

Greetings Merging Waters,

November 10th, 2021

Merging Waters has chosen this time as a season of Stewardship, which we continue this week and fits perfectly in the context of this time. How we choose to care for all that has come into our lives, indeed the world, through the blessings we find in one another and this planet we call home, fits right in. We have been exploring, in past weeks, Creation Time, focusing on the great blessings and wonder of this planet we call home and how we respond with gratitude in our actions to protect and nurture the natural world. Ahead of us is Advent when we not only choose to believe that Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are possible, but rather we choose to participate in fulfilling these realities in the world. Stewardship is precisely these things, the choice to seize the opportunities before us to support and nurture that which nurtures and supports us.

In sustaining that which sustains us we allow a wonderful thing to happen. In supporting the people, programs, and community that sustain our lives of faith and loving relationships, we support the very same thing for others. In community we can do more, we can support more, on a wider scale, and we can do it together.

The reading that we will be engaging with this week, contributing our own stories and understandings to its message, is that of John 21:15-17. Jesus ask Peter to feed his sheep, to care for the people who are drawn to his message and nurture their growth and their faithful living. We have some questions that we can ask ourselves as we engage together:

- When have I felt that my spiritual life was being nurtured?
- What benefit has my participation in this community of faith brought to my life?
- What would my life of faith be like without a community to support, challenge, and sustain its growth?
- What can I do to support the community that supports my life of faith?
- What can I do to help others have the opportunities that they need to grow in their faith-filled relationships?

I look forward to our worship this week as we continue to celebrate the lives we live together the community of Merging Waters lets keep asking our questions and seeking understanding together.

In peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

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