

Greetings Merging Waters,

Feb 18th, 2021

It's great to return from leave and see so many of you this week in our life and work together. It has been so nice to see everyone online at the Shrove Tuesday event, the Ash Wednesday Service, in board meetings, and gatherings for our Lenten Journey with the ECOfast and Lenten Imaginings. It is a very different experience than prior years and yet as we ZOOM into this time of Lent we can still engage in preparation and reflection as we journey toward Easter.

Looking at this week's reading from [Genesis 9:8-17](#) we are given a glimpse of the rainbow after the storm. The peace we find there, with a promise that The Holy One is at peace with all living beings, is a beautiful image even as it reminds us of the conflict that precedes it.

The Rainbow in the sky as rain ends is a reminder of the covenant, the promise, that we, all living beings, are the focus of God's Steadfast-Loving-Kindness, and yet is the need for a reminder important? In engaging this question more deeply we may want to ask ourselves:

- What was it that gave us the sense of being in conflict with the Divine to begin with?
- Was the conflict in this story really with God or were humans seeking to understand the spiritual aspects of suffering in life or the things we do to each other and the planet?
- Does this covenant of love call us to love the world, ourselves, and others more deeply?
  - Does it let us off easy when we fall short?
- Where are we called to share this love in the world?
- Where does humanity need to build its own rainbows of peace? With one another, ourselves, the environment?

I look forward to exploring the journey together throughout Lent as we gather insights into expressing our relationship with the divine and all the world.

Peace and hope,

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