

# CELEBRATIONS

via negativa: sorrow songs

“ezekiel saw the wheel”

october 18, 2009

9:45 & 11:15

celebration leaders: howard hanger  
the world beat band with ed entmacher

## 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.

when i was a boy, each week  
on Sunday, we would go to church  
and pay attention to the priest  
he would read the holy word  
and consecrate the holy bread  
and everyone would kneel and bow  
today the only difference is  
everything is holy now - everything, everything -  
everything is holy now

when i was in sunday school  
we would learn about the time  
moses split the sea in two  
jesus made the water wine  
and i remember feeling sad  
that miracles don't happen still  
but now i can't keep track  
'cause everything's a miracle - everything, everything  
everything's a miracle

wine from water is not so small  
but an even better magic trick  
is that anything is here at all  
so the challenging thing becomes  
not to look for miracles  
but finding where there isn't one

this morning, outside i stood  
and saw a little red-winged bird  
shining like a burning bush  
singing like a scripture verse  
it made me want to bow my head

i remember when church let out  
how things have changed since then  
everything is holy now  
it used to be a world half-there  
heaven's second rate hand-me-down  
but I walk it with a reverent air  
'cause everything is holy now.  
*(w/m: peter mayer)*

**a gift of song**  
"i'll make believe"  
jim taylor

## **ACCEPTING**

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

ezeziel saw the wheel;  
way up in the middle of the air.  
now ezeziel saw the wheel in a wheel;  
way in the middle of the air.

and the big wheel run by faith  
and the little wheel run by the grace of god.  
a wheel in a wheel in a wheel  
way in the middle of the air.  
*(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 giving**

distribution of seed money  
to keep people warm this winter

## **LEARNING**

habakkuk 1: 1-3, 2: 1-4  
*the righteous live by their faith.*

luke 17: 1-10  
*if you had faith the size of a mustard seed...*

### **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 sorrow songs**

ezekiel saw the wheel

## **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 kind and 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)*

if a man wishes to be sure of the road he treads on,  
he must close his eyes and walk in the dark.

□ st. john of the cross

keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable.  
. . .and, consider, always, every day, the determination  
of the grass to grow despite the unending obstacles.

□ mary oliver, "evidence"

faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a  
possession. it is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. faith is not  
being sure where you're going but going anyway. a journey without maps.  
tillich said that doubt isn't the opposite of faith, it is an element of faith.

□ frederick buechner, wishful thinking

wayfarer,  
you are welcome to cut a radiant tress  
that lays upon my shoulders.  
wrap it around your trembling heart and body  
that craves divine comfort and warmth.  
i am like a pitcher of milk  
in the hands of a mother who loves you.

□ hafiz

faith is a path of heart that enables us to perceive the mysterious meaning of life, to confront and overcome obstacles, live with doubt and paradox, and to be at home in a world where the ground of being is always present.

□ frederic and mary ann brussat

faith is nothing other than a proper understanding of our being, with true belief and certain trust, that we are in god.

□ julian of norwich

lord, i believe, help my unbelief. my faith may be the size of a mustard seed but even so, even aside from its potential, it brings with it a beginning of love, an inkling of love, so intense that human love with all its heights and depths pales in comparison.

□ dorothy day, the flowering of the soul, lucinda vardey, editor

faith consists in believing when it is beyond the power of reason to believe. it is not enough that a thing be possible for it to be believed.

□ voltaire

and more

discloses itself to us —

a well among green hazels,

a nut thicket —

when we are worn out searching

for something quite different.

and more

comes to us, carried

as carefully

as a bright cup of water,

as new bread.

□ moya cannon