

Greetings Merging Waters,

February 25, 2021

This week continues to remind us of the precious and those with whom we share it are gifts. I continue to lift up in my prayers the entire pastoral charge and in particular those of you who are dealing with particular periods of loss and pain. We live in hope and wish the best for all but we also know that we are a people who will deal with whatever comes our way in love. As a family of faith we are lifting our prayers for healing and peace supporting one another even as we continue to call for justice and peace in the wider world. I encourage us all to take each moment that comes to show that we appreciate others as best we can, whenever we can. And do what you can to take time for yourself, renewal and self-care are so important these days and helps us to better care for others. We do so with the Sacred Spirit alive and present with us in our lives and in the world.

As a people of faith we continue to be called to live life abundantly and to empower others in doing so as well. In honouring Black History Month in this week's Worship celebration we will engage through song and word the struggle and blessing of our siblings in humanity within the Black community here in Canada and in the world. In this exploration and in the reading for the week from [James 2:1–10, 14–17](#) we will be asked to reflect on some questions such as:

- How does our society treat minorities?
- How do we as a church engage this social dynamic in our faith community?
- If society treats people minorities differently how does our life of faith call us to respond?
- If someone who was completely different from you shows up for church how are you prepared to welcome them?
- Does this differ from how you are prepared to welcome someone with whom you have much in common?
- What can we do to ensure we are prepared to welcome people who are alienated by the rest of society?
- What can we do as a community to help society share our commitment to welcome and inclusion of people who are marginalised?

I look forward to lifting up the struggle and journey of our neighbours and continuing our commitment to being a welcoming community this week and into the future.

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

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