

Greetings Merging Waters,

January 19th, 2022

As we move through Epiphany this year we have been exploring the gifts that we receive and the gifts that we share in our faith journeys. On Epiphany Sunday we spoke about how sharing a gift can transform both the giver and the receiver. We spoke of water, literally, and the water of life that are shared as freely as God's love. Last week we spoke of Gifts received of the Spirit – gifts such as speaking with wisdom, or with knowledge, having deep faith, the ability to recognize the Spirit's presence, a prophetic voice, or abilities of healing. This week we will explore the our relationship with the gifts of creation and how we are called, inspired or drawn, to be those who speak God's justice to the world, the ones whom the Spirit taps to do the work of living God's love in the world.

As we continue to explore the gifts we experience by the Spirit, reflecting this week upon [Luke 4:14-21](#) and the message of the one who came to put us into greater relationship with That Which Is Within And Beyond, let us ask ourselves some questions:

- What are the gifts that the Spirit has shared with you?
- What are the gifts of the Spirit that you have seen shared within Merging Waters and the world?
- How can the Spirit support us in sharing our gifts freely?
- What more can we do with our gifts to care for Creation and the oppressed?

I look forward to our explorations and reflections this week as we continue our journey together into Epiphany.

Peace and hope,

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