

Greetings Merging Waters,

January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

We are in a week that has held historic events for our neighbours in the world. This week continues to be a time when we all struggle with the realities of a pandemic. We live in a time when the world faces climate change, economic ups and downs, and we all face the challenges and blessings of our daily lives. I continue to lift you all up in my prayers of hope and continue to see this family of faith holding one another in our hearts as we journey together.

The journey of faith as we travel the road of life together and as individuals has many hills and plateaus, and can often throw us curves when we least expect them. In our readings from this week's lectionary, we will engage the story of [Jonah](#). His journey has brought him to a place where he is called upon by the Holy One to bring a message to his greatest enemy. A message that will save his enemies from calamity, these are people who have brought pain and anguish to countless peoples in the world including his own.

His story of resisting the forgiveness of enemies, even as God can love those who hurt or betray us, brings up some hard questions for ourselves:

- Can we learn to forgive those who hurt us?
  - o How important is this to a process of healing?
  - o Is it sometimes beyond us to forgive others and ourselves?
- When can the Divine help us to heal by forgiving us all when we cannot do it on our own?
- Can we help others to find forgiveness in time when healing is needed for all to move forward?

As we seek to journey forward in times that are demanding and promising I am grateful that we travel this road together.

Peace and hope,

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