

Haliburton Pastoral Charge

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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***"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing
with the glory that will be revealed in us". Romans 8:18***

Lent, 2026

Dear Friends,

Lately I have heard it frequently said, and have said myself, "Getting old is not for the faint of heart!" Aging comes with its own assortment of sufferings, but we are not immune from painful things at any age. Being human brings pain in many forms – anxieties, loneliness, griefs, estrangements, injustices, phobias, exhaustion, and the long list of physical ailments. Did you check off any of these? I know you did.

This is all evidence of the 'fallen-ness' of our world and, in particular, the human race. As Paul wrote, "The whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth." Romans 8:22 We sometimes wonder where God is in the midst of suffering, and the short answer is 'with us'. When God took human form, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, he entered into our groaning. Lent is a time when we remember the sufferings of our Lord. Leading up to the cross he predicted that he would "suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and scribes, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life". Matthew 16:21

Because Jesus was 'raised to life' we have the expectation of the day when, "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain". Rev. 21:4 Meantime, we have all of that, although he is with us and we are with one another.

Communion is a physical affirmation of our union with Christ and with our fellow believers – the 'body of Christ'. It helps to comfort, encourage and strengthen us. I hope you'll join with your sisters and brothers at the Lord's Supper on Sunday, February 22nd, the first Sunday in Lent.

In Christ's love, *Harry*