

CELEBRATIONS

VIA NEGATIVA: UNWELCOME GUESTS

- greed -

october 16, 2011

9:45 & 11:15

celebration leaders: howard hanger,
matthew fox & 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 the dark side
calling of the drums & the four directions

OPENING

a song to celebrate the no road

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

(chorus) love is something if you give it away
give it away, give it away
love is something if you give it away
you end up having more

it's just like a magic penny
hold it tight & you won't have any
lend it, spend it & you'll have so many
they'll roll all over the floor, for
(chorus)

money's dandy and we like to use it;
but love is better if you don't refuse it.
It's a treasure and you'll never lose it.
Unless you lock up your door, for...
(chorus)

so let's go dancing till the break of day;
and if there's a piper, we can pay.
for love is something if you give it away
you end up having more.
(chorus)
(w/m: malvina reynolds)

a gift of prayer

"the prayer partners"
suzannah davis & andriette kinsella

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 & didgeridoo

a song of assurance

keep your heart above your head and your eyes wide open
so the world won't find a way to leave you cold.
know you're not the only ship out on the ocean.
save your strength for things that you can change,
forgive the ones you can't,
gotta let it go.
(w/m: b. caver, l. brown)

a gift of poetry

"nothing is perfect"
juditta musette

LEARNING

amos 8: 4-7
hear this, you who trample on the needy.

sura 57: 18-20
*surely for the charitable men & women and those who set apart for
allah a goodly portion, it shall be doubled.*

luke 16: 1-9, 13
you cannot serve god and wealth.

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.

reach out your hand if your cup be empty,
if your cup is full, may it be again.
let it be known there is a fountain
that was not made by the hands of man.
(w/m: r. hunter, j. garcia)

meditation

- greed -
matthew fox

BLESSING

offering our money

dedicating our gifts to god

we're coming to the edge, running on the water,
coming through the fog, your sons and daughters...
sing the greatest song!
stand on a star and blaze a trail of love
through the dark of the dawn.
let the rivers run!
let all the dreamers wake the nations.
come, the new jerusalem!
(w/m: carly simon)

benediction for the week ahead

awake, my soul! awake, my soul! awake, my soul!
you were made to meet your maker.
(w/m: mumford & sons)

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)

greed is a fat demon with a small mouth and whatever you feed it is never enough.

❖ janwillem van de wetering

a glutton is one who raids the icebox for a cure for spiritual malnutrition.

❖ frederick buechner, listening to your life

those who don't drink dawn like a cup of springwater or take in sunset like supper, those who don't want to change, let them sleep.

❖ rumi, *the illuminated rumi*, coleman barks, translator

greed is lonely and impulsive. he eats his food quickly and can't remember what it tastes like. he wants to make things stand still so he can understand, but he is always running somewhere himself. he was very cold as a child, and he still fears that he will never be warm enough. greed is a tyrannical boss. he needs a reason for everything. he used to disguise his temper with a thin layer of politeness. since he has become rich and famous, he doesn't bother with amenities. he masks his fear of women with contempt. he exports nightmares on the international commodities market, an advertising executive turned pornographer of the soul.

❖ j. ruth gendler, *the book of qualities*

the wicked choke on their greed, but the generous find happiness in the act of giving.

❖ *proverbs: the wisdom of solomon*, rabbi rami m. shapiro, translator

aquinas provided a profound analysis of greed when he pointed out that "the greed for gain knows no limit and tends to infinity." we all seek the infinite - that is part of our desire for god or spirit, part of our being here. but avarice looks for the infinite in the wrong places - it is misdirected love, the desire for objects that cannot satisfy.

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

some people, i swear,
want to love god in the same way as they love a cow.
they love it for its mild cheese and the profit
they will derive from it.
those who love god for the sake of outward riches or for
the sake of inward consolation operate on the same principle.
they are not loving god correctly;
they are merely loving their own advantage.

❖ meister Eckhart

do not consume your property amongst you in vanity, and do not
proffer it to the judges, that you may sinfully consume a portion of other
men's goods, and that knowingly.

❖ *the koran*

the same laws of nature, that does by this means give us property, does also
bound that property . . . as much as anyone can make use of to any advantage
of life before it spoils, so much he may by his labor fix a property in: whatever
is beyond this is more than his share, and belongs to others. nothing was made
by god for man to spoil or destroy.

❖ john locke