

CELEBRATIONS

via negativa: sorrow songs

“wade in the water”

october 4, 2009

blessing of the animals

8:30, 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.

(chorus) wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
god's gonna trouble the water.

who's that yonder dressed in red?
god's gonna trouble the water.
must be the children that moses led.
god's gonna trouble the water.
(chorus)

jordan river is chilly and cold.
god's gonna trouble the water.
chills the body, but not the soul.
god's gonna trouble the water.
(chorus)

if you get there before I do,
god's gonna trouble the water.
tell all my friends I'm coming too.
god's gonna trouble the water.
(chorus)
(trad. slave sorrow song)

a gift of video

“little pearls”

marlisa mills, linda mclean

ACCEPTING

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

rhythmic prayer

river guegarian

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 blessing for carol pimental (madame concierge)

blessing of the animals

LEARNING

psalm 148

praise the lord from the earth.

matthew 6: 25-34

consider the lilies...

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 wade in the water - 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 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)

no one lives outside the walls of this sacred place, existence.
the holy water, i need it upon my eyes: it is you, dear, you,---each form.
 st. francis of assisi, daniel ladinsky, translator

god resides in every human form and in every particle of the creation.
 gandhi

soaked and muddy, the dog drops,
panting, and looks up with what amounts
to a grin. it's so good to be uphill with him . . .
 jane kenyon

the real miracle of sea life in relation to great pressure is not the animal that
lives its whole life on the bottom, bearing a pressure of perhaps five or six tons,
but those that regularly move up and down through hundreds or thousands of
feet of vertical change.
 rachel carson

direct encounter with animals, meeting them eye to eye on their own ground,
evokes a sudden wonder and respect. their vivid life brings us alive to the
source that creates and sustains all beings.
 elizabeth roberts, earth prayers

every creature is full of god
and is a book about god.
 meister eckhart

oh, man! admire and model thyself after the whale! do thou, too, remain warm
among ice. do thou, too, live in this world without being of it. be cool at the
equator; keep thy blood fluid at the pole. like the great dome of st. peter's, and
like the great whale, retain, o man! in all seasons a temperature of thine own.
 herman melville

if there is such happiness
among the creatures,
why do our hearts not also rejoice?
 song of dzitnbalche, earth prayers

she knows
she is a part of the pond she lives in,
the tall trees are her children,
the birds that swim above her
and tied to her by an unbreakable string.
 mary oliver, from "the turtle," new and selected poems

the great heron reminds me that storying is a kind of root medicine, a way for us to enter our depths and derive nourishment from the fruitful darkness. for her life to succeed, this big mother heron needs her old pine tree and her dark inland water. she needs continuity, heights, and depths for her life to be complete. it is this way with tellings, with stories, with myths, with prayer, prophecy, and song. they call forth the firmness of the tree and the yielding of deep water in moments of transmitted inspiration.

□ joan halifax, the fruitful darkness

pray that we will see their faces again in the mirror of creation,
the miracle of animals, their clear eyes
meaning more than profit to our own!

□ jean pearson

“i am caterpillar: the leaves i eat taste bitter now. but dimly i sense a great change coming. what i offer you, humans, is my willingness to dissolve and transform. i do that without knowing what the end result will be, so i share with you my courage too.”

□ joanna macy

water is both ground and air for its creatures, with powerful resistances of its own. water is the solidity that keeps its inhabitants stable, and the permeability that lets them breathe. the water is always in motion----streams, currents, eddies, tides. a creature who lives in water is also in motion, with it or against it.

□ margot lasher