

CELEBRATIONS

via negativa: sorrow songs

“there is a balm in gilead”

november 15, 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.

(chorus) there is a balm in gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

sometimes i feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain;
but then, the holy spirit
revives my soul again.
(chorus)

with all the times i've faltered
and failed to live in love,
may i, each day, remember
the wisdom to forgive.
(chorus)

if you can't feed all the hungry
or bring peace to the earth,
go out and share some kindness
and love for all you're worth.
(chorus)
(trad. sorrow song, adapted)

a gift of poetry & visuals

“reflections on nature”

poetry: georgeanne spruce

visuals: sandy swanson

ACCEPTING

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

prayers in rumi poetry

peter rogen

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 song

“from where you come”

jimmy landry

LEARNING

exodus 34: 5-9

although this is a stiff-necked people, pardon our iniquity...

luke 19: 1-10

he has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.

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

“there is a balm in gilead”

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)

out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field.
i'll meet you there

□ rumi

look down on yourself like a noble eagle in the sky. see how foolish you are,
and forgive yourself. you are only human.

□ lynn andrews, star woman

those who forgive are releasing themselves from illusions, while those who
withhold forgiveness are binding themselves. . . . fear condemns and love
forgives. . . . for this reason, forgiveness can truly be called salvation.

□ a course in miracles

forgiveness is not to do away with the problem of evil but to admit its existence
and by including it to have an opportunity of transforming it.

□ elizabeth boyden howes, quoted in healing words, caren goldman

lord make me an instrument of your peace.

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

o divine master, grant that i may not

so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love,

for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

□ saint francis of assisi

what sweet release it is to let go of the burden of a nettlesome grievance or a
long-lived grudge. forgiveness is an invitation to start over again. and
receiving forgiveness from someone we have wronged is equally uplifting.

□ frederic and mary ann brussat, spiritual literacy

unless it extends the circle of its compassion to all living things, humanity will
not itself find peace.

□ michael nagler

the holy spirit, then,

through one's fervent longings,

pours the juice of contrition

into the hardened human heart.

□ hildegard of bingen

i come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. i come into the presence of still water.
and i feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. for a time
i rest in the grace of the world, and am free.
□ wendell berry, "the peace of wild things," selected poems