As our journey continues we see a world in upheaval. Spring and winter collide and remind us of the ups and downs of life's ebb and flow. Nations collide over questions of who owns lands and territory that is a part of those said same humans. In our own country, we hear the voices of those few who have been unable to find an outlet grounded in reality or acceptance for their anger over feeling vulnerable and disempowered by the pandemic. And we call for peace.

We call for peace within and between us as people who seek to find healing rather than anger. We have a hard road as Christians being called to love those who disagree with us, even those who hate us, and yet we strive to answer with love and commitment. We seek to find peace within ourselves and with the world around us as we slip and slide on windy days of late winter. Where can we find a grounding in these times of tumult and uncertainty?

In <u>Luke 5:1-11</u> we hear the story of Jesus telling those who fish for life to seek once again even after being disappointed. The symbol of a loss of hope even after making a great effort and using all their know-how, and yet through acts of faith and seeking to find hope in the unexpected this narrative reminds us that we can be surprised. Much like the Spring that always comes, even when we sometimes feel that winter will never end, and the hope we find in our neighbours, even when hope seems lost for peace in the world. The peace and comfort we find in the love of God that we find when we are centred in the bounty of creation within which we are wonderfully and beautifully made, we find that not only can we be nourished by creation and others but that we can nourish others.

We can be the hands and feet of Christ, doing God's work in the world, helping others.

Reflecting on the bounty of God's peace and love that we are called to share let us ask ourselves some questions:

- If we belong to the church, and the church belongs to God, do we all belong to God?
- If all that we are and all that we have come from God how do we see what we have?
  - o Is it ours or is it God's?
  - o If all belongs to us what does it serve to use it in/as the church?
  - o If all belongs to God whose resources are we using when we put the church resources to use?
- How can we share the abundance we have received to the benefit of others?
  - How do we remain the hands and feet of God if we don't use what we have in the church for the betterment of others?

We continue to ask ourselves these and other questions about being God's beloved community that shares this love with the world this Sunday and into the future as we journey together.

Peace and hope, Rev. Ryan Fea MDiv ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com