

Greetings Merging Waters,

June 3rd, 2021

As we lift up the beginning of International Pride Month, we join with a global movement to support human rights and acknowledge the specific need to heal the brokenness within society caused by discrimination, marginalisation, and hate based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In our worship this week we will explore a story by Rabbi Marc Gellman that is based on [Genesis 8:1-12 and 9:8-17](#). In the Biblical narrative we see that the rainbow is a symbol of peace and reconciliation between all of humanity and the Divine, and of new beginnings for all after a time of great suffering.

The Rainbow is a symbol of hope after the storms of oppression, pain, and loss within the 2S & LGBTQAI+ community. It is also a symbol of creation, re-creation, and hope for varied faith traditions today and at many points in history as well as for all people during the current pandemic. If the Divine seeks out not only peace but calls us to find ways to be at peace with ourselves, one another, and Creation we can ask ourselves:

- If going “back to normal” would include society returning to practices that are hurtful to the planet and humans, what can we do to create a more loving “New Normal,” when we are able to be back in-person?
- What are the new beginnings, the creative ways open to the Spirit’s call, that we can imagine as we seek out hope for the future?
- If all the world is our sacred home, how can we live this as a faith community?
- What actions and awareness can we choose to integrate into our lives that will create a more just and peaceful place for marginalised people in our society?

As we continue this journey of faith together, a road that is at times bumpy, I am grateful to travel with the community of Merging Waters. A community that honours our past experiences through an openness to creative response to our call to be community in new ways. I look forward to our time together this week and into the future.

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

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