

Greetings Merging Waters,

November 4th, 2021

This week we begin a season of Stewardship, looking to the commitment we are inspired to give to the things that nurture our spiritual growth. We show this commitment in many ways, as have countless others throughout our lives and the history of the Church. The great cloud of witnesses who have been and are the church, us included. People like you and me, around the world, throughout the last two millennia have found community and support in spiritual growth together. They valued the lives that this supported, the courage it engendered in themselves and one another, the love shared in the Sacred Presence found in relationship between and within each of them. In finding God, Christ, Spirit, and the Divine within us, as we seek together, we celebrate this in how we respond through commitment and love.

This week we will share in the stories of those who have been drawn to this life of dedication and faith together. We will reflect on the story of Jesus watching the wealthy and the widow from [Mark 12:41-44](#) giving of themselves and their resources, in different ways and with varying levels of humility, to the faith community that supports and uplifts them. At the time of writing the Christian communities lived together in communal ways sharing everything. Some questions to consider, reflect and pray on:

- In what ways do the people in the Merging Waters family support your spiritual growth and faithful living?
- What does the support and growth that you receive from others in the Merging Waters family inspire you to commit to the community?
- Where else are you able to engage in spiritual growth?
- Where are you able to express your faith journey in deed and word, and acknowledge that openly? Is it at church? Is it outside of the church?
- How does this church and the wider church support your commitments as seekers?
- How has the commitment to peace/community/love in faith relate to the actions we take in conflict?

In this world our lives of faith need to be supported, by our commitment, our resources, our willingness to give and receive. Let's explore and celebrate how we do this as we gather this week, and throughout our lives together.

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

MDiv

ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com