

Greetings Merging Waters,

November 25th, 2021

This week we end the Church year and begin a new one with the first Sunday in the season of Advent. This is the Ecclesiastical New Year! We approach Christmas throughout Advent, a time of preparation, making ourselves and our community ready to truly welcome the message of the Christ into our hearts and our lives. Questions of endings and beginnings are on many of our minds and hearts this year perhaps even more than in the past.

With many changes that persist in our daily lives because of the pandemic, changes in the life of the church, and those life choices that are faced by individuals and families within the Merging Waters community, I continue to lift each of you in my prayers. Blessed by a community that supports one another, the blessings of your dedicated minister, and the ever-present love of the Spirit you know that you are not alone. As a community you share this awareness with others in the world as well, offering to all the world the very hope that we each seek.

In our journey this week let us ask ourselves three questions:

- What is the hope that we seek in our lives together?
- How have we found hope within our faith journey, in our seeking, together?
- How can we as individuals and as a faith community, *be* the hope that we and others need in this world?

Let us continue to prepare to welcome the Christ into this world through our reflections and actions in this our Advent journey.

Peace and hope to your spirit!

Happy New Year,

Rev. Ryan Fea

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