

November 30, 2022

Editor's note: This week's Letter of Hope is shared (with permission) from a recent Facebook posting by Pastor Sonja van de Hoef, minister at St Paul's United Church in Milverton. Thank you Pastor Sonja.

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### ON MY WAY TO WORK

Before heading in to work I took Ro on a walk. She's a funny dog. She insists on stopping at this bridge close to our house. She puts her paws up and looks over the railing at the water. She'll stay quite a while and I thank her for this pause. As I looked over I was struck by the raised rock bed, which created a little island, diverting the water in two directions.

Sometimes life is like that, isn't it? Our relationships can be trucking along together, moving smoothly in the same direction and then a 'rock bed' crops up whether: illness, employment, or education to name a few, that causes a diversion and we move on separate paths for a time.

It can feel like this in our faith walk too. At times we feel close to God and suddenly something in life causes us to divert and we feel distant. The truth though is that we are still traveling in the same river and the good news is that like this photo shows, as we come around the 'rock bed' we connect again.

Isaiah 40: 4-5 says, [if you're like me you read this passage singing it in your head a la Handel from "Messiah" ;-)]

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

It is my HOPE and prayer that as we begin the Advent journey if there are rough places in our lives, we might allow God to make them plain, that it may be a season of re-connecting.

Pastor Sonja

