your voice.
Stay with us as we
seek to live our life
in the image of Christ.
Amen.



**Presbyterian
World Service
& Development**

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Growth Beyond the Community

Juan Ramirez Cardon, a farmer in Guatemala, was very reliant on the use of costly fertilizers to ensure he could grow enough food for his family.

But the expense soon became more than he could bear. Juan could see no alternative and feared for his family's future.

With the goal of helping farmers who are struggling to provide food for their families, Presbyterian World Service & Development partners started agro-ecology groups in Juan's community to teach environmentally sustainable farming methods that increase yields and improve nutrition.

Training in crop diversification and grafting fruit trees helped Juan transform his plot into nourishment for his family — without chemical fertilizers.

But what Juan is most proud of is being able to share what he's learned far beyond his own farm. Part of being in the group meant promoting soil-healthy farming in other communities — and ensuring vulnerable families have abundant food for the long-term.

This Lenten season, let us faithfully respond to God's call to serve those in need and create brighter futures for generations of farming families in Guatemala.



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