

Greetings Merging Waters,

March 11th, 2021

This week we are celebrating United Church Affirming Sunday and reading in [Numbers 21:4-9](#) and [John 3:14-21](#) that as a beloved people of God we are called to look at places of fear, illness, and injury in order to allow for healing. This can be a real challenge, yet if injury and illness is ignored it is never tended to. Looking at the world today we know, having lived a full year with the iniquities of the world exposed by the pandemic, engaged with the struggles and accomplishments of racialised communities, and International Women's Day, and as a community aware and sensitive to many issues, we know that there is much brokenness and pain in the world, in our community, and within each of us.

We're a well informed and aware group, reminded as we are by these passages that healing, and so movement toward a more just and loving world, involves a commitment to look at the broken places, the places of dis-ease and injury, we can hear some questions in ourselves and the community:

- When was the last time you heard updated statistics on the disadvantages placed upon 2LGBTQ+ peoples?
- What daily efforts do we make that are Public, Intentional, and Explicit to welcome members of oppressed minorities into the faith community?
- Where is the Spirit calling us to be in the struggle against oppression in our society?
 - o Are we there?
 - o How do we get there?
- What will we do to continue our commitment to be informed, aware, and active in continuing to fulfill this call?
- How have we participated in and struggled against systems of society, institution, and norms that have hurt others?
- When have we helped our community and world in facing these issues?
- How can our own faith journey help us to lament past injuries in loving ways and to aid us and others in healing together?

Our shared journey continues as we face the pains of the world, seeking the Spirit's accompaniment in moving from injury into renewal, oppression into abundant life, and broken hearts into joy.

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

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