

Greetings Merging Waters,

February 9th, 2022

In these times of change and loss, tensions and promise, as the days continue to brighten I have continued to lift you each up in my prayers and hold you in my heart.

How close is God, to you, to me, to us all?

This is the question that we hear this week in our worship as we engage with [Psalm 138](#). The question of how deeply we are known, loved, accepted, by the Divine Spirit is one that many have tried to answer for us. Some of us have insights and beliefs that inform our experience of the sense of God's proximity. To our lives and to our being as individuals, as people, and as communities.

In our lives together as Merging Waters, as Union Church and Beaurepaire United church, as you and as me, we get a lot of messages from the world, from media, from interest groups, from family and friends, from teachers, employers, partners, and from ourselves. In our tradition as followers of Jesus, we have received a message that hopes to communicate to us that God loves us, calls to us, inspires us, hopes for us, even prays for us.

Often this is an exploration done in extremes. We're told that we're either all in or all the way out of God's grace and love by all sorts of people and perspectives. Sometimes even by ourselves. But is it possible that the question isn't about God so much as it is about ourselves? Should we ask ourselves, "how close does God feel to me today?" Maybe today that connection feels less palpable than it did yesterday, maybe more. Am I open to the Sacred Presence in my life today? What can we do to explore this more deeply within ourselves, and what can we as community of faith do to support one another in asking these questions?

I look forward to our time spent in worship this week as we seek together and support one another in asking these questions and how we lived out their significance in our lives.

Peace and hope,

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