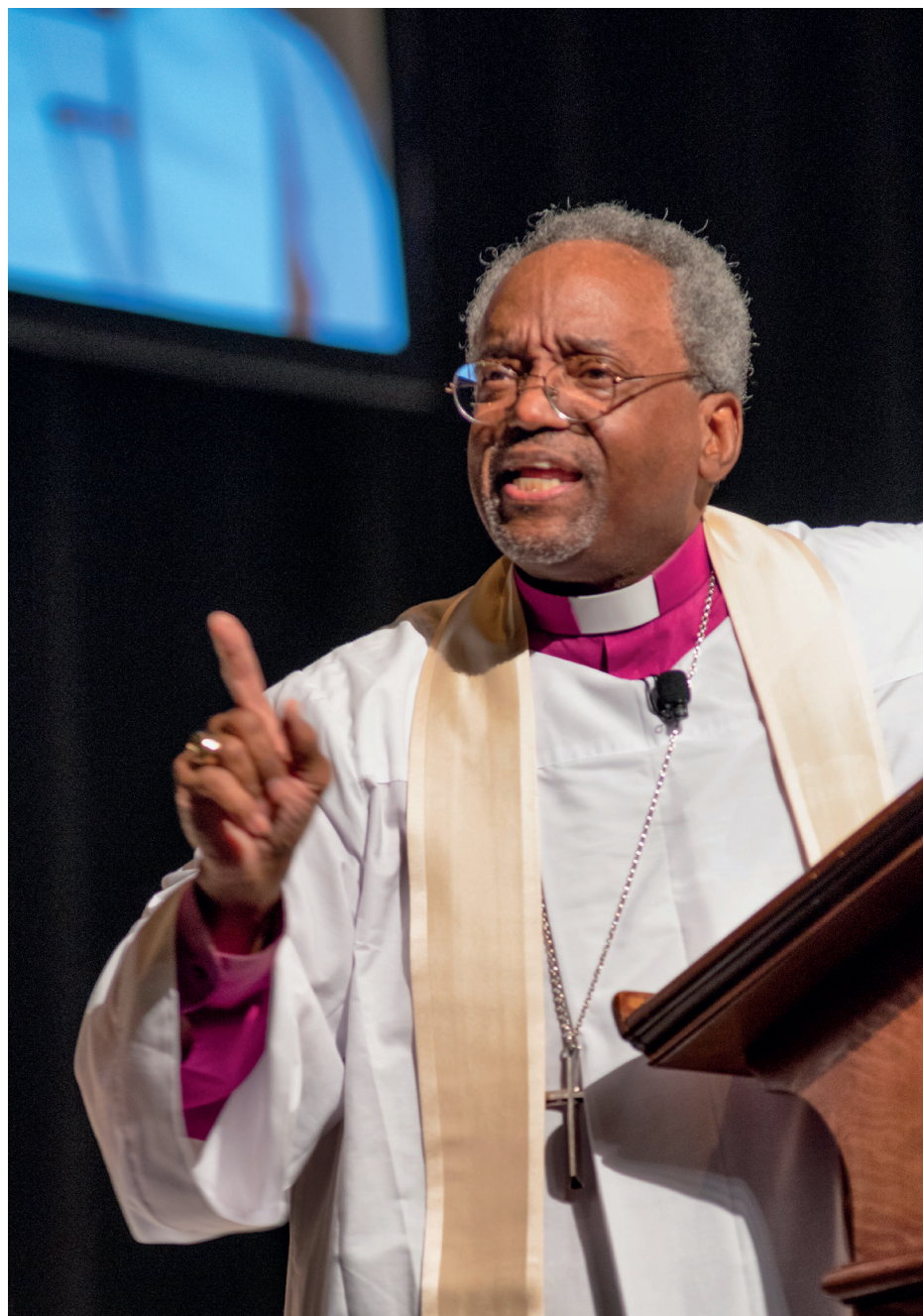


An Act of Collective Worship for Schools

Week 4: Woolwich



A Reflection



- ✝ **“When love is the way, poverty will become history. When love is the way, the Earth will be a sanctuary. When love is the way, we will lay down our swords and shields, down by the riverside to study war no more.”** Read and reflect on these words spoken by Bishop Michael Curry (left) at the Royal Wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex a few years ago.
- ✝ **What do they teach us about the way of love?**
- ✝ **Why is Isaiah’s prophecy important for us to help realise?**
- ✝ **How can you give a virtual ‘hug’ to those who are homeless and vulnerable this Lent?**



The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2022: Raising money for the dispossessed
southwark.anglican.org/lentcall



An Act of Collective Worship for Schools

Week 4: Woolwich



Theme: Homelessness

Song: Let Us Build a House Where Love Can Dwell ([bbc.in/3Jrguvv](https://www.bbc.in/3Jrguvv))

Bible passage: Isaiah 32:18

This is the fourth of five outlines for Collective Worship, written to help schools pray and offer love and the hope that “...people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest” (Isaiah 32:18) and to encourage giving towards the Bishop of Southwark’s Lent Call 2022. The Lent Call supports our brothers and sisters in Christ here in the Diocese of Southwark, within our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Obviously please be sensitive to the age and backgrounds of the pupils so as not to worry them about what could happen to them or their families.

Gather...

Display the words or a verse of the hymn *Let Us Build a House Where Love Can Dwell* with the instrumental tune playing.

Engage...

Explain that in our series of Lent Call Collective Worships, this week we are going to be thinking about one of the projects helping people affected by homelessness in the Woolwich Episcopal Area which the Lent Call hopes to help this year.

Talk with the pupils and adults about home. Why is a home important? What makes a flat/maisonette/bungalow/house, etc a home? What is important/special about home? Why do we all need a home?

Encourage an awareness and understanding that it does not matter the kind of building that we live in, but rather it matters what goes on inside it.

A home is one of the basic needs of living things, particularly human beings. Why is this?

Yet many people unfortunately do not have a home and, worryingly, more people have become homeless in the last couple of years because of financial difficulties that they have

experienced as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, for example losing their job, etc.

In the Woolwich Episcopal Area, the Robes project helps homeless people find their way to a better quality of life. It partners with many churches and community centres and, through 750 volunteers, provides an open-door policy welcoming homeless people and offering night shelters, food and washing facilities.

It also runs clubs offering advice, care and services for vulnerable individuals who are homeless or in danger of becoming so, and assists homeless people to gain access to other support that can help them in their lives.

Southwark Cathedral raises funds for this each year with a sponsored sleepout in which Odette, one of the volunteers, is on hand to offer hugs through the night for those sleeping out and feeling low, a true reminder of the welcome, care and love that those who are homeless desperately need from us all.

Respond...

Listen to the Bible verse from Isaiah and sing the hymn *Let Us Build a House Where Love Can Dwell*, reflecting on what you can do this Lent to help love dwell.

Prayer...

Heavenly Father, Almighty God,
Who loves all his children and is a home to those who are in need or trouble.
Inspire your Church with the Spirit of Christ’s Love.
Empower us to battle the injustice of homelessness with compassion and to show each person in need your kindness.
Protect us and protect people, especially the most vulnerable, from COVID. Heal those who are sick.
Give us your wisdom and your steadfast perseverance in this next season
And help us to live in the unity of the body of Christ, as we follow you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Adapted from: Homeless Sunday – A Selection of Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and Scriptures