



BREAK THE SILENCE SUNDAY LITURGY

23 November 2025



**Theme: Created in God's Image -
Restoring Dignity, Break the Silence.**

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 1 : 26 - 31

TABLE OF CONTENT

ITEM	PAGE NO.
Intention	1
Order of Service	2
Stories of women and Intercessor prayer	8 - 16
Final song: Pasifika	17
Background Information about Break the Silence Sunday	17





INTENTION

This worship service is a reminder that we can all work together to End Violence against Women and Girls in the Pacific. God created man and woman in His image and likeness. When there is respect, there is no violence; when there is love, there is no violence.

SYMBOLS

- **White Crosses**

White crosses are placed to honor women who have died due to gender-based violence. Each cross may represent an individual's life lost, serving as a stark visual reminder of the scale and impact it has on our Pacific Island nations. It reminds us that their death is not in vain. The church plays a big role in the fight against violence against women in the Pacific.

- **Candles**

A candle's flame is a beacon, offering hope, clarity, and comfort for a peaceful and violence-free community

- **Blue Colours**

Blue reflects the vast Pacific Ocean, central to identity, livelihood, and spirituality. It symbolises life, sustenance, and ancestral connection.

- **Purple Colours**

Purple is a global symbol in campaigns against gender-based violence, including in the Pacific. It represents resilience, solidarity, and the fight for equality and equity intended and bestowed by God alone.

- **Reflection wall**

Invite attendees to write what they would say or do if they heard violence next door. Have a white sheet/board and participants write their views, comments and paste them on the white board, to be collected after the service and be analysed.

ABOUT THE STORIES

The stories shared here are drawn from real experiences of individuals and communities across the Pacific who have faced violence in its many forms. While names and identifying details have been changed to protect privacy and dignity, the situations themselves are true. These accounts reflect the lived realities of our region. May their stories and prayers stir our hearts, deepen our understanding, and move us toward healing and change. Let us listen with care and learn with humility.

SONGS AND PRAYERS

During the service, you are warmly invited to choose a song that speaks to your heart and to offer prayers in a way that feels meaningful to the congregation. This is apart from the Intercessory Prayer.

ORDER OF SERVICE



1. ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

(We observe one minute of silence to remember women who have gone before us due to violence)

2. OPENING PRAYER

3. OPENING SONG OF PRAISE

4. PRAYER

5. WORDS OF WELCOME

6. SONG OF INVITATION

7. SCRIPTURE READING: GENESIS 1: 26 - 31 NRSV

8. SONG

9. WORD OF THE LORD

10. STORIES OF WOMEN AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER

11. FINAL CHORUS - PASIFIKA

12. BENEDICTION



Let's begin the service.

Call to worship



ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

(We observe one minute of silence to remember women who have gone before us due to violence)

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE

PRAYER

WORDS OF WELCOME

SONG OF INVITATION

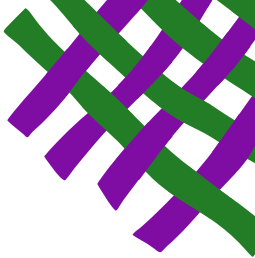
SCRIPTURE READING: GENESIS 1: 26 - 31 NRSV

²⁶ Then God said, 'Let us make humankind^[a] in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^[b] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

²⁷ So God created humankind^[c] in his image,
in the image of God he created them;^[d]
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'²⁹ God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

SONG



WORD OF THE LORD

THEME: CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE. RESTORING DIGNITY, BREAK THE SILENCE

INTRODUCTION

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” [John 3:16 NIV]. The object of God's love is to be universal. The expression of this love is sacrificial. The purpose of it is eternal life for believers, who must otherwise perish. The purpose of Jesus Christ's [Son of God] mission was not to condemn but salvation, but this salvation is available only to those who believe – specifically, in the name of the only Son of God.

Evil deeds are special links with darkness, and judgment follows as a result of man's preference for darkness rather than light. All man [human beings] have fallen short of the glory of God [Romans 3:23] and God's deepest desire to restore 'mankind' by breaking the 'silence of invisible to visible.’

Point 1. CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

Both male and female are created in God's selem [image] and God's demut [likeness] – Hebrew terms. Both words define human beings as resembling God, so we are God's representatives on earth. Mankind was so special in God's vision and plan. Was given the BEST from all creation [created in God's selem and demut] and given a FULL furnished city/home to live in [Eden] and given the highest FELLOWSHIP to communion with God the creator. In addition, a God-given RESPONSIBILITY to carry out – look after God's creations [v.26-27]. What are great blessings and trust endowed to mankind by his/her CREATOR?

Unfortunately, mankind breaks this beautiful tranquillity of God's mission for mankind [Gen. 3]. This is the beginning of separation from God or the overwhelming of darkness over mankind. Man has de-value and defaced God's selem and demut through DISOBEYING his word and caused mankind to sin.



Mankind has obeyed and listened to another creation [Satan] and has caused the greatest, deepest, widest separation that has caused the entire mankind to suffer. Sin has entered the world through Adam, but with God's mercifulness, man was redeemed [Romans 5] through God's grace.

Point 2: RESTORING DIGNITY AND DESTINY

Importantly, to understand, God the Creator, our Heavenly Father broke the 400 years of Silence by sending Jesus Christ, God, Lord, His Son, the Messiah to die on the CROSS, to redeem, restore and reconcile mankind to her dignity and destiny [Math. 1:21; John 3:16].

The world then and even today is full of darkness: Sin of its different kinds of categories and ways of immoral lives are products of distorting or disobeying God and His Words. We have to come out, break the silence by helping someone who is half dead and naked on our ways, like the one who is helped by the Samaritan man. There is so much evilness and wickedness in our world today. HOW can we minimise or eradicate these? Take the first step by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, then you can be like Him by saving your neighbours and others. Secondly, put your faith into action [James 2:14ff]. Respond to/for the needy, the marginalised, the voiceless, the oppressed and those who face injustice. Likewise, respond to the leaders for others; be the voice of the voiceless and remain calm and in all circumstances trust Jesus Christ our Saviour for healing and provision.

Finally, devote yourself to spiritual empowerment: prayer, watchful, thankful, reading God's words and physical/economical/social empowerment [Col. 4:2, 3:13]. Remember you are engaging in a battle, be prepared spiritually [Eph. 4: 11 – 12] because your enemies are not flesh and blood. The year 2025, break the darkness through the power of Christ. [Col. 1:13]



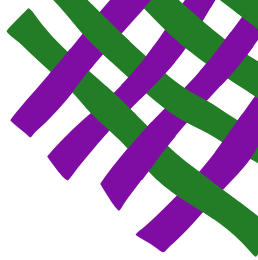
Point 3: BREAK THE SILENCE TO ACTIVATE AND CONTINUE WITH THE DIVINE GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY

Do you know that you have a duty to carry out for God? How can you make known to the people their God-given responsibility?

We are created in God's image and likeness, created for His purpose and have a place in His plan. As God's representatives here on earth, we have a great given responsibility to carry out. We are challenged today to 'obey' God's word – verse 26: 'as representatives of God we should rule...over all the earth, look after other creations; nothing less God doesn't give us; He fully provides for us vs. 27ff, as He giveth us to be His representatives to other creations or to the whole world. What else are we looking for? Why carrying out Satan device plan to destroy other creations, mostly mankind?

The Psalmist 8:4-8 offers a marvellous poetic comment on the idea of Lordships, man as God's representative, must rule his subjects, as God does, for their own good. While legitimising human use of the world's resources, God gives no license for our abuse of his creation. We need to take care of our planet Earth. There is so much abusiveness of God's creation – which produces 'climate change'; industrial pollution, causing disasters amongst other living creatures and creations. This shows that we are not good stewards of God's creation [Gen. 2:15].

God deliberately created humanity in two sexes: verse 27, "...in the image of God, he created him; male and female, he created them, ...to be fruitful and increase in number; ...fill the earth and subdue it." Our Lord God blessed the humanity sexual relations and indicated its importance in His plan. By the creator's Will and His blessing, man becomes a procreator: a sacred gift and responsibility. God wants us to fill the earth, so that the earth is full of 'the image of God'. Our responsibility is to show other creations who God is, but unfortunately, we are silencing God with our immoral acts and attitudes. Remember, Jesus Christ has given us the best life ever in carrying out His responsibility given by the Heavenly Father, so why can't mankind do the same?



CONCLUSION

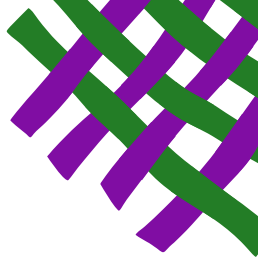
We are representatives of God in this world, stand for His divine purpose through 'Breaking the Silence' of darkness: immoral and wicked living by response in faith to Jesus Christ. Stand and speak for the needy, the voiceless, the marginalised, the oppressed. Bring forth justice amongst injustice act: 'Be the Samaritan man' amongst all your neighbours. "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." [Jn.. 10:10]

Our divine purpose and responsibility as representatives of God must be awakened and activated daily: this is by 'Breaking the silence'. Trust yourself and carry out God's words and instruction. If you want to follow Christ, take up your cross and follow Him [Mk. 8:35]

In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

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I. Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence

In a village near a city, Palm, a gentle soul known for her quiet strength. She lived through years of physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her husband. Though the bruises faded, the isolation lingered. Fear of stigma kept her silent, even within her church community.

But grace found its way through a trusted sister in her women's fellowship. That moment of courage led Palm to a faith-based support group, where she was met not with judgment, but with compassion. Through their help, she accessed shelter services and began the long journey of healing.

Her story reminds us: survivors often face stigma and isolation. *Community-based support and safe spaces are not optional; they are lifesaving.*

Intercessory Prayer

We lift up Palm and all survivors whose pain is hidden by silence.

You see the wounds the world overlooks, and you call us to be healers.

Thank you for the sister who listened to the shelter that welcomed,

And the faith community that dared to be a sanctuary.

Break the chains of stigma, Lord.

Let your church be a place of refuge, not rejection.

Empower us to build safe spaces where truth is honored,

Where survivors are not shamed but embraced.

May Palm's journey inspires us to act with tenderness and resolve,

To speak up, to reach out, and to never look away.

In your mercy, make us bold in love and faithful in justice.

Amen.



II. Economic and Psychological Abuse

A woman ran a humble market stall in the local market, selling fresh pandanus mats and woven baskets passed down from her grandmother's tradition. From the outside, her life seemed like one of quiet industriousness. But beneath the surface, her world was tightly controlled.

Her partner insisted on handling the money. "You wouldn't know what to do with it," he'd say, with a smile that looked warm but felt like ice. He collected the day's earnings and locked them away, leaving her dependent on him for basic needs. Slowly, she stopped visiting neighbours, missed church gatherings, and avoided the women's weaving circle she once loved.

When asked why she didn't come anymore, she'd shrug. "Busy," she whispered, though the truth was, his partner didn't want her outside. He said it was safer. But safety felt more like isolation.

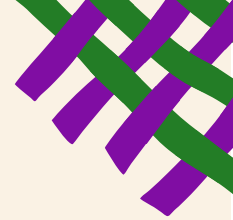
One day, an elder from her church visited the market. Sensing something wasn't right, she gently asked, "Are you okay?" That question cracked the silence that held her captive.

Through church support and advocacy, she learned the abuse she faced wasn't just about bruises. It was about control. And slowly, with quiet courage, she began to reclaim what was hers: her voice, her community, and her dignity.

Intercessory Prayer

Loving Creator, You who formed us in Your image, breathed dignity and worth into every life. We bring before You the story of every woman whose voice was suppressed, whose freedom was controlled, yet whose spirit You never abandoned.

We pray for all women like her, caught in the quiet shadows of economic and emotional abuse. Unseen by society, unheard by many, but never forgotten by You.



Raise up communities of compassion that will listen deeply and act justly. Stir churches to be sanctuaries of healing, not silence.

Break the chains of control that bind your daughters. Let your justice roll like a river, wash away fear, restoring dignity with renewing hope.

Anoint our path with courage. Surround your daughter with wise counsel, a kind heart, and a fierce advocate. Let your daughters reclaim their space in the world, not just behind market tables, but at the table of decision and belonging.

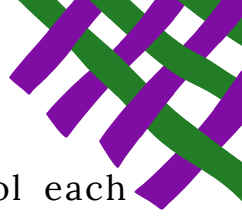
We pray for transformation, for homes, for churches, and for systems. That Your Kingdom may come on earth, where no voice is silenced, and no life is diminished.

In the name of the One who healed with compassion and walked with the marginalised.

Amen.

Act with love and not violence





III. Violence in Faith and Education Spaces

In the quiet village, a young girl named Moana walked to school each morning with dreams as wide as the Pacific Ocean. But inside the classroom, her confidence began to dim. A teacher, someone entrusted with nurturing young minds, used his position to harass her. Moana tried to speak up. But when she did, the school authorities told her to stay silent, fearing scandal more than justice.

But Moana's silence echoed beyond the classroom walls. Her story reached the ears of a local women's advocacy group known for its courage and compassion. They refused to let injustice stand. With Moana's permission, they brought her story to light, rallying support across communities and churches. Conversations bloomed. Silence broke. And soon, policy reforms were introduced, ones that prioritised protection, transparency, and accountability in schools.

Moana's bravery became a ripple, small but powerful. Reminding everyone that change starts when even one voice refuses to be quiet.

Intercessory Prayer

O God of justice and mercy, we lift every child who walks into a classroom or sanctuary seeking safety but finds harm instead. We grieve for those whose voices have been silenced, whose trust has been broken.

We pray for the students of our Pacific Ocean, and all those like her. May their pain not be buried but transformed into power, into change, into healing. Bless the hearts of advocates and leaders who speak when others cannot. Strengthen every woman's group, every community, every soul committed to standing up for the vulnerable.

Lord, make our schools safe. Make our churches holy. Let truth never be feared and justice never delayed.

Teach us to protect ourselves where we learn and where we pray. To build spaces where silence is not enforced but listened to. May we rise together, bold and compassionate, until every child feels protected, heard, and loved.

In Your Name we pray. Amen.



IV. Technology-Facilitated Violence

In the island heart of the Pacific, a young woman named Dream found herself trapped in a nightmare born not from dark alleyways, but from the bright screen of her phone. A former friend had begun stalking her online, flooding her with threatening messages, and worse, was leaking personal images without her consent. Her safe digital world became a place of fear and shame.

Dream felt alone. And when she sought help, many dismissed it. “Just ignore it,” they said. But ignoring didn’t erase the trauma.

Then, she discovered Safe Space Digital Hub, a grassroots digital rights NGO that saw her not as a victim, but as a fighter. With their help, Dream navigated legal avenues, recovered her confidence, and began to speak publicly about digital abuse. Her voice became a lifeline for others who had suffered in silence. Together with Safe Space Digital Hub, Dream helped launch workshops that taught digital safety and fought for stronger online protection laws in her community and country.

The abuse tried to erase her, but instead, she rewrote the narrative.

Intercessory Prayer

O God of truth and light,

We lift every person harmed by technology used to wound instead of connecting. For Dream and countless others, whose images, words, and stories have been weaponised, we pray for healing, justice, and restoration.

Grant courage to those who feel powerless before an unseen enemy. Kindle wisdom in leaders and lawmakers to recognise online violence and respond with urgency.

Bless every organisation committed to digital safety. Strengthening advocates who stand at the intersection of technology and compassion.

Lord, make our digital spaces holy. May every click honor dignity, every post protect peace, and every message reflect love.

Teach us to be guardians of each other’s digital selves. Build in us the literacy to navigate, the wisdom to respond, and the heart to act with empathy and grace. Amen.



V. Intergenerational Impact of Violence

In the heart of a community in the Pacific, nestled between the sea's rhythm and the whispering palms, lived a woman whose hands spoke in thread and whose silence held centuries of wisdom.

As a child, she lived through pain. Violence had broken the world around her, replacing laughter with silence and shadows. Yet in that quiet, her grandmother's voice remained steady and strong. A wooden frame, wrapped in palm fibre and courage, stood nearby. That's where she first learned that weaving was more than just a skill. It could be a prayer. A protest. A way to heal.

Years later, her small home became a refuge for young women. Some wide-eyed, some heavy-hearted. All drawn by her steady presence and the soft clack of weaving. They came not knowing why, only that something called them. She welcomed each one with warm tea and stories whispered between rows of colour.

"We weave not just mats," she'd say, her voice gentle like rain. "We weave dignity. We reclaim the threads torn from our lives and braid them back into strength."

Each week, laughter returned. Stories spilled like rivers of heartbreak, of hope, of ancestral songs. The circle grew, not just in number, but in power. Generations sat together, stitching identity across time.

Some women would leave with vibrant mats for their homes. Others left with their heads high; courage newly spun into their souls. And my grandmother? She remained the quiet architect of healing. Her hands still moving, always weaving, endlessly blessing.

Intercessory Prayer

Divine Healer, we lift all women and the sacred circles they gather. Woven threads of hope, wisdom, and restoration. As they transform pain into beauty with each story shared and each hand that learns to weave, may Your presence be felt in every fibre.

Bless the young women who sit beside her, hearts open and hands steady, drawing strength from tradition and resilience from one another. May the craft of weaving stitch together what violence once tore apart, restoring dignity, joy, and self-worth.



We pray for all elders who carry stories of survival: may their voices be heard, their wisdom honoured, and their legacy passed on with reverence. Let the cultural practices of our Pacific and beyond become vessels of healing, threading generations together in harmony and purpose.

Spirit of Renewal, guide these women as they reclaim their power. Let their circles expand, wrapping their communities in grace, strength, and solidarity.

Amen.

VI. She Walked Away from the Fire

The night air held its breath, thick with smoke and fear. Inside a modest home, lit only by the flicker of chaos, Beautiful clutched her two children as flames hungrily devoured what had once been her sanctuary. Her husband's rage had burned before, in words and fists, but this time, it blazed into something real.

With trembling strength, Beautiful ran. Through smoke. Through screaming memories. The neighbours came with buckets and cries, but the damage was done. Her children were barefoot, her bag empty, her past incinerated. Only survival remained.

The shelter she found was small, but clean. There, a support worker named Grace met her, not with pity, but with steady eyes and practical kindness. Beautiful didn't cry for days. But when she did, it was not just grief for lost clothes and books; it was relief that someone saw her, heard her, helped her begin again.

Rebuilding was slow. Nightmares lingered like ash. Her daughter struggled to concentrate at school without her books. Her son flinched at raised voices. But Beautiful planted seeds where the fire had scorched. Therapy sessions, a new job, secondhand uniforms.

She would say later, "I didn't walk away from fire, I walked toward life." Her story became quite proof: that emergency help can catch a woman in free fall, but long-term care helps her rise.

Intercessory Prayer

Merciful God, we lift up the brave soul who fled the flames, not just of a burning home, but of years of anguish and fear. In the stillness of the night, you carried her and her children through the smoke and into survival. Though the embers cooled, the memories still burn.

We ask for Your tender healing over her heart and mind. Wrap her in a peace that surpasses understanding, and restore all that was lost: clothes, savings, dignity, and dreams. Bring light back to her daughter's eyes and comfort to the places scorched by trauma.

Bless the support worker whose hands reached out in compassion. May all who serve in crisis carry Your love like lanterns, guiding survivors to safety, shelter, and hope. Build systems that catch those falling, with care that endures beyond the emergency.

We pray for protection over all women walking through similar fires, seen and unseen. May they find the strength to step forward, the resources to rebuild, and the community to surround them.

God of new beginnings, let her story be one of reclamation, resilience, and radiant grace. From ashes, let joy rise.

Amen.

VII. She Was Heard, But Not Helped

For months, the alley outside her weathered home carried the same sounds. The neighbours heard shouting, crying, and the sound of things breaking from a nearby home. Some said, "It's just a domestic issue." Others turned up their radios or walked faster past the gate. One woman confided later, "I prayed for her, but I didn't know what to do."

"It's a domestic issue," one man told his son, guiding him past the house with firm hands and nervous eyes.

Inside, Love kept a quiet notebook. Pages stained with ink and tear-blurred memories. She wrote about fear in measured lines. About dreams interrupted. About wondering what silence meant.



One night, the noise stopped. The next morning, the woman was found dead, her body bruised, her spirit long broken. The man she lived with was arrested, but the silence of the community lingered like a second wound.

At her funeral, a pastor spoke of peace. But a young girl whispered to her mother, "Why didn't anyone help?" And the question echoed, unanswered, across generations.

This story speaks to all bystanders, where people assume someone else will act or fear social consequences for intervening. It's not just about one woman's death; it's about the dozens who heard and did nothing.

In time, a plaque was placed outside Love's gate. It didn't mention violence or blame. It simply read:

"Let this be the last silence."

Intercessory Prayer

God of Justice, we lift the life of Love, precious, brave, and stolen too soon. In the echoes of unanswered cries, we ask You to hear now what others ignored: her pain, her fear, her longing to be free.

We lamented the silence of neighbours, the hesitation to intervene, the prayers whispered but hands not extended. Forgive our passivity. Stir communities to courage, that no cry be disregarded and no violence left unchallenged.

Wrap Love's spirit in peace, beyond the reach of harm, and bring comfort to those who loved her. May her story awaken conscience, ignite compassion, and drive change.

We pray for all those who live where others only walk by, those hurting behind closed doors. Break the cycle of isolation. Equip us with wisdom, boldness, and love to act.

Let her memory not be a tombstone, but a turning point. Let her death not be in vain, but a beacon for awareness and justice. God of the unheard, teach us to listen, understand and move to action.

Amen.

FINAL CHORUS - PASIFIKA

1. Let all the islands rise and sing,
And to our God their praises bring
On strings and drum God's might proclaim
Shout the glory of God's name

Chorus:

Pasifika, Pasifika
With throbbing reef and coral shore
For fish and shell and mighty whale
For all God's gifts our thanks we pour

2. And when we see the stars at night
The many worlds which cross the sky
The sun and moon which give us light
We lift our hearts to God on high

3. The children playing on the shore
The sounds of laughter which we hear
Their love increasing more and more
Remind us that our God is near

4. The palms which bend toward the sky
The clouds which hurry to and fro
The birds which fly both low and high
Give joy to men and earth below

5. To God the Father, God the Son
And God the Spirit, praise be done
May Christ the Lord upon us pour
The Spirit's gift for evermore.

BENEDICTION

The service concludes.

BACKGROUND OF THE BREAK THE SILENCE SUNDAY (BTS)

The Break the Silence Sunday (BTS) originated from the Christian Talanoa Network (CTN). An alliance of Fijian women groups and churches was convened by the House of Sarah (HOS) in 2013.

It is a Fiji-based ecumenical network working to remove the culture of silence and shame around Violence against Women (VAW) in faith-based settings. HOS continues to deliver a range of services designed to End Violence Against Women and Children (EVAWC). In the year 2017, the BTSS was observed in a united way by the Fiji Council of Churches including the Methodist Church, the Catholic Church, the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia, the Baptist Church, the Salvation Army, and the Orthodox Church.

Today, the Pacific Conference of Churches marks Break the Silence (BTS) with our member churches on the Sunday before 25 November. This leads to the 16 Days of Activism, which begins on 25 November and ends on 10 December each year.