

Greetings Merging Waters,

December 30th, 2021

You all remain in my prayers, and I lift gratitude for each of you as we face the challenge of renewed distancing and limits in response to the realities of the newest variant of COVID. It's natural to feel blasé about New Years, this year because of diminished celebrations and being physically apart. Yet, we can still find hope and joy in community with one another – connected in our souls.

We can support one another in these difficult times; reaching out with emails, phone calls, and ZOOM/Skype calls to share encouragement, news, and love. If you know someone who lives alone or may be going through a hard time, I encourage you to reach out. And please feel free to continue to be in touch with me in these days. I have found our sharing of news and encouragement to be a wonderful way of sharing our lives together in faith and hope even in the toughest times.

I encourage us all to continue to spend time with God. Practice the ways that we find centring, maintain our relationship with the Divine, and help to engage in seeking deeper understanding. As we consider ways to touch our connection more deeply to that which is within and beyond, I encourage you each to take this time to reconnect with the source of love and find hope in the connection.

- What are the spiritual practices that help you to connect with the Divine Spirit?
- What role does gratitude - for creation, our lives, our community, the blessings we share and those we find within ourselves – play in our spiritual centring?
- What role does gratitude play in finding hope, joy, peace? In sharing these?

This week we join with neighbouring West Island churches in finding joy together in our collective journey in this final Sunday of the Season of Christmas. In the new year our worship life will lift our gratitude for life's blessings and how we can respond to God's generosity.

I look forward to continuing our journey as a community; finding hope in our faith lives together into the new year filled with possibility, creativity, and promise.

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

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