

Weekly Meditation by Rev. Teri Lubbers
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Abundant Life

When you walk through a forest that has not been tamed and interfered with by humans, you will see not only abundant life all around you but you will also encounter fallen trees and decaying trunks rotting leaves and decomposing matter at every step. Where ever you look you will find death as well as life. Upon close scrutiny however you will discover that the decomposing tree trunk and rotting leaves not only give birth to new life but are full of life themselves. Microorganisms are at work. Molecules are rearranging themselves. So death isn't to be found anywhere. There is only the metamorphosis of life forms. Death is not the opposite of life. Life has no opposite. The opposite of death is birth. Life is eternal. ~ Eckhart Tolle, "Stillness Speaks"

Yesterday, when I was driving home, I passed a beautiful tree that had apparently succumbed to natural forces – what kind I do not know. A huge branch had broken off – almost half of the tree – and it hung there barely attached, its leafy branches lying on the ground. I felt this sadness as I looked at it. And it made me reflect about how often things break and how sometimes I can get overwhelmed and kind of stuck in the brokenness of things, not always able to see the potential possibilities of a situation in real time. So this morning as I walked out among the trees, this quote came to mind which a friend recently sent me. It reminded me that, even in the brokenness of that tree, something of life was at work.

Abundant life... we tend to translate that word "abundant" as "prosperous," as if Jesus came to fill our bank accounts. (And there are quite a few preachers and lots of books that will try to tell you that!). But I am thinking that maybe Jesus was talking along the lines of the quote above. As if he were saying to us, "Life has no opposite...life is eternal...life is a force that never diminishes only transforms, and I'm giving it to you, right now, it's right in front of you." If we are attentive, we might find life hidden all around us, even in the parts of our lives we thought were broken, destroyed, and dead. We might just discover that the only way for something to be born in us is to let something go. Life is always rearranging us, eternally preparing us for new birth...for a way of being beyond our present imagination...

Prayer: Beloved, you are always recreating me. You are always transforming me, rearranging the stuck places in my life, so that something new might emerge. Let the dead branches fall away from me and let new life show up. Surprise me today. Amen.