

Greetings Merging Waters,

June 10th, 2021

Today is the 96th Anniversary of Union of the United Church of Canada, a day that we can lift up the journey of a young church seeking the way to enlightenment, hope, and love in the world. Born from the dream of bringing many together as one we have progressively discovered the beauty of diversity within unity: a work in progress.

This week in worship we will lift up the anniversary of Church Union as we engage [John 17:20-26](#) and [Romans 15:1-13](#). By encouraging us to be unified in love for one another, expressed in self-giving service to the needs of others, these passages inspire us to ask ourselves some questions:

- If the nature of the Divine is that of self-giving relationship, are we encouraged to see the sacred nature of diversity within our togetherness?
- How does service to those most in need bring fulfillment to our lives?
- How do we express this challenge to be of service to others as a faith community on a local, national, and global basis?
- How do these messages of service, togetherness, and the sanctity of loving ourselves and others inform our journey today?
- What can hold us back from a commitment to service to others or celebration of diversity? What can we do to help one another in overcoming these roadblocks?

I look forward to lifting up the beauty and challenge of diversity in unity as we celebrate the journey together in worship this week and throughout our lives in the future.

Happy Birthday United Church!!

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

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