

Weekly Meditation, October 28, 2009
By Rev. Teri Lubbers

All The Saints

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us ... pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

~ Hebrews 12:1, Ephesians 6:18

Halloween (All Hallows Eve), All Saints Day, All Souls Day...

If you have an investigative mind and would like to embark on a scavenger hunt, any of these days will give you plenty to dig for. Their history reaches back, not only to early Christianity but to sacred days that existed prior to the church (which the organized church later claimed as its own). Today we tend to celebrate these days as a remembrance of loved ones who have died but whose love for us (and our love for them) continues.

None of us gets here alone. None of us makes it here alone. There is a long line of ancestors in our family tree who made it possible for us to sit here today. We also have a family tree of faith; we are here because of a long line of faithful ones who created space for us.

The verses above speak of *perseverance*, both in running the race before us, and also in holding one another up through Spirit. We are invited to shed all that weighs us down, to not give up on the race that is in front of us, to be alert to all that is around us, and to be an encourager of all the saints (that means you and me). Perseverance just means we never give up.

We are surrounded by a great community of witnesses – living and dead – who support us. We are connected to one another beyond time and space. We are called to create sacred space – for those here now as well as for those who are yet to come.

Prayer: *God, thank you that I am not alone. Thank you for energy to walk the path. Thank you for all that nurtures me because of those who have gone this way before. Let love, courage and kindness flow through me to make space for another today. Amen.*