

Greetings Merging Waters,

September 2, 2021

The air is cooling after August's heatwave and as September arrives the time to transition from summertime schedules and frames-of-mind is upon us. But not quite yet. We still have Labour Day Weekend. A time for many, if not all, of us to take time to rest, rejuvenate, and gird up for a change in schedule. A time where perhaps some don't have to change schedules. Maybe you're not going back to work or school. Maybe you never stopped.

- Can we take time to rest?
- Is rest all we need?
- How is God, the Spirit, the Sacred Presence In All involved?

This week in worship we will be talking about the Sabbath – God's instituting of the weekend. Embedded in the commandments found in the decalogue, in Deuteronomy, and lived out in the life and times of Jesus. But was it just a day off "because God said so," a time off for the sake of itself or is there more to it? Jesus and the Pharisees argue about that.

A people freed from slavery are given the Ten Commandments. Half of these are about our relationship with God and half about our relationship with our neighbours. Seeking to understand themselves and live out God's demand for justice a day of rest is commanded for all people, animals, fields – perhaps so that a freed people do not become as result oriented and production based as their once slave masters. So that they avoid enslaving themselves and others to working and wealth?

We find commandments in Deuteronomy for weekly, every seven days, rest for all, the following of fields every 7 years, the forgiving - to release and free all people - of debts and the freeing of slaves every 7 years, and a complete wiping of the slate for all every 7 times 7 (49) years in the Year of Jubilee. Does this seem more than focused on having a day off and a going to worship? Is there a trust in the generosity of the Divine, of the world and in our response if gratitude in generosity to others? Does Jesus have a point in [Matthew 12:1-13](#) that helping others – caring for the sick and the poor, feeding the hungry and clothing the naked – is a Sabbath action? Is the centre of the Word of God the grace of God?

Let's continue to explore on Sunday and in our lives together.

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

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