

## Weekly Meditation by Rev. Teri Lubbers

### Mystery

***A sense of mystery can take us beyond disappointment and judgment to a place of expectancy...Mystery requires that we relinquish an endless search for answers and become willing to not understand. That we be open to witness. Those who witness life may eventually know far more than anyone can understand. Perhaps real wisdom lies in not seeking answers at all. Any answer we find will not be true for long. An answer is a place where we can fall asleep as life moves past us to its next question. After all these years I have begun to wonder if the secret of living well is not in having all the answers but in pursuing unanswerable questions in good company. ~Rachel Naomi Remen, MD., "My Grandfather's Blessings"***

In all my years of school from about high school on, I was one of those students who sat in the front row, and felt compelled to raise my hand to offer an answer to every question. I felt inadequate if I didn't know the answers and so tried to always have one. It was exhausting. And it was impossible. I will never know all the answers...and yet the idea of giving up the endless search for answers seems...well, it seems like giving up.

Yesterday I sat with a woman at the bedside of her dead nephew. We spent hours together and I listened to her sharing her family's story, said the rosary with her, and we talked about the closeness of God. It was all in Spanish and I understood less than half of what she said, but I discovered that it didn't matter because we had a mutual sense of presence. Presence and bearing witness are powerful gifts that we can offer one another in the face of Mystery.

I resisted the idea of mystery for a long time and thought for many years that the purpose of theology was to nail down answers about the things I couldn't see. Turns out that mystery is bigger than any answers I ever came up with. Turns out that life is more filled with mystery than with matter. Life is more precious lived in good company and the unanswerable – not just unanswered, but unanswerable questions – than spent in frenetic pursuit of temporary respite from the vastness of our truest nature. We may need to give up chasing elusive answers but we need not give up pursuing life; we can open to its pursuit of us.

**Prayer: Beloved, in the face of the unknown give me hope, give me love, and give me good company to share the journey. Amen.**