

Greetings Merging Waters,

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

I start out by wishing a Happy Mothers' Day this week to all who are mothers to others in the world. All who have by birth, adoption, friendship, and community nurtured and caringly challenged others to grow in life to actions that are just and loving. Your gifts to us all, whoever you are, have helped us all to grown in that thing that is all from the Divine – love. Whether we knew it or not, whether we say it or not, you have shaped us and the world. May God's blessings and love be upon you.

As we continue our journey this week, we look to celebrate Christian Family Sunday, a tradition within the United Church that seeks to honour and expand on the blessings of family in its many forms. While Sunday is Mothers' Day, a day we honour and celebrate with joy, Christian Family Sunday seeks to embrace the message found in [Luke 8:19-21](#) that calls us to remember that family is a blessing that comes in many forms. Jesus doesn't reject his mother and brothers but expands his family to include the beloved community who embrace one another and the message of justice and love through their work and living together.

This passage can bring us some questions that we can reflect on in the joy of this wonderful day:

- If the definition of family is wider than those with whom we are blood-related then what are the limits of whom we call family?
- If sharing in a life of faith that actively works, in community, to awaken God's dream for us in the world is what makes a family; are everyone who worship and work together within the Merging Waters community a family?
  - o Are all those who work to awaken God's dream on the West Island?  
In Canada? On Earth?
- Doesn't this passage call our families of origin and our families of choice both wonderful blessings within the beloved community, a sacred family who love the world?
- Who has been a nurturing/challenging presence in your life who helped you to grow? Your birth/adoptive mother? A grandmother? Aunt? Teacher? Friends? Others within the church? Our Mother the Earth? Have there been nurturing men in your life too?
- How best do we celebrate the ways that they have blessed our lives?

Siblings, I look forward to lifting up our joy and celebration of the family we find together here and in the world this week and as our journey together continues.

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

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