

FAST *for* CHANGE



CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

One: Holy God, God of righteousness and justice, we pray for your mercy.

All: Day after day, week after week, Sunday after Sunday, we claim to seek after God. Yet we continue to serve our own interests, and in so doing, blindly oppress our neighbours, here in Canada, and overseas.

One: We confess that we use our acts of piety to make ourselves feel good about ourselves, to assure ourselves that we are Christians, to confidently claim that we are different from the rest of the world. We turn our heads upwards to the heights of heaven, walking blindly, unaware of our destruction.

All: The piety you desire, O God, happens as we contemplate the ways the lives we enjoy may be negatively impact others. You call us “to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke... to share our bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into our houses; and when we see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide ourselves from the needy.”

One: We pray that in your mercy, O Lord, you will go before us, preparing our eyes and ears to contemplate our lives, so that we may discover the consequences hidden from us, and repent of our ignorance.

All: O Lord, as your prophet declares, we may begin to see how your light shall break forth from our midst like the dawn,” and your healing hands will work through ours. We will be given the profound gift of serving in your Kingdom, participating in your work of redemption, joining our lives to yours and tasting the fruit of eternal life.

One: Hold us in your grace, O God, that we may practice this kind of piety, the kind of fasting that bears witness to the justice of your holy embrace with which you hold the whole world. **Amen.**