

CELEBRATIONS

via positiva: one love

stupid choices

august 17, 2008

9:45 & 11:15

celebration leaders: howard hanger

the world beat band

GATHERING

prelude & welcome to celebrating one love

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 one love

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

just like a blind man, i wandered along.
worries and fears i claimed for my own.
then like the blind man god gave back his sight,
praise the lord! i saw the light!

(chorus) i saw the light! i saw the light!
no more darkness, no more night.
now i'm so happy, no sorrows in sight.
praise the lord! i saw the light!

i was a fool to wander and stray.
straight is the gate and narrow the way.
now i have traded the wrong for the right.
praise the lord! i saw the light!
(chorus)

i look for distractions, chase after thrills.
jobs and relationships nip at my heels.
but lying out under the stars in the night,
praise the lord! i just might see the light!
(chorus)

(w/m: hank williams, adapted)

a gift of song

"i am the creator"

serpentine

ACCEPTING

a prayer for stupid choices

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

precious lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand.
i am tired. i am weak. i am worn.
through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light.
take my hand, precious lord, lead me on.

when the way grows drear,
precious lord, linger near.
when my life is almost gone.
hear my cry! hear my call!
hold my hand lest i fall.
take my hand, precious lord, lead me home.
(w: t.a. dorsey; m:g.m.allen)

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

siya hamba kuk hanayen kwen kos
siya hamba kuk hanayen kwen kos
(2x)
siya hamba, siya hamba,
siya hamba kuk hanayen kwen kos
(2x)
we are walking in the light of god...
(trad. zulu song)

a gift of song

“gracias a la vida”
marisol tomas

LEARNING

joshua 24: 1-2, 14-15
choose this day whom you will serve.

john 6: 60-65
it is the spirit that gives life.

singing & sharing a holy peace

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

shalom chavarim, shalom chavarim
shalom! Shalom!
lehitraot, lehitraot,
shalom, shalom!
(trad jewish greeting and farewell)

meditation on stupid choices

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

imagine no possessions, i wonder if you can,
no need for greed or hunger, nor folks with empty hands.
imagine all the people sharing all the world
you may say i'm a dreamer,
but i'm not the only one.
i hope someday you'll join us
and the world shall live as one.
(w/m - j. lennon)

a one love blessing

sayin' one love! what about the one heart? one heart!
let's get together and feel all right.
as it was in the beginning: one love,
so shall it be in the end, one heart,
give thanks and praise to the lord and I will feel all right,
singin' let's get together and feel all right.
(w/m - b. marley)

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)

make the right mistake.

- yogi berra

don't feel sorry for yourself if you have taken the wrong road -
turn around.

- anonymous

success is the ability to go from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.

- winston churchill

there is only one success - to be able to spend your life in your own way.

- christopher morley

because everything we do and everything we are is in jeopardy, and because the peril is immediate and unremitting, every person is the right person to act and every moment is the right moment to begin.

- jonathan schell

we often think of failure in a negative light. but if you adopt the right attitude, you can make failure a constant and loyal friend, the one thing you can count on in a shifting, fickle world. if you can learn to experience the bitter taste of defeat at the very moment, you commit yourself to a new project, what more can go wrong?

- andrew boyd, daily afflictions

that is why it can be said that whatever occurs can be regarded as the path and that all things, not just some things, are workable. this teaching is a fearless proclamation of what's possible for ordinary people like you and me.

- pema chodron, when things fall apart

despite this discussion of things spiritual---i still think of myself as a very "human" being. i have the full complement of weaknesses, fears, problems, ego, and sensuality. but i think this is why we're here---to work our way through all this, and, hopefully, come out a bit wiser and better for having gone through it all.

- jim henson

you can hold back from the suffering of the world, you have free permission to do so, and it is in accordance with your nature, but perhaps this very holding back is the one suffering you could have avoided.

- franz kafka

a willingness to notice and forgive the myriad times

i fall short,

forgetting who i really am,

what i really belong to.

so i can start over.

fresh and clean

like sweet sheets billowing in the summer sun,

my heart pierced with gratitude.

- belleruth naparstek, prayers for healing, maggie oman, editor

we go beyond the veil of fear,

lighting each other's way.

the holiness that leads us

is within us, as is our home.

- a course in miracles

let our scars fall away in love.

- galway kinnell

having free will means being able to choose anew. nothing is permanently fixed. through making new choices, the past can be healed and pain and suffering can be released from our lives.

even when we cannot choose our outer conditions, we can still choose how we will respond to them. this is the ultimate freedom. by choosing to see every situation as contributing to our highest good, we can transform even the most difficult circumstances into blessings.

- douglas bloch, i am with you always

o love, o pure deep love, be here be now

be all; worlds dissolve into your stainless endless radiance,

frail living leaves burn with you brighter than cold stars:

make me your servant, your breath, your core.

- rumi

you mean i am not an automaton

subject

to his most thoughtless whim? you mean

all this isn't his dream?

she mixed tears with a little dirt, and

applied it to her eyes,

suddenly she was seeing.

and then she was not going back there

tomorrow, so

nothing could stop her.

- franz wright, "the miracle," *the beforelife*