

President's Message, February 18, 2026

Greetings and peace to all! As we enter this season of Lent our minds and thoughts are drawn towards the journey we now face as we move daily closer to Holy Week.

Lent for me has always been a time of contemplation, reflection and prayer following that traditional hearty feast of pancakes and maple syrup. It is a seemingly quiet time of year. Some of us will embrace a warm sunny holiday to avoid the snow and cold while others are content to curl up by the fire with a good book. With apologies to the Irish, there are no “major” holidays to distract us in these 40 days. Some denominations describe Lent as a period of “simple living” which I think is a pretty accurate description of life in this season....or at least one we would like to embrace in our often chaotic and anxious world. It is somewhat unrealistic to believe any of us will achieve 40 continuous days of simple living but maybe we can strive to insert pieces of simple living into our daily schedule. Time set aside to embrace creation, visit a neighbour or maybe participate in a daily Lenten study. I think my understanding of living simply in Lent is best described in Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly[a] with your God.

Seeking justice, offering mercy and forgiveness and living humbly are precisely what the Lord asks of us. These are all evidence of grace.

Such grace was clearly evident in our country this past week in the wake of the events which occurred in Tumbler Ridge BC. Politicians set aside their political rhetoric to jointly embrace grieving families and a hurting community. An entire town opened their hearts and doors to those in need of support and connection. Words of compassion and mercy for the deceased mother of the shooter were issued from families most directly affected by this tragedy. In the midst of chaos and tragedy, we seem to always be able to find evidence of grace. I wish each of you well on your Lenten journey. May you support that which is just, share mercy and forgiveness with those you encounter, and may you walk with humility and loving hearts as you experience and offer examples of grace.

May you become light and salt to a world in need of both and may the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you in this season and always.

Blessings.

Hugh