

CELEBRATIONS

via negativa: sorrow songs

“swing low, sweet chariot”

november 22, 2009

thanksgiving sunday

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 gratitude

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

(chorus) jubilee! isn't this a jubilee?

jubilee! isn't this a jubilee!?

we are singing out together making noise and revelry.

jubilee! lord! isn't this a jubilee?

look around at all the friends here,

yeah, we've surely got a bunch.

if you find yourself a new one,

hit the laughing seed for lunch.

now it's time for celebration – won't-cha sing along with me?

jubilee! isn't this a jubilee?

(chorus)

getting ready for thanksgiving

folks will gather everyplace

thank the lord for all the bounty

and the understanding grace.

but i bet the lord would tell us, “don't give all your thanks to me.

thank the people in your life and have yourself a jubilee!”

(chorus)

when the celebrating's done here

go on out to meet the day.

whether or not you have a good one,

keep a-smiling on the way.

keep a working on the main thing, helping humanity-y-y.

jubilee! isn't this a jubilee!?

(chorus)

(m: b. staines, w: rick ott - led by rick ott)

a gift of song

“gratitude changes everything”

jubilee! singers

ACCEPTING

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

swing low, sweet chariot
coming for to carry me home.
swing low, sweet chariot
coming for to carry me home.

i'm sometimes up and sometimes down,
coming for to carry me home...
but still my soul feels heavenly bound...
coming for to carry me home.
(trad 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 song

"the reach"
daniel barber

LEARNING

1 chronicles 29: 10-13
blessed are you, o lord...

luke 20: 27-38
god is lord not of the dead, but of the living. to god, all are alive.

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

"swing low, sweet chariot"

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)

and what do i risk to tell you this, which is all i know?
love yourself. then forget it. then, love the world.
 mary oliver, evidence

with sharpened sword
clearcut the path
to the lucent surprise
of enlightenment
at every crossroad
be prepared to bump into wonder
 james broughton

what you call "salvation" belongs to the time before death.
if you make love with the divine now, in the next life
you will have the face of satisfied desire.
 kabir

what we need
is here. and we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye
clear. what we need is here.
 wendell berry

these are the days of miracle and wonder . . .
 paul simon, "the boy in the bubble"

living and dying is not the big issue.
the big issue is what you're going to do with your time while you are here.
 bill t. jones

he who perceives me everywhere,
and beholds everything in me,
never loses sight of me nor do i ever lose sight of him.
 krishna

the world is not my home,
i'm just a passin' through
 tom waits

if you have one hour of air and many hours to go, you must breath slowly.
if you have one arm's length and many things to care for,
you must give freely.
if you have one chance to know god and many doubts,
you must set your heart of fire.
we are blessed.
each day is a chance. we have two arms.
fear wastes air.
□ mark nepo, "freefall"

when here and now cease to matter.
old men ought to be explorers
here or there does not matter
we must be still and still moving
into another intensity
for a further union, a deeper communion
through the dark cold and the empty desolation,
the wave cry, the wind cry, the vast waters
of the petrel and the porpoise. in my end is my beginning.
□ t.s. eliot, four quartets