

Weekly Meditation, May 20, 2009
By Rev. Teri Lubbers

Longings of the Heart

Build a ship and there'll be water to float it. The tender-throated infant cries and milk drips from the mother's breast. Be thirsty for the ultimate water and then be ready for what will come pouring from the stream. Rumi

Human beings are often more inclined to the *wantings* of the heart than to the *longings* of the heart. (Although I believe that ultimately the *wantings* are the ego's attempt to satisfy the *longings*.) Appetites, obsessions, addictions and compulsions are expressions of fearful egos. You know the feeling. You may already have ten of something, but you just have to have one more. Some of us can't have just one drink; if we have one drink, we are compelled to drink ourselves into oblivion. Some of us are that way with books and learning – if I read one more book maybe then I will attain enlightenment! It is the wanting-to-have that drives us; the actual having doesn't really satisfy. Ego is not content with being at peace.

So when I talk about longings of the heart I mean something very different. Hunger for God, for ultimate purpose and meaning, for wholeness – this is a different kind of longing. It is longing at the very core of our being. And it can't be satisfied by anything outside of us. Even by ideas or beliefs of an Outside-of-Us God. It's an inside job. When Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you," he meant what he said.

So in our time of discernment, can we all pay attention to the *longings*? In Rumi's words, what is the ship we wish to build? What is the milk we are crying for? What is the ultimate water we have been thirsty for? What would it mean to be totally attached to Spirit's agenda rather than our own? What would we have to let go of? What would have to change or be created?

In this next week ask yourself some of these questions:

~For what am I longing? ~What themes keep recurring in my life? ~What excites me and gives me hope? ~What choices or changes has Spirit been nudging me to make in my life? ~What is the "boat" I want us to build at Agape (even if I don't know where the water will come from to float it)?

For at least the next three weeks we will meet at church in small discernment groups on: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Come and join us!

Prayer: God, I long for your Presence in my life. Help me to hope, to have faith, and to be open to your moving within me today. I don't want to substitute my wants for what I most long for. Please guide my path. Amen.