

## Weekly Meditation by Rev. Teri Lubbers

### Be Proud

***Be proud of who you are. This message goes beyond any single cultural or religious group and speaks to the need for all of us to embrace our differences, to be proud of what makes us unique...foster unity by raising awareness, sharing inspiring stories, and influencing people at every level of society. Our work will be done only when hate crimes are a thing of the past, when people everywhere can celebrate their differences with pride and without fear. ~Gurbaksh Chahal, Founder, BeProud Foundation***

I live in a nation where “God Bless America” is spoken by many, and where “In God We Trust” is stamped into our currency. I am blessed beyond measure and I personally trust God, but sometimes I wish we could speak such words with more humility. Because I am pretty sure that the following prayers are also offered up on a daily basis: God bless Armenia, God bless Honduras, God bless Pakistan, God bless Myanmar, God bless Zimbabwe...

God doesn't take sides based on geography, ethnicity, gender, or religious beliefs. God is on the side of love, life, justice, kindness, the brokenhearted, and “the least of these.” Humans are curious creatures...always trying to make God in our own image instead of marveling at the amazingly inclusive God of diversity in whose image all of us are made.

Be proud of who you are, of your accomplishments, of your gifts, of your uniqueness. And give thanks for the uniqueness of those around you, and those around the globe. Millennia of purposeful, creative activity have culminated in you being here, right now, in this particular moment.

**Prayer: God, thank you for the opportunity of life that this day offers, and for the blessing of your love that continues to create, in me and in the world. Amen.**