

Greetings Merging Waters,

April 29th, 2021

It's nice to be back from my time of leave and to hear from you about all that has been going on during this time. I have continued to hold you all in my prayers and enjoyed a time of renewal as well as reflection and study. I'm looking forward to the coming time.

We continue our journey this week, that of walking the road of Eastertide and living in solidarity with the world. Indeed in our reading this week we are called by [John 15:9-17](#) and [1 John 4:7-21](#) to do just that by sharing the love that we have experienced through our relationships found in the message of Jesus. We are called up to love one another and all the world in example that Jesus gave us. We are not asked to be Jesus but we are asked to walk with him by this example of how to live with others. Called upon to accept that we are loved and to be inspired to share that love unabashedly with all others.

These passages are lovely, no pun intended, in their poetry but have a quite serious tone about them in that they challenge the norms of the world and ask us to question some presuppositions about life, society, and faithful living within the world. Feeling loved and comforted is one thing, sharing this love with all others is often seen as something separate. Some questions that may help in reflecting upon these passages:

- Do you feel God's love for you?
- Where/when do you feel this love?
- What are the ways that you feel called to express this love?
- We are called/challenged/expected by these passages to be inspired by the message of Jesus to show love to all others:
 - Do we?
 - In what ways?
 - How/When/Where?
 - How often?

I look forward to our time together this week as we seek deeper understanding to embrace the comforting and challenging Love of the Sacred Presence.

Peace and hope,

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