

CELEBRATIONS

VIA NEGATIVA: unwelcome guests

- being stuck –

october 9, 2011

9:45 & 11:15

celebration leaders: howard hanger & 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.

o freedom! o freedom!

o freedom over me!

and before i'd be a slave, i'll be buried in my grave

and go home to my lord

and be free.

no more crying. no more crying

no more crying over me!

and before i'd be a slave, i'll be buried in my grave

and go home to my lord

and be free.

there's be singing....

there'll be shouting...

sun be rising...

o freedom...

(traditional african/american spiritual)

a gift of song

“from harvest into darkness”

jubilee! singers

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 learning

"nurture happenings"
vicki garlock & brandon knutson

LEARNING

exodus 32: 7-14
god's mind was changed.

sura al-'anby (the prophets) 21: 16-20
they glorify him by night and day. they are never languid.

luke 15: 1-10
there is joy with the angels over one sinner who repents.

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
- being stuck -
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)

to blossom is to pray, to wilt and shed is to pray, to turn to mulch is to pray, to stretch in the dark is to pray, to break the surface is to pray.

❖ mark nepo, "god's wounds"

one discovers that destiny can be directed, that one does not have to remain in bondage to the first wax imprint made in childhood. once the deforming mirror is smashed, there is a possibility of wholeness; there is a possibility of joy.

❖ anais nin

loosen my grip

on those grudges and grievances
i hold so closely,

that i may risk exposing myself

to the spirit of forgiving and forgiveness

that changes things and resurrects dreams and courage.

❖ ted loder, "guerrillas of grace"

but when you finally make up your mind that you have "had it" and determine that you are going to rise to a new level of consciousness, a remarkable thing happens. when you turn to god, god turns to you. suddenly, you have the whole universe on your side in your effort toward change.

❖ eric butterworth, "discover the power within you"

take the ex-musician, insurance salesman,
who sells himself a policy on his own life;
or the magician who has himself locked
in a chest and thrown into the sea,
only to discover he is caught in his own chains.

i want a passion that grows and grows.

to feel, think, act, and be defined

by your actions, thoughts, feelings.

as in the bones of a hand in an x-ray,

i want the clear white light to work
against the fuzzy blurred edges of the darkness:

even if the darkness precedes and follows

us, we have a chance, briefly, to shine.

❖ arthur sze

if you have behaved badly, repent, make what amends you can and address yourself to the task of behaving better next time. on no account brood over your wrongdoing. rolling in the muck is not the best way of getting clean.

❖ aldous huxley, "brave new world"