

Haliburton United Church Pastoral Charge

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Lent, 2016

Dear Friends,

I recently heard of a pastor who was concerned that during Lent the music director would pick too many 'morbid' hymns. The director gave assurance that they would not be morbid but 'thoughtful'. I like that distinction and would like to propose that Lent be a time for thinking. After all, God gave us minds that we might use them. "*Come let us reason together,*" declares God in Scripture Is. 1:18. "*Consider the birds.*", says Jesus Mat. 6:26. Paul writes, "*Be transformed by the renewal of your minds*" Ro. 12:2." It strikes me that Christian faith is the most rational of all faiths. It best explains origins (of the universe, of life etc.), it honestly addresses evil and human brokenness and it offers us a solution of unfathomable mercy and rich hope. Think about that.

Our Bible is the most critically examined and dissected work of literature in existence yet it withstands the test of time. That's partly because it's chock-full of beautiful poetry, gripping narratives, passionate exhorting, ageless wisdom and profound teaching but mostly because it was inspired by God. Think about that – and read it!

Our worldview centers on a Creator who takes on the form of his creation (human form) and lives humbly, joyfully and rightly. He enters into our sorrow, sufferings and death. Let's think about that.

February 14th is the first Sunday in the season of Lent. We will once again remember the sorrows of our Saviour Jesus as we gather for the Lord's Supper. You are invited and I hope you will come.

In Christ's love, Harry