

CELEBRATIONS

VIA CREATIVA: COLORS OF THE WIND

color of suffering

february 6, 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 the path of creativity

calling of the drums & the four directions

OPENING

a song to celebrate colors of the wind

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

i been 'buked and i been scorned.
i been 'buked and i been scorned, children,
i been 'buked and i been scorned
trying to make this journey home.

pain all over this here world.
pain all over this here world, children,
pain all over this here world
trying to make this journey home.

struggle come and struggle go.
struggle come and struggle go, children,
struggle come and struggle go
trying to make this journey home.

love and courage what we need.
love and courage what we need, children,
love and courage what we need
trying to make this journey home.
(trad. slave spiritual, adapted)

a gift of song

"earth song" (michael jackson)
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

in the mist of the morning we open
to all of the gifts of the day.
we open our hearts to take it all in
and give it all back in our way.

let us sing of the beauty around us!
let us sing of the beauty within!
o, hear the earth tell that all shall be well.
anam cara, anam cara, soul friend.
(w/m: h.hanger)

a blessing of love (9:45)
catherine brook van der linde
&
ryan joseph naylor

LEARNING

job 7: 1-7
i am allotted months of emptiness...

sura 2: 286
burden us not with that which we have no ability to bear.

mark 1: 29-39
at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick.

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 hand of man.
(w/m: r.hunter, j.garcia)

meditation
- the color of suffering -
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 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 creative journey

may the blessings of god rest upon you,
may god's peace abide in you
may god's spirit illuminate your heart
now and forever more.
(trad. sufi blessing)

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)

it isn't the things that happen to us in our lives that cause us to suffer, it's how we relate to the things that happen to us that causes us to suffer.

❖ pema chodron

compassion literally means to feel with, to suffer with. everyone is capable of compassion, and yet everyone tends to avoid it because it's uncomfortable. and the avoidance produces psychic numbing – resistance to experiencing our pain for the world and other beings.

❖ joanna macy

every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

❖ martin luther king, jr.

i believe that pain
and prayer are somehow saved, processed, stored,
used in the divine economy.

❖ sheila cassidy, sharing the darkness

there's a tremendous sorrow for a human being who doesn't find a way to give. one of the worst of human sufferings is not to find a way to love, or a place to work and give of your heart and your being.

❖ jack kornfield, roots of buddhist psychology

the sky may turn to evening
and the sun to moon,
but we sing
of what you do not speak -
how night is sometimes noon,
how any season of the soul
can, with time, be coaxed to spring.

❖ jean burden

jesus taught that our pain is not punishment, it is no one's fault. when we seek to blame, we distract ourselves from an exquisite opportunity to pay attention, to see even in this pain a place of grace, a moment of spiritual promise and healing.

❖ wayne muller, legacy of the heart

you desire to know the art of living, my friend? it is contained in one phrase:
make use of suffering.

❖ henri-frederic amiel

joy, happiness, are what we take and do not question. they are beyond question, maybe. a matter of being. but pain forces us to think, and to make connections, to sort out what is what, to discover what has been happening to cause it. and, curiously enough, pain draws us to other human beings in a significant way, whereas joy or happiness to some extent, isolates.

❖ may sarton, recovering, a journal

this face of suffering i must embrace as a part of my responsibility. part of the feast is becoming aware of the world that is mine. part of the feast is owning this broken world as my own brokenness.

❖ macrina wiederkehr, a tree full of angels