

Who we are and how we are called

Bishop Jane Alexander

*Second Week of Lent
Wednesday March 16*

Scripture

Psalm 148:1–4

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!

Reflection

Did you sing “Joy to the World” this Christmas? If you did, then this psalm is for you! Heaven and nature indeed singing to God in joyful praise. This Psalm celebrates the diversity of God’s creation. Hallelujah! the relationship though between human beings and the wider world has become fragile. We see beauty and wonder only in special places rather than all around us. Cracks start to appear in the relationship especially when we exploit the natural world, instead of seeing ourselves in communion with creation.

As a Christian woman I have to really think about how I live my life and what it says about my belief and my theology. “We are living in a material world” but do I have to be such a material girl? For reflection today, I remind you that March 3 is the UN International World Wildlife Day. What is your favourite wild animal (no pets please)? How is that animal doing, is their habitat safe or endangered? What is their relationship with humanity, are they valued or exploited? What actions can we take to ensure that this animal will still be here, displaying the glory of God and singing God’s praises well into the next century?

Prayer

*O God, enlarge within us the sense of
fellowship with all living things,
our brothers the animals to whom thou
gavest the earth as their home in
common with us.*

*We remember with shame that in the past
we have exercised the high dominion
of man with ruthless cruelty
so that the voice of the earth,
which should have gone up to thee
in song, has been a groan of travail.
May we realize that they live not for
us alone but for themselves and for
thee, and that they love
the sweetness of life.
St. Basil the Great*

World of Gifts: another successful campaign

Despite the enormous challenges facing Canadians in 2020, Anglicans came together and made PWRDF's World of Gifts a success yet again.

Thanks to generous individuals and groups across Canada more than \$420,000 was raised for PWRDF partners and programs during the Christmas campaign. Just over 3,800 gifts were purchased this year with an average gift amount of \$110 per transaction. More than \$72,000 of the funds raised went toward protecting health clinics in Africa with our All Mothers and Children Count COVID-19 extension program, which will be matched 6:1 by the Government of Canada.

As usual, livestock and farming gifts were a popular choice among donors. Goats were again the number one item, with 730 goats donated to provide Community Health Workers with supplemental income and food security in Malawi. Donors purchased 83 donkeys to make it easier for Kenyan families to carry clean water from community well to their homes, and more than 2,500 chickens were purchased to support organic women farmers in Colombia

For some of our higher priced gift items, groups teamed up to raise money get the most bang for their buck. Such as in British Columbia, where St. Andrew's in Langley teamed up with St. Dunstan's in Aldergrove in order to "buy the whole farm." Working together to raise money in our new virtual setting, volunteers used PWRDF resources like customized Zoom backgrounds to raise awareness during online church services. The team also created a "virtual farm" on the St. Andrew's website where they added items to the farm as funds were raised. In total, the two churches raised more than \$3,200, enough to purchase five farms with some funds left over.

Across Canada, individuals, churches and other groups donated raised and donated \$56,936 to buy 96 farms! Clean water was a running theme in this year's World of Gifts and PWRDF donors responded. Generous donors purchased 117 pipes for water wells with our partner in Kenya, Utooni Development Organization (UDO). On top of that, donor purchased 16 complete water wells with hand pumps and 4 water wells with solar pumps. This means a total of \$36,295 will support UDO's program to improve health in vulnerable communities and reduce travel times to retrieve clean water.

Anglicans in Canada also made sure PWRDF was ready to respond when disasters strike. Raising more than \$26,000 for our equity in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, PWRDF will now be ready to respond

with food assistance and crop restoration when disasters strike around the world. These funds are also eligible for up to a 4:1 match from the Government of Canada.

Indigenous programs were also popular this year with donors funding 94 shawls, that Indigenous midwives use to carry herbs, ointments and oils necessary during childbirth. Donors are gave more than \$10,000 to help Indigenous youth start their own businesses through our partner NEDC in British Columbia.

Additionally, \$17,600 was raised to support the Anglican Church of Canada's Indigenous Ministries with pandemic relief in indigenous communities.

PWRDF's World of Gifts is available all year long and can make great gifts for Easter, birthdays anniversaries and more.

Read the whole story on our website at

<https://pwrdf.org/world-of-gifts-wraps-up-anothersuccessful-campaign/>