

Weekly Meditation, November 18, 2009

By Rev. Teri Lubbers

The Great Homesickness

I love you, gentlest of Ways, who ripened us as we wrestled with you. You, the great homesickness we could never shake off, you, the forest that always surrounded us, you, the song we sang in every silence, you dark net threading through us. On the day you made us you created yourself, and we grew sturdy in your sunlight...Let your hand rest on the rim of Heaven now and mutely bear the darkness we bring over you.

~ Maria Rainer Rilke, "Rilke's Book of Hours: Love Poems to God"

What is it about us humans that we feel compelled to wrestle with the Divine? Like Jacob wrestling the angel, until he could obtain the blessing he sought, as if God gave it unwillingly and only because Jacob demanded it. Demanded it like three year-olds demand strategically placed candy at the grocery check-out stand; whose parent gives in because they don't want to make a scene. Is that how it is with us and God? Hmm...maybe not.

It would appear that we are often reluctant to come into our calling. Hesitant and wrestling to accept what is already true...we are born of God. And yet even in all our reluctance, even in our resistance and recalcitrance, we are continually surrounded by, immersed in and being ripened by the Divine. Unbeknownst to us the dark, invisible net of Spirit is woven into the very fabric of our being. And it catches us, holds us fast until finally we respond to the great homesickness we feel, the longing that draws us back home, calls us back to the Presence who made us and loves us. Every longing is a longing for God.

Prayer: Creating One, sing into the silent places of my life today. Help my homesickness for you draw me close so that I can feel your sunlight. And in Your Light let the dark places in me turn to light. Amen.