

CELEBRATIONS

via creativa

- brighid's way -

february 24, 2008

9:45 & 11:15

celebration leaders: howard hanger
the world beat band

GATHERING

prelude & welcome to celebrating brighid's way

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 grace & chutzpah

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

climb every mountain! search high and low.
follow every by way, every path you know.

climb every mountain, ford every stream,
follow every rainbow till you find your dream.

a dream that will need all the love you can give
every day of your life for as long as you live.

climb every mountain, ford every stream,
follow every rainbow till you find your dream.
(w/m: r.rodgers, o. hammerstein, from "sound of music")

a gift of song

"amazing grace, amazing love"
jubilee! singers

ACCEPTING

prayer for grace & chutzpah

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

amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
i once was lost, but now am found.
'twas blind, but now i see.

'twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved.
how precious did that grace appear
the hour i first believed.

through many dangers, toils and snares
i have already come.
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.
(word: j. newton; music: trad. amer. melody)

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

brigid of the mantle, encompass us.
lady of the lambs, protect us.
keeper of the hearth, kindle us,
restore us to whom we're made to be.
("prayer to brigid" by caitlin matthews, adapted. music, h.hanger)

a gift of story

"my journey to cercino"
nancy kukla

LEARNING

psalm 139: 7-12

where can i go from your spirit? where can i flee from your presence?

mark 2: 1-12

they removed the roof above him... your sins are forgiven.

singing & sharing a holy peace

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

be thou my vision, o love of my heart.
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
thou, my best thought by day or by night.
waking or sleeping, thy presence, my light.

be thou my wisdom and thou my true guide.
i ever with thee and thou by my side.
thou, in the earth, in moon and in sun,
thou in me dwelling and i with thee one.
(trad. irish, adapted)

a meditation on grace & chutzpah

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

tis the gift to be childlike, tis the gift to be kind,
tis the gift to live from heart as well as mind.
tis the gift to be playful, to laugh and sing
and our life is rich with these gifts we bring.

when true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
to turn, turn, twill be our delight,
till by turning, turning, we come round right.
(trad. shaker hymn, adapted)

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)

my god, give me courage now - this moment to persevere in following your call.

- mother teresa, *come be my light*, brian kolodiejchuk, edited

it's in everyone of us to be wise
find your heart, open up both your eyes
we can all know everything
without ever knowing why
it's in every one of us by and by.

- john denver

life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.

- anais nin

there's only one catch. like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.

- frederick buechner, *wishful thinking*

don't care what they say, 'cause i know where to find my way,
it won't be the way they said to go.
but i'm not like they say, i just want to find my way,
i'm goin the way i've got to go.

- catterpin doozer, *it's not easy being green*, jim henson, the muppets and friends

creativity takes trust - courage to explore one's deepest self and to let in the depths of the world's struggles and joys, torments and agony.

.. being and creating go together. both take a large heart. creativity stands up to temptations to guilt for disturbing the peace. many in a culture do not want to hear about innovation and new direction that creativity unleashes. creativity takes courage.

- matthew fox, *creativity*

a society that domesticates its rebels has gained its peace. but it has lost its future.

- anthony de mello, *the song of the bird*

but the deity does not dawdle in the comfort zone! if one yearns to see the face of the divine, one must break out of the aquarium, escape the fish farm, to go swim up wild cataracts, dive in deep fjords. one must explore the labyrinth of the reef, the shadows of lily pads. how limiting, how insulting to think of God as a benevolent warden, an absentee hatchery manager who imprisons us in the "comfort" of artificial pools, where intermediaries sprinkle our restrictive waters with sanitized flakes of processed nutriment.

- tom robbins, *skinny legs and all*

lose this day loitering----twill be the same story.
to-morrow----and the next more dilatory;
each indecision brings its own delays,
and days are lost lamenting o'er lost days.
are you in earnest? seize this very minute----
boldness has genius, power and magic in it.
only engage, and then the mind grows heated----
begin it, and then the work will be completed!

- johann wolfgang von goethe

. . . we can live any way we want. people take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience -
even of silence - by choice. the thing is to stalk your calling in a certain skilled and
supple way, to locate the most tender and live spot and plug into the pulse. this is
yielding, not fighting. a weasel doesn't "attack" anything; a weasel lives as he's meant
to, yielding at every moment to the perfect freedom of single necessity.

- annie dillard

you do not have to be bashful with god
as some people are,
in the belief that they are being humble.
it would not be humility on your part
if your sovereign were to do you a favor,
and you refused to accept it.

- teresa of avila, let *nothing disturb you*, john kirvan, editor

what saves a man is to take a step. then another step. it is always the same step, but you
have to take it.

- antoine de saint exupery