

# CELEBRATIONS

**AHSCKNYE: EVERYDAY MIRACLES**

**advent.hanukkah.solstice.christmas.kwanzaa.new year.epiphany**

**“whirlwinds of joy”**

**epiphany**

**january 2, 2011**

**8:30, 9:45 & 11:15**

**celebration leaders: howard hanger**

**the world beat band**

## GATHERING

*you are encouraged to read the meditation readings,  
and to hug, shake hands and know you are welcome here.*

**welcome to celebrating a.h.s.c.k.ny.e.**

**star dance**

nicole willis

**calling the four directions**

## OPENING

**a song to celebrate everyday miracles**

you are invited to **feed the hungry** by placing an offering in the hunger baskets on the altar.

we three kings of orient are  
bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*(chorus)* o, star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright.  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

born a king on bethlehem's plain,  
gold i bring to crown him again.  
king forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

*(chorus)*

frankincense to offer have i.  
incense owns a deity nigh.  
prayer and praising, all are raising  
worship the one most high.

*(chorus)*

myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom.  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

*(chorus)*

*(w/m: j.h.hopkins)*

**a gift of poetry**

**“the miracle of color”**

jane caris

# **ACCEPTING**

*during this time, you are invited to pray or receive communion with a jubilee! prayer partner at the western wall alcove.*

## **singing the buddhist bowl a song of assurance**

still, still, still  
one can hear the falling snow.  
for all is hushed, the world is sleeping.  
holy star, its vigil keeping.  
sill, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

dream, dream, dream  
of a joyous day to come.  
while guardian angels without number  
watch you as you sweetly slumber.  
dream, dream, dream of a joyous day to come.  
*(trad. austrian carol)*

## **a gift of dance**

“a dance of hope”  
haiti resurrection dance theater

# **LEARNING**

isaiah 60: 1-6  
*then you shall see and be radiant.*

tao te ching chapter 60 eastern translation  
*when the tao prevails in the world, even ghosts and spirits become harmless.*

matthew 2:1-12  
*when they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy.*

**reader:** this is ancient wisdom and holy word.

**people:** thanks be to all that is wise and holy.

**reader:** all creation is wisdom and holy word.

**people:** all creation sings of wisdom and god. hallelujah!

## **singing & sharing a holy peace**

you are invited to offer god's peace to another and receive it, yourself.

one love, one heart,  
let's get together and feel all right.  
as it was in the beginning (one love)  
so shall it be in the end (one heart)  
give thanks and praise to the lord  
and we will feel all right.  
let's get together and feel all right.  
*(w/m: b.marley)*

## **meditation**

- **whirlwinds of joy** -  
howard hanger

## **communing with bread and wine**

*8:30 celebration; first sunday of the month only.  
you may pray with a jubilee! prayer partner at the western wall.*

# **BLESSING**

## **offering our money**

### **dedicating our gifts to god**

sing the greatest song!  
stand on a star and blaze a trail of love  
through dark of the dawn.  
let the rivers run!  
let all the dreamers wake the nations.  
come, the new jerusalem!  
*(w/m: carly simon)*

### **a blessing for the miracle days**

let peace begin with me,  
let this be the moment now  
with every step i take,  
let this be my solemn vow.  
to take each moment and live each moment  
in peace eternally.  
let there be peace on earth  
and let it begin with me.  
*(w/m: linda ann henry)*

### **postlude**

*the western wall in the celebration area is there for your prayer requests. you may also visit the wall to read the requests and offer a prayer. please initial the paper to acknowledge that prayers have been said for that request.*

### **meditation readings**

*(collected by anne wray)*

if you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. give in to it. . . .  
sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world.  
it could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love  
begins. anyway, that's often the case. anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of  
its plenty. joy is not made to be a crumb.

❖ mary oliver, "don't hesitate," swan

happiness turns up more or less where you'd expect it to - a good marriage, a  
rewarding job, a pleasant vacation. joy, on the other hand, is as notoriously  
unpredictable as the one who bequeaths it.

❖ frederick buechner, wishful thinking

inside everyone  
is a great shout of joy  
waiting to be born.  
even with the summer  
so far off  
i feel it grown in me  
now and ready  
to arrive in the world.

❖ david whyte, the house of belonging

year by year the complexities of this spinning world grow more bewildering and  
so each year we need all the more to seek peace and comfort in the joyful.

❖ women's home companion, december 1935

i cannot believe that the inscrutable universe turns on an axis of suffering;  
surely the strange beauty of the world must somewhere rest on pure joy.

❖ louise bogan

ordinary happiness depends on happenstance. joy is that extraordinary happiness that is independent of what happens to us. good luck can make us happy, but it cannot give us lasting joy. the root of joy is gratefulness.

❖ brother david steindl-rast, gratefulness, the heart of prayer

when the moon rises in the heart of heaven  
and a light breeze touches the mirror-like surface of the lake,  
that is indeed a moment of pure joy.  
but few are they who are aware of it.

❖ taoist sage

although joy is spontaneous, she is immensely patient. she does not need to rush. she knows that there are obstacles on every path and that every moment is the perfect moment. she is not concerned with success or failure or how to make things permanent. at times joy is elusive - she seems to disappear even as we approach her. i see her standing on a ridge covered with oak trees, and suddenly the distance between us feels enormous. i am overwhelmed and wonder if the effort to reach her is worth it. yet, she waits for us. her desire to walk with us is as great as our longing to accompany her.

❖ j. ruth gendler, the book of qualities

joy is the fruit of *caritas* or love. a joyless person or culture is one starving for love, one out of touch with the real love of the universe transpiring all around.

❖ matthew fox, sins of the spirit, blessings of the flesh