

Greetings Merging Waters,

March 4th, 2021

We continue to engage the Lenten Journey. Our Lenten Discipline of the ECOfast includes engagement with actions that can be taken in daily living to live with respect for creation but also includes awareness raising and engagement with issues of climate and social justice. This is meant to further sensitize us to the issues and facts, **and** to remind us of how our collective attitudes, ways of thinking, are inter-related.

Monday March 8th is International Women's Day. We will lift up the journey, struggle and triumph, of women in our world as a family of faith. Looking not only at the past but at the reality that we live as a human family with continued and recently increasing violence against women here in Canada and around the world. The reading from [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#) challenges us to question earthly wisdom, which often pits one against the other, calling us to embrace God's wisdom of love. This can encourage us to look at how human society works and ask some questions:

- If the status of women in our world is a result of worldly wisdom how can we not prefer God's wisdom in the call to justice, equality, and equity for all – peace with all living beings?
- If the norms of a species are detrimental to many or all of its members can they be taken as wise?
- Is “this is how we've always done things” an explanation that we as a faith community are called to accept?
- How can we as a church, as a society, as a species, be open to the insights of the prophetic voices throughout history that tell us that there are more loving, more just ways to be?
- If the Holy One calls us to stand with those who are being hurt or oppressed how can we faithfully stand with and for women in Canada and around the world?

I look forward to engaging these and others questions in our worship and journey.

Peace and hope,

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