

Weekly Meditation by Rev. Teri Lubbers

God's Likeness in Your Face

The mark of Celtic spirituality that had appeared first, and been stressed by Pelagius, was that of the image of God at the heart of the human. There was the conviction...that to look into the face of a newborn child is to see the image of God. 'The lovely likeness of [God] is in thy pure face,' is a phrase in one of the invocations of blessing on a child. It was believed that by looking deeply enough into any human face, not just that of a child, we may glimpse the image of God, although often, maybe usually it is covered over by marks of...confusion.

~ J. Phillip Newell, "Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality"

As of last Friday I am officially a grandmother. I got to hold my little grandson in the first hour of his life. Holy ground that. Amazing and precious and awe-filled. All of us present got to hold him and gaze at him – we could barely wait our turn. It is true: looking into the face of a newborn is like looking into the face of God.

Looking deeply into any face will reveal the One who is at the heart of each of us. But we are more inclined to turn away than to look too deeply at one another. Whether out of shyness or respect, embarrassment or vulnerability, we are tentative about gazing too deeply at one another. So you want to see God? You can find a newborn to hold. Or instead of rushing past those you encounter today, you could take the time to look deeply at each one you meet, even if only for a moment. Don't be afraid to let others see you. Connection happens when we see and are seen. Eternity happens in the fleeting moments of our lives.

Prayer: Holy One, give me eyes to see you in every face I meet today, and help me to offer kindness in every encounter. Amen.