

Weekly Meditation, July 22, 2009
By Rev. Teri Lubbers

Who is it now in my ear who hears my voice? Who says words with my mouth? Who looks out with my eyes? What is the soul? I cannot stop asking. If I could taste one sip of an answer I could break out of this prison for drunks. I didn't come here of my own accord and I can't leave that way. Whoever brought me here will have to take me home.
~ **Rumi**, *The Tavern*

Rumi asks lots of questions. Meaning of life, existential kinds of questions. Not the sort we tend not to ask on a daily basis. But there are times when such questions come unbidden. For me they come usually in the context of immersion in some natural setting or in the quiet silence and solitude of meditation (hopefully someday they will come when I am immersed in ordinary things like washing the dishes, driving the car, or pulling weeds). I remember swimming once on a moonless night off an empty beach, the Milky Way reaching out to me, and dark ocean holding me up. I experienced both a sense of awe as well as just a wee bit of terror at the dark unknown, at the vast expanse above me and the depth of water below me. We are always living in the in-between of worlds, sky and earth.

I feel tiny in the big scheme of things, humbled but not insignificant. In moments (and they are often fleeting moments) of deep connection or calm I know that Spirit looks out through my eyes, and hears with my ears and that my heart keeps rhythm with the heart of God. When Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches," he was describing this reality. I am like the blossom on my hibiscus plant; it reminds me that life is short but full of beauty.

We are so hungry for meaning – for our sense of purpose - that we go looking for it everywhere, like drunks going from one tavern to another seeking a *sip of an answer*. But all the while Spirit is already here.

We didn't come here on our own and whoever brought us here will take us home...

Prayer: *God, sometimes I feel very small and hesitant but I trust that I am a part of you. My life utterly depends on you. Flow through me and let me be a channel of your love and peace into the world. Bring me home to you and to myself today. Amen.*