

# A ministry of the whole church by the whole church

## Lent 2: Seeing our Lives in the Light of God’s Love



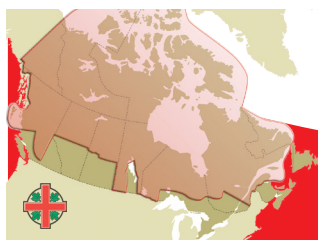
In today’s Psalm we hear a message of hope: “I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” As we walk through Lent, we know that our hope in the Resurrection transforms our waiting, and transforms the suffering that life brings our way.

In some of the most economically and socially depressed communities in our country, the Anglican Church brings this message of hope. The Rev. Paul Williams, who has ministered in Arctic communities for 27 years, knows very well the importance of this hope, especially in communities afflicted with very high rates of suicide.

In the midst of these tragic situations, Williams and every northern minister continue to bring the hope, love and forgiveness of Jesus. Williams says, “The only way you can do that is to meet every person on the level of being a member of their family, and allowing them the opportunity to grieve, to get out their feeling of helplessness, sometimes hopelessness, and just trying to encourage them in the face of this, that this doesn’t have to continue.”

While other programs can do some good, Williams cautions that they can also be ways of “distancing ourselves from the people’s lives.” The church has something truly unique to offer: Williams says, “It goes back to being present. Being with people and encouraging them to see that there is a wider scope to the life that they’re in and it’s not just that one situation...And we have to get back to that message—that in Christ is our hope.”

**Prayer:** *“Dear Jesus, we ask you to strengthen those who bring your hope and light into the tragic situation of suicide. Give them peace, and the assurance that you are working through them. Amen.”*



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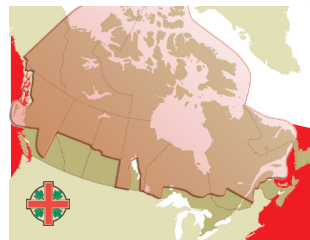
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