

CELEBRATIONS

via negativa: sorrow songs

“motherless child”

october 11, 2009

9:45 & 11:15

celebration leaders: howard hanger

the world beat band

GATHERING

prelude & welcome to celebrating the road of darkness...

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 negative road

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

though below me i feel no motion
standing on these mountains and plains
far away from the rolling ocean
still my dry land heart can say
i've been sailing all my life now
never harbor nor port have i known
the wide universe is the ocean i travel
and the earth is my blue boat home

sun, my sail and moon, my rudder
as i ply the starry sea
leaning over the edge in wonder
casting questions into the deep
drifting here with my ship's companions
all we kindred pilgrim souls
making our way by the lights of the heavens
in our beautiful blue boat home

i give thanks to the waves upholding me
hail the great winds urging me on
greet the infinite sea before me
sing the sky my sailor's song
i was born upon the fathoms
never harbor or port have i known
the wide universe is the ocean i travel
and the earth is my blue boat home
the wide universe is the ocean i travel
and the earth is my blue boat home.

(w/m: peter mayer)

a gift of song

“hear my prayer”

jubilee! singers

ACCEPTING

(during this prayer time, you are invited to pray with a jubilee! prayer partner at the western wall alcove.)

sometimes i feel like a motherless child (3x)
a long way from home... a long way from home.

sometimes i feel like i'm almost gone. (3x)
a long way from home... a long way from home.
(trad. slave sorrow song)

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

a gift of dance

barrie barton

LEARNING

amos 8: 4-7

hear this, you who trample on the needy...

luke 16: 19-31

between you and us a great chasm has been fixed.

singing & sharing a holy peace

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

shalom chaverim, shalom chaverim
shalom, shalom
l'hit-rah-oat, l'hit-rah-oat
shalom, shalom.
(trad jewish blessing)

meditation on motherless child - sorrow songs

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)

a blessing for the dark road

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 a kindly loving hand.
(trad. irish blessing, adapted)

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)

the world today is hungry not only for bread but hungry for love;
hungry to be wanted, to be loved.

☐ mother teresa

god's peace
prompts service among brothers and sisters.
in that way one creature sustains another.
one enriches the other,
and that is why
all creatures are interdependent.

☐ meister eckhart

love is our true destiny.
we do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone---
we find it with another.

☐ thomas merton

giving brings us into communion with everyone. it is one way for us to
understand that there is truly enough of everything for everybody.

☐ bell hooks, all about love

our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our
circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of
nature in its beauty.

☐ albert einstein

the unity that binds us together, that makes this earth a family
and all men brothers and sons of god, is love.

☐ thomas wolfe

is not one of the problems of religious life today that we have separated
ourselves from the poor and the wounded and the suffering? we have
too much time to discuss and to theorize, and we have lost the yearning
for god which comes when we are faced with the sufferings of people.

☐ jean vanier

joy was in fact the most characteristic result of all jesus' activity
amongst the poor and the oppressed.

☐ albert nolan

