

# CELEBRATIONS

VIA NEGATIVA: Unwelcome Guests

- abandonment –

october 30, 2011

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 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.

be still, my soul. the lord is on thy side.  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
leave to thy god to order and provide;  
in every change, god faithful will remain.  
be still, my soul: thy best, thy holy friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

be still, my soul, when loved ones do depart,  
and all is darkened in a vale of tears.  
then shalt thou better know god's love and heart,  
who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.

be still, my soul, the holy can repay  
from endless fullness all that's passed away.

be still, my soul, thy god doth undertake  
to guide the future as through all the past.  
thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake.  
all now mysterious shall be home at last.  
be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know  
that god is here and love shall ever flow.

*(w: katarina von schlegel, 1752, adapted; m: jean sibelius, 1899)*

### **a gift of service**

“service team”

dale hughes

## 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**

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 song** "you are" linda go

# **LEARNING**

habakkuk 1: 1-3, 2: 1-4  
*o lord, how long shall i cry for help and you will not hear?*

sura 93: 3-11  
*your lord has not forsaken you.*

luke 17: 1-4  
*occasions for stumbling are bound to come... you must forgive.*

**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.  
*(r. hunter, j. garcia)*

**meditation**  
**- abandonment -**  
**howard hanger**

# **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)*

roll away your stone, i'll roll away mine  
together we can see what we can find  
don't leave me alone at this time,  
for i am afraid of what i will discover inside

❖ mumford and sons

that blue day came and it stayed all night  
blue morning. blue midnight.  
the city fell and then you were gone.  
what is love but a robin's song?  
ooo these days. these endless blue days.  
they're perfect in their own way.  
perfect in their own way.

❖ laurie anderson

silent friend of many distances, feel  
how your breath enlarges all of space.  
let your presence ring out like a bell  
into the night.

❖ rainer maria rilke

the first dawn waves traversing that universe where the more you  
disappear the more vividly present you become, where the slower the  
velocity the sooner the time of arrival,  
the answer is on its way.

❖ franz wright, "kindertotenwald"

earth cannot escape heaven, flee it by going up, or flee it by going down,  
heaven still invades the earth, energizes it, makes it sacred.  
all hiding places reveal god. if you want to escape god,  
s/he runs into your lap.  
for, god is at home,  
it is we who have gone out for a walk.

❖ meister eckhart

when you need me, i am there.  
even in your fears, i am there. even in your pain, i am there.  
i am there when you pray and when you do not pray.  
though your faith in me is unsure, my faith in you never wavers,  
because i know you, because i love you.  
beloved, i am there.

❖ james dillet freeman

*lo, i am with you always,*  
you promised that,  
and when i realized that it was true,  
my soul flared up.  
any unhappiness comes from forgetting  
remember, and be back close  
with the friend.  
❖ coleman barks, "rumi, the big red book"