

Greetings friends of Merging Waters,

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

This Sunday as our journey moves into the third week of Lent we will explore [Psalm 95:1-7](#). In its message, we are called to sing our song of faith to the Divine. An invitation to embrace that all people are beloved by God which includes us. A people of generosity and of love who strive for justice and works to show kindness and caring for others but often that work can feel just that. It can feel like it's just work, that these are merely tasks to be done, a list checked off, and then completed as an end in itself.

So easily our need for spiritual nourishment and fulfillment becomes replaced with the practical sense of a job well done that is an end unto itself. Yet as a spiritual people, as all people have some kind of spiritual core that is experienced and expressed in its own way for each of us, the practical surface covers a deeper need. A need to seek out that connectedness that is beyond simple perception. In our being and our doing, our living and our choosing, if we stop simply at that surface we miss out on seeking a deeper understanding of the mystery beyond the concrete. And it is in Lent that we explore the seeking of that which is beyond and within. Some of us call it God, others Adonai, Allah or hashem/the name, some enlightenment, and many other names now and throughout time. Many more still have no name for it, and yet the thirst for understanding, the seeking in the journey is still there.

In this seeking in the week to come we will be invited to continue our Lenten Practices through engagement with daily connections to the mystery through worship. Worship is a time to celebrate our lives of faith, seek inspiration, and seek still to connect with that which some call God. To open ourselves in joy and celebration of that by which we are beloved. This week we will find the opportunity to journey with one another among family and with friends to worship, sing, pray, and seek daily.

In this time, I invite us each to ask ourselves:

- What is the best way to open myself up to worship every day?
- If I have a daily opportunity to seek spiritual fulfillment through celebration, how will it nourish my spirit?
- What might hold me back from seeking to touch base with the Divine daily?
- How can I help my family or friends join in worship in all places and times?

As we move forward on this journey, I hope to hear from you on ways you have embraced seeking and connection with the Great Spirit in your home and in your relationships.

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan

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