

Greetings Merging Waters,

Nov 18th, 2021

This week we will celebrate the final week of the season of Pentecost, when we lift that the Spirit is with us in our work and our lives. This is a fitting time to lift what we believe and to act upon these beliefs as a community. This is traditionally referred to as Reign of Christ or Christ the King Sunday because the message of hope, love, justice, and faithfulness that we find in the narrative of the Christ reigns in our hearts and actions. We celebrate that we are not ruled, not swayed, not motivated by despair, hate, privilege and indifference but rather the Spirit-filled message of the God of Love. So, we say that it is Christ who Reigns in our lives.

But this is pretty old language, isn't it? Sure, Canada has a queen, but really what does this idea of a sovereign mean to us in our modern day? Is the Queen of England more influential in our lives, hearts, and deeds than the Queens on RuPaul's Drag Race? Is she maybe even less influential in our popular culture and everyday life? For some of us these same questions can arise about Jesus – historical figure or literary tool personifying a message - the narrative presents the person of Jesus as one who is the embodiment of values, commitments, and beliefs that challenged the assumptions of life both 2000 years ago and those of today.

Individualism over collective life, self-interest over justice, the majority rule to the detriment of minorities, conformity over celebrating each person's uniqueness, the exploitation of people and planet for monetary profits: these are modern precepts that oppose the message we find in our faith tradition, scriptures, and in a very specific way within this denomination. What we choose to prioritise will shape our choices. What message we allow to reign in our hearts and our actions both demonstrates our beliefs but also shape our world.

So, wrestle with the difficulty of the word King or sovereign all you need, it's good to keep our minds sharp. But also remind yourself that this is a question of your own agency - in your mind, soul, spirit, and thoughts you have a choice. And pray on, reflect on, and allow yourselves to ask: What message do I choose to embrace in my actions? How will that help you to shape the world? How will it allow us all to help shape the world so that we say as a human family that all are loved, all are welcome, all are needed?

I look forward to our continued journey this week as we ask what messages we allow to have sway over our lives together.

Peace and hope,
Rev. Ryan Fea
MDiv
ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com