

Greetings Merging Waters,

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

September 30<sup>th</sup> marks the very first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day which we will lift up on Sunday. We will reflect on the painful reality of residential schools and the blessing of hope we find in the opportunity to listen to our neighbours and to find healing together.

In the reading from [Mark 9:38–50](#) that we will reflect on in worship this week Jesus acknowledges that the work of love and justice in the world, resisting hate and exploitation, is not the exclusive work of one group of people who call themselves his disciples. The narrative further calls upon us to let go of the things that hold us back from living lives of love and justice for all.

Some questions related to this passage:

- What is it that keeps us from respecting and working in partnership with other congregations, denominations, faiths and cultures?
- What keeps us from seeing ourselves as one with all people?
- How do we rid ourselves of all that keeps us from considering others before ourselves?
- In the times we become mislead, thinking our way is the “only” way, what is the result? Were residential schools one such time?
- God is at work in the world, the world is changing, what do we need to let go of in order to embrace the Spirit’s work of love and justice in today’s world?
- What is it that we can hold onto that keeps us faithful to Jesus’ message of peace, love, and service?

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday as we seek to journey in love and peace with all people, reflecting on these and other questions. Sharing the road with all creation moving forward in faith.

Peace and hope,

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