

## Weekly Meditation by Rev. Teri Lubbers

### There Was More

*Engaging in ancient rituals with people as ordinary as I was, I watched their faces open to reveal night skies full of stars. Who would ever have imagined they carried so much around within them? Turning aside from everything else we could have been doing, we did things together in those sacred spaces that we did nowhere else in our lives: we named babies, we buried the dead, we sang psalms, we praised God for our lives. When we did, it was as if we were building a fire together, each of us adding something to the blaze so that the light and heat in our midst grew. Yet the light exceeded our fire, just as the warmth did. We did our parts, and then there was more. There was More. ~ Barbara Brown Taylor, "An Altar in the World"*

As I prepare to move to California in less than two months, I am shifting into that place that I call "poignant." My other word for it is bittersweet. Both words describe life in general, as well as particular, reminding me that some of the most wonderfully joyful things can also bring me to tears. I will never forget the very first time I came to Agape'. I was still married and came to see a friend join the church. I remember going home and telling my husband that I had been to what I thought a church ought to be... my first inclusive language experience instead of the Father-Son boys' club I had always felt left out of, singing together "The Prayer that Jesus Taught Us" while holding hands, my first experience of a preacher inviting me to show up with all of my thinking AND feeling, so that I might become more me. All of me was welcomed in this sacred space, even the parts of me I barely knew. You and God have grown me, Agape'.

So, did you ever imagine you carry so much around within you? That each one of you adds something to the blaze that provides light and warmth for one another and for those yet to come? I hear Rev. David's weekly words to us: you haven't just been to church, you ARE the church, and if the world is to know anything of the love of God, it will leave here with you. And I hear the truth of Taylor's words...we do our parts but something More is at work in our midst.

**Prayer: Holy, Wholly, God-of-Fullness, we acknowledge that you are the More in us. You are calling us into being moment by moment. Be light and warmth in and through us this day. Amen.**