

CELEBRATIONS

via negativa: sorrow songs
“standing in the need of prayer”
november 1, 2009 – all saints day
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) it's me, it's me, it's me, oh Lord
standing in the need of prayer
it's me, it's me, it's me, oh Lord
standing in the need of prayer

not my brother, not my sister, but it's me oh Lord
standing in the need of prayer
not my brother, not my sister, but it's me oh Lord
standing in the need of prayer
(chorus)

not the preacher, not the teacher, but it's me oh Lord
standing in the need of prayer
not the preacher, not the sinner, but it's me oh Lord
standing in the need of prayer
(chorus)

not my mother, not my father, but it's me oh Lord
standing in the need of prayer
not my mother, not my father, but it's me oh Lord
standing in the need of prayer
(chorus)

a gift of song
“i will not be broken”
robin cape

ACCEPTING

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

prayer in poetry and dance
anne wray & martha adams

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 poetry

“all saints come passing”
jay joslin

LEARNING

genesis 32: 22-32

i will not let you go unless you bless me.

luke 18: 1-8

i will grant her justice so she will not wear me out.

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

“standing in the need of prayer”

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)

prayer only looks like an act of language . . . it is a position, a placement of oneself. focus. get there, and all that's left to say is the words.

□ patricia hampl

he had lifted up his arms and spoken in ecstasy to the somber nave of the trees, knowing that he stood on holy ground and in a holy hour.

□ james joyce, a portrait of the artist as a young man

prayer is not asking. it is a longing of the soul.
it is daily admission of one's weakness. . .
and so, it is better in prayer to have a heart
without words than words without a heart.

□ gandhi

more things are wrought by prayer
than this world dreams of.

□ alfred tennyson

it is in the silence of the heart that god speaks

□ mother teresa

prayer is consciously and attentively giving and receiving love and grace.
prayer guides us to live actively by divine inspiration. prayer is the anchor of
connectedness with all that matters, and a means to eternal existence.

□ lucinda vardey, the flowering of the soul

prayer is the pilgrim's walking stick.

□ marianne williamson

prayer drives the hungry soul up to the fullness of god.

□ mechtild of magdeburg

"if prayer is not for asking, what is it *for*?" i pushed him.

"it isn't 'for' anything," he said thoughtfully. "it mainly reminds me i am not alone."

larry dossey, healing words

as often as you can, take a trip out to the fields to pray.
all the grasses will join you. they will enter your prayers
and give you strength to sing praises to god.

□ rabbi nachman of breslov

it doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

□ mary oliver, praying