

Greetings Merging Waters,

May 13th, 2021

This week has been one already quite filled with the work of the Boards, and I encourage everyone to join me in keeping them in our prayers. The Boards take on the discernment and visioning, and the responsibility of maintaining the life and work of the congregation in work together with committees and with the staff. This work is always one that is done with wisdom and dedication and has required a great deal of reflection, research, and even more work than usual. There are important decisions that are being made on your behalf and the three boards of Merging Waters, Beaufort United, and Union Church feel the weight of it. Let us lift up our gratitude for this very-much ongoing and active work in new and old ways and give our support, insights, and encouragement to the boards. If you're not on the board find out who is – they are listed on the church website - <http://mergingwaters.ca/about/board-of-directors/>. Please, lift them up in your prayers, supporting them as they faithfully continue to keep the missional work and relationships of Merging Waters alive in these trying times.

This week in our worship together we will explore the message of [John 17:6-19](#). The narrative is a time when Jesus prepares to call those who follow his message to the work and life of ever forming and reforming the church – the body of Christ - in the world. This passage that is an example of Jesus in prayer wherein he asks that the Divine dream of the world be fulfilled in those of us who continue the work of the church and that the joy of the Divine relationship be fulfilled among and within us. That our faith found through Jesus will fulfill the hope of a world filled with love, justice, and peace and that in this faith-filled relationship we will find joy!

In hopes that it will bring us closer to that joy in these times wherein we could all use a little more I ask us to reflect on these questions:

- What/who is there in your life right now that currently brings you joy?
- What are the ways that your relationship with the Divine is expressed in this?
- In the moment of reflecting upon that experience/relationship how long can you hold this joy in your heart?
 - o Try to sit with that joy, focus on and experience it. Give yourself permission to stay with that joy. Then answer to yourself how long.
- What else do you feel in response to this? Gratitude? Peace? Curiosity? Hope?

I look forward to seeking out the fullness of joy in our sacred relationships this Sunday and in the future of our journey together.

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

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