

# CELEBRATIONS

AHSCKNYE: OUTSIDE THE BOX

OUTSIDE THE SECURITY BOX

december 20, 2009

9:45 & 11:15

celebration leaders: howard hanger

the world beat band

## GATHERING

**prelude & welcome to celebrating the holy days...**

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 christmas**

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

angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains.  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.  
gloria in excelsis deo!  
gloria in excelsis deo!

shepherds, why this jubilee?  
why your joyous strains prolong?  
what the gladsome tidings be  
which inspires your heavenly song?  
gloria in excelsis deo!  
gloria in excelsis deo!

come to bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing.  
come adore on bended knee.  
christ the lord, the newborn king.  
gloria in excelsis deo!  
gloria in excelsis deo!

see him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise.  
mary, joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise.  
gloria in excelsis deo!  
gloria in excelsis deo!  
*(trad. french carol)*

### **a gift of song**

“gloria”  
jubilee! singers

# **ACCEPTING**

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

angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air.  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.  
*(w: c. rosetti, m: g. holst)*

## **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**

how silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given.  
so god imparts to every heart  
the gifts of earth and heaven.  
no ear may hear it's coming,  
but on good mother earth  
to all who seek both love and joy  
will come a glad new birth.  
*(w: p. brooks, m: l. render, adapted)*

### **the baptism of chloe marie hutchman (9:45)**

born to  
doug & jessica hutchman

### **a gift of drama**

“the christmas story”  
jubilee! teens

# **LEARNING**

psalm 89: 1-4

*i have made a covenant with my chosen one.*

luke 1: 39-47

*blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*

### **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**

“outside the security box”

### **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 holy days**

we wish you a cheerful hanukah!  
we wish you a merry christmas!  
glad solstice, joyful kwanza!  
and a happy new year!  
good tidings we bring to both far and near  
good tidings for the holy days and a happy new year!

### **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)*

whoever you are: step out of doors tonight,  
out of the room that lets you feel secure.  
infinity is open to your sight.

□ dana gioia , interrogations at noon

but the deity does not dawdle in the comfort zone! if one yearns to see the face of the divine, one must break out of the aquarium, escape the fish farm, to go swim up wild cataracts, dive in deep fjords. one must explore the labyrinth of the reef, the shadows of lily pads. how limiting, how insulting to think of god as a benevolent warden, an absentee hatchery manager who imprisons us in the "comfort" of artificial pools, where intermediaries sprinkle our restrictive waters with sanitized flakes of processed nutriment.

□ tom robbins, skinny legs and all

god does not proclaim himself.

he is everybody's secret.

□ katha upanishad

he is the truth.

seek him in the kingdom of anxiety;

you will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

□ w.h. auden

a warrior accepts that we can never know what will happen to us next. we can try to control the uncontrollable by looking for security and predictability, always hoping to comfortable and safe. but the truth is that we can never avoid uncertainty. this not knowing is part of the adventure.

□ pema chodron, comfortable with uncertainty

think of mary of nazareth, called from her girlhood dreams to travel the road of  
a lonely destiny, to be the mother of jesus; think of how she shrank back  
trembling from the call and from the sword that was to pierce her heart, until at  
last she bowed her head, and said, "behold, the handmaid of the lord."

□ james stewart

this is the irrational season  
when love blooms bright and wild  
had mary been filled with reason  
there'd been no room for the child.

□ madeleine l'engle