

Greetings Merging Waters,

September 9th, 2021

As many have said, we blinked and the summer was lived and gone before we knew it. If Labour Day weekend marks the end of the summer, with the return to school, end of summer holidays, and the cooling of weather many of us are wondering if we can hold a vote to extend it a few more weeks. But alas time moves ever onward, seasons change, pandemic and life evolve, and we are drawn forward in time ever onward.

In this time of endings and beginnings we find the emergence of new life once more. For the past 18 months Merging Waters has been living our lives of faith online and in the world. The Boards of Union and Merging Waters have decided that this Sunday September 12th, 2021 we will add in-person worship to this life. While our online worship and programs continue, we will be adding the option to worship in person as well. This is not going back to what was in the Before time, this is a moving forward into the new ways – embracing safety protocols as part of nurturing and caring for body and soul in our lives together.

As we look to the readings for this week we hear of the New Heaven and New Earth of [Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5](#). In this reading we hear of the renewal of the world – making pure the waters, soil, and air – and the reconciliation of the Divine Spirit with all humanity. God's great work of bringing into unity all life with the Divine and one another is brought into fruition.

- What hope do we find for the future in these readings?
- What part will we play in bringing about this new connected world?
- Where is the promise in our participation? The comfort? The challenge?
- How does The Sacre Presence In All help us to bring this about in the world?

I look forward to our shared journey as we seek out new ways and new perspectives together.

Peace and hope,

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