



# JUSTICE AND HOPE SUNDAY

Seeking Justice Speaking Hope

"USE THIS PAPER AS KINDLING"

*A smoldering wick he will  
not snuff out. In faithfulness  
he will bring forth justice;*

— Isaiah 42:3

[crcna.org/publicdialogue](http://crcna.org/publicdialogue)



Christian Reformed  
CENTRE FOR Public Dialogue



Christian  
Reformed  
Church

**What is the Centre for Public Dialogue:** We promote a positive voice of Christian faith in Canadian public life that seeks justice, hope, and reconciliation in political dialogue, and active citizenship.

As we enter the Lenten season we reflect on the spiritual metaphor of ashes. A symbol of our mortality and spiritual condition, ashes also hint at hope for renewal. There once was fire, there once was shalom, and in the ashes we seek an ember to spark restoration. We search for a flicker of hope that God will fan to a roaring heat and light to the world.

As we lean into new political and social realities after the challenges of the past year, we trust in the promises of Isaiah 42:3.  
*“A smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice.”*

Please pray that God would use the disruptions of this past year to remind us of our interdependence with our neighbours. Pray that God uses us to light a fire in governments for the care of people who are vulnerable. Then act out of hope to stoke the fire in our churches that shows the world that God loves justice and reconciliation. Praise God with us for the embers of hope already uncovered in the church’s calling to seek justice and speak hope.

## PRAYER

*Creator God,*

*As we lean into a new Lenten season we thank you for the divine spark that empowers us through your Holy Spirit.*

*We praise you for the Church that has stood this past year as a local, national, and global light. We thank you for using disruption as a refining fire to remind us of your gifts of community interdependence and our dependence on you.*

*May our praying and fasting in this season of Lent follow your call through Isaiah — to loose the chains of injustice and set oppressed people free as we anticipate the joyful shalom of the resurrection.*

*Amen*

## ACTION ALERTS

Be the salt, light and fire for justice in our nation. You can easily contact your representative on current policy concerns using our action alert system.  
[www.crcna.org/PublicDialogue/action-centre](http://www.crcna.org/PublicDialogue/action-centre)