

CELEBRATIONS

- **A**dvent **H**anukah **S**olstice **K**wanza **N**ew Year **E**piphanY -

January 6, 2008

8:30 9:45 & 11:15 – epiphany

**celebration leaders: howard hanger
the world beat band**

GATHERING

prelude & welcome to celebrating ahsckne

you are encouraged to read the meditation readings,
and to hug, shake hands and greet some images of god.

call of the drums

we call the holy one from the four directions with the burning of sweet grass and sage

OPENING

a song to celebrate the miracle of stars

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) oh, 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)

myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
weaves a life of gathering gloom.
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone cold tomb.
(chorus)

frankincense to offer have i.
incense owns a deity nigh.
prayer and praising, all hearts raising,
worship the god on high.
(chorus)
(w/m.j.h.hopkins)

a gift of dance

“constant as the stars above”
nicole & natalie willis

ACCEPTING

prayer song for the miracle of stars

(there will be someone at the western wall alcove to pray with you as you choose)

flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new.
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
christ the babe was born for you.
christ the babe was born for you.
(trad polish carol)

singing/healing bowl

(you are invited to play your own bowl and/or allow the sound of the buddhist bowls to open you and maybe hear your name called.)

a song of assurance

all, all shall be well.
all, all shall be well.
all manner of things shall be well.
all, all shall be well.
(w/m julian of norwich, h.hanger)

a gift of dance

“miracle” (d. wilcox)
suzanne lowe and three wise kids: danielle, emily & grayson

LEARNING

isaiah 60: 1-6

arise, shine, your light has come; the glory of the Lord has arisen upon you.

matthew 2: 1-2

when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy!

singing & sharing a holy peace

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

thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
when i feel afraid, think i've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.
nothing will i fear as long as you are here.
please be near me to the end.
(w/m m.smith, a. grant)

a meditation on the miracle of stars

communing with bread and wine

*(8:30 celebration; first sunday of the month only)
(you may pray with a jubilee! prayer partner at the wailing 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 night
to the darkening dawn.
let the rivers run, let all the dreamers wake the nations.
come, the new jerusalem!
(w/m carly simon)

a blessing for a journey through the holy days

may the road rise to meet you.
may the wind be always at your back.
may the sun shine warm upon your face.
may the rain fall softly on your fields.
and till we meet again, may god hold you
in the hollow of god's hand.
(trad irish blessing)

postlude

the wailing 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)

we walk up the beach under the stars. and when we are tired of walking, we lie flat on the sand under a bowl of stars. we feel stretched, expanded to take in their compass. they pour into us until we are filled with stars, up to the brim.

- anne morrow lindbergh, *gift from the sea*

when we are chafed and fretted by small cares, a look at the stars will show us the littleness of our own interests.

- maria mitchell, *life, letters, and journals*

despite our volumes of knowledge, we are still scribbling on a cave wall through flickering firelight. in my lifetime times a hundred, our species may have only begun to emerge from that cave. maybe they will understand more when they look upon the vast firmament, but hopefully not enough to spoil the awe of a bright clear night sky. there's an alchemical saying that goes "*the wise will be led by the heavenly stars.*" they're certainly more consistent than human philosophies, and far more comforting. the dogon, an african tribe of mali, base their ceremonial dances on the orbit of sirius' companion star, and the pyramids were built under the glisten of orion. castor and pollux, divine twins, constellate over latitudes fraught with bitterness between brothers. chinese magpies bring the parted lovers altai and vega together once a year. the stars are the foundations of our yore, and possibly will be behind the future of human achievement. . . .

- jay joslin, *rainbow over crossroads*

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

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

- john henry hopkins, jr., "we three kings of orient are"

the sun descending in the west,
the evening star does shine;
the birds are silent in their nest,
and i must seek for mine.

- william blake, "night"

so when at times the mob is swayed
to carry praise or blame too far,
we may take something like a star
to stay our minds on and be staid.

- robert frost, from "take something like a star"

night comes, an angel stands
measuring out the time of stars,
still are the winds, and still the hours.

- kathleen raine, from "nocturn"

o god, the stars are shining;
all eyes have closed in sleep;
the kings have locked their doors.
each lover is alone, in secret, with the one he loves.
and i am here too: alone, hidden from all of them---
with you.

- rabia

i was far from city lights under a sky of crystalline clarity. the earth was tented with stars, stars so numerous they appeared as a continuous fabric of light. the milky way flowed like a luminous river from north to south, banked with dark shoals, eddied in glittering pools. our sister galaxy in the constellation andromeda was visible to the naked eye, a blur of light from a trillion faraway stars. meteors flared like fireflies. such skies never fail to excite the imagination. certain constellations--orion or ursa major--are perhaps the oldest surviving invention of the human mind. the depth and beauty of the night inspired religious and philosophical speculation.

- chey raymo, *the virgin and the mousetrap*

we shall find peace.
we shall hear the angels.
we shall see the sky sparkling
with diamonds.

- anton chekhov

a hard time we had of it
at the end we preferred to travel all night,
sleeping in snatches,
with the voices singing in our ears, saying
that this was all folly.

- t.s. eliot, from "journey of the magi"

there came such clear opening of the night sky,
the deep glass of wonders, the dark mind
in unclouded gaze of the abyss
opened like the expression of a face.
i looked into that clarity where all things are
end and beginning, and saw
my destiny there: so, i said, no other
was possible ever. this is i.
the pattern stands so for ever.

- kathleen raine, from "night sky"