



Rachel Sabbath on International Women's Day A Responsive Reading

We honor the world's women.

We renew our commitment to equality for women and girls.

We suffer because too many women around the world are coerced into childbearing, early marriages, and sex trafficking. We bear witness to the women and girls around the world who endure illness, violence and death because of their gender and lack of opportunity.

We call for universal access to reproductive health services so that all women can plan their families.

We recognize that too many women die giving birth to the next generation.

We mourn the nearly 1,000 women around the world who will die today in childbirth, or from complications of pregnancy, because they lack basic health services.

We bless them and hold their families in love.

We affirm that the sanctity of life is best upheld when pregnancy is freely chosen and women and children receive the health care and economic support they need.

We stand in solidarity with women who lack access to prenatal care, family planning and other reproductive health services.

We pray for a world where childbirth is safe, and all children are wanted and loved.

We make a solemn commitment to help create a world where no woman will die giving birth to the next generation.

We seek a world where all people not only survive but thrive.