

# CELEBRATIONS

A.H.S.C.K.N.Y.E: OUTSIDE THE BOX

OUTSIDE THE ISOLATION BOX

december 27, 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 living outside the box**

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

let there be peace on earth  
and let it begin with me.  
let there be peace on earth,  
a peace that was meant to be  
with god as our maker, family all are we.  
let us walk with our family  
in perfect harmony.

let peace begin with me;  
let this be the moment now.  
with every breath i take, let this be my joyful vow:  
to take each moment and live each moment  
in peace eternally.  
let there be peace on earth  
and let it begin with me.  
*(sy miller & bill jackson)*

**gift of song**

"turning to you"  
daniel barber

## ACCEPTING

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

in love there is no east or west,  
in love, no north and south;  
but one great fellowship of life  
throughout the whole wise earth.

in love shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
compassion is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.  
*(m: a. reinagle, w: w. dunkerly, adapted)*

### **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 savannah georgia lepisto**

born on  
november 23, 2009  
to parents  
gillian & charlie lepisto  
grandparents  
catherine & jon riley

## **LEARNING**

isaiah 45: 22-25  
*in the lord, all the offspring of israel shall triumph and glory.*

luke 2: 25-40  
*mine eyes have seen your salvation.*

### **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 isolation 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 dark road**

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)*

i am a part of parcel of the whole, and i cannot find god apart from the rest of humanity.

□ mahatma gandhi

strong hands to weak, old hands to young,  
around the christmas board, touch hands.

□ william henry harrison murray

we are beginning to reach out, to touch the flesh of other planets, the flesh that the universe is. this is part of our creation story today---that we all participate in the same flesh, all derive from the same origin, and that all flesh is connected.

□ matthew fox, sins of the spirit, blessings of the flesh

he who sees that the lord of all is ever the same in all that is,  
immortal in the field of mortality . . . he sees the truth.

□ bhagavad gita

it goes on one at a time,  
it starts when you care  
to act, it starts when you do  
it again after they said no,  
it starts when you say we  
and know who you mean, and each  
day you mean one more.

□ marge piercy, the moon is always female

those who have gone before us are still with us.. . . past generations still count  
and must be taken into account. in other words, we're all in this together.  
all of us.

□ mitch finley, whispers of love

our lives are touched by those who lived centuries ago, and we hope that our lives will mean something to people who won't be alive until centuries from now. it's a great "chain of being," someone once told me, and i think our job is to do the best we can to hold up our small segment of the chain.

□ dorothy day

the whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another and all involved in one another.

□ thomas merton

nothing can be itself without being in communion with everything else, nor can anything truly be the other without first acquiring a capacity for interior presence to itself.

□ thomas berry

no one has within themselves

all the pieces to their puzzle.

like before the days when they used to seal  
jigsaw puzzles in cellophane. insuring that  
all the pieces were there.

everyone carries with them at least one and probably  
many pieces to someone's else's puzzle.

sometimes they know it. sometimes they don't.

and when you present your piece which is worthless to you,  
to another, whether you know it or not,  
whether they know it or not,

you are a messenger from the most high.

□ lawrence kushner, honey from the rock