

# Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 1

Thursday, April 15



**Stream in El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico**

**Photo Credit: Steve Bettencourt**

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. John 1:14-18*

If all we had to go on was words, we would not have as much understanding. But we have images and metaphor and we have Jesus. As the gospel of John says, Jesus was the Word made flesh. And that human Jesus came to live among us filled with grace. So when we see Jesus, we are looking at what grace looks like. He is our pattern. And because he is also God, part of the trinity, his pattern is a close as we can get to what Godly grace looks like. Jesus knows God like the back of his own hand. This mystery of Jesus, God, and grace can be overwhelming for us to understand and figure out in our logical minds.

But if we look at the image of the stream in today's devotion we can see the pattern of water coming down through the heavy seemingly immovable rocks. Grace is not logical. How can God love us who are not perfect? And yet we long for that love. We, at times, are immovable heavy rocks not able to get out of our own way, let alone be receptive to God's love and grace. Again, studying the stream, it moves in and out of the rocks, around and over, under and eroding the rocks to make room for the stream. The stream is God's love and grace showering us whether we want it or not. The stream will envelop us. Feel the stream of God's tender mercy surrounding you today.