

## **A Message From Our Senior Minister...**

I invite you to join hearts with all members and friends of your spiritual community at Unity on the Bay as we extend the love of God to the people of Haiti. The pain and challenge caused by world disaster are impossible to rationalize or comprehend ~ we can only see them as invitations to look Godward, sometimes even with wondering or doubting eyes, and ask how to console, support and understand.

While there are many ways way to serve our Haitian brothers and sisters in the human family, we are reminding ourselves that the first and most important response to any life situation is always to hold the high watch through prayer. Take a quiet moment right now to still your mind and retreat from the voices of world as you speak these words from your indwelling Spirit: "God's love brings comfort to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. As a human family, we demonstrate our Divine privilege of extending healing, love and restoration to the people of Haiti. We trust in the eternal welfare of all souls who have passed on into God's care and keeping. We realize our oneness with all people everywhere, and respond with empathy, generosity and compassion. Thank you, God, for the peace that passes all understanding and for Your light that brings healing to all those affected by this event."

To further extend our spiritual support, all three Sunday celebration services (9 and 11 a.m. in English and 1:15 p.m. in Spanish) at Unity on the Bay will be dedicated to the Haitian people. We wholeheartedly encourage you and your family and friends to join us as our music, meditation and message offer comfort and hope to all who were affected by this tragedy. Additionally, we will ask that prayerful silence be maintained between all services in honor of the people of Haiti.

One-tenth of the offering received on Sunday will be donated to the American Red Cross for Haitian relief and we will announce organizations we are partnering with to provide food, clothing and other supplies.

For those of you with friends or family that have been impacted by the earthquake, Prayer Emissaries and members of our Pastoral Care Ministry will be available to support you in prayer and through spiritual counseling.

In times of darkness, I am repeatedly drawn to the words of the Ninety-First Psalm. I share them with you now in the remembrance that all difficulty is a call to Divine love: "He who dwells in the shelter of the most high, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the

pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

"For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. Because he cleaves to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation."

I look toward to seeing you and praying together for the people of Haiti this Sunday. God bless you.

In spiritual unity,

Chris