

Greetings Merging Waters,

March 9th, 2022

As we continue in our Lenten Journey and winter moves into spring, I continue to hold you all in our hearts as we hope for renewal. The season of the planet and of the liturgical calendar remind us of our own needs for renewal. In times of war, ever more intense and widespread, we are reminded for the renewing power of peace. In times of despair, we are reminded of the renewing power of hope. And in times of hatred and discord, we are reminded of the power of love. Yesterday's International Women's Day and the upcoming Affirming PIE Day both speak to me of the human journey to embrace God's all-encompassing love for all and live it in the world. They also remind me that there continues to be a need to actively work for what we believe in.

As we lift up prayers for peace and look to hope in the world, sharing our resources with the oppressed and displaced I am reminded of the Lenten Spiritual Practice that we have embarked upon this week. I want to share with you the three Christian values that I have chosen to lift up in my journey this week:

"Yes, I will trust God to provide what I *really* need"

"Yes, I will embrace love"

"Yes, I will work for justice"

What's on your list? I look forward to hearing from you about how this practice spoke to you and your life this week.

In these times of seeking and renewal I hope for each of you to find at your Spiritual Core ways to say 'yes' to that which is most central to your being. This practice and the Lenten reflections of *Lesser Evils* have given me time to reflect on where the Divine presence is palpable in my life, and where I sometimes don't notice it – that God is always with us.

As we look to [Genesis 12:1-4a](#) we will be reminded that not only is the Holy One-In-All found in surprising places but that we too can be the expression of the Spirit's presence in the world. We are called, inspired, and moved to be co-creators, in the work of awakening God's dream for us all in the world. We will explore more ways to live out what is at our core as we move deeper into Lent.

"The road is long, with many a winding turn," as the song says, I am so pleased to journey it throughout Lent with the beloved community of Merging Waters.
To the journey!

Peace and hope,

Rev. Ryan Fea

MDiv

ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com