

# CELEBRATIONS

AHSCKNYE: OUTSIDE THE BOX  
OUTSIDE THE TIME AND SPACE BOX

second sunday of advent

december 6, 2009

8:30, 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 advent-ure**

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

though below me, i feel no motion  
standing on these mountains and plains  
far away from the rolling ocean  
still my dry land heart can say  
i've been sailing all my life now  
never harbor or port have i known  
the wide universe is the ocean i travel  
and the earth is my blue boat home

sun, my sail and moon, my rudder  
as i ply the starry sea  
leaning over the edge in wonder  
casting questions into the deep  
drifting here with my ship's companions  
all we kindred pilgrim souls  
making our way by the lights of the heavens  
in our beautiful blue boat home

i give thanks to the waves upholding me  
hail the great winds urging me on  
greet the infinite sea before me  
sing the sky my sailor's song  
i was born upon the fathoms  
never harbor or port have i known  
the wide universe is the ocean i travel  
and the earth is my blue boat home.

*(m: prichard, w: p.mayer)*

**a blessing of new members**

marlisa mills

# **ACCEPTING**

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

ubi caritas, et amor  
ubi caritas, deus ibi est.

where love and caring are, there is god.  
where love and caring are, there is god.  
*(taize community 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**

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 its 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)*

### **a gift of poetry**

“amen”  
brook van der linde

# **LEARNING**

psalm 85  
*faithfulness will spring up from the ground.*

mark 1: 1-8  
*he will baptize you with the holy spirit.*

### **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 time and space 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)*

love is most nearly itself  
when here and now cease to matter.  
□ t.s. eliot, four quartets

thus shall ye think of all this fleeting world:  
a star at dawn, a bubble in a stream;  
a flash of lightning in a summer cloud,  
a flickering lamp, a phantom, and a dream.  
□ the buddha

where you are going and the place you stay  
come to the same thing.  
what you long for and what you've left behind  
are as useless as your name.  
just one time, walk out into the field and look  
at that towering oak --  
an acorn still beating at its heart.  
□ peter levitt

for lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years, shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth, its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.  
□ edmund h. sears, "it came upon a midnight clear"

the advent message is that one homeless night long ago, in a place called  
bethlehem, god wrapped humanity's broken songs and shattered chords with  
the music of the spheres.  
□ leonard sweet

i circle around god, around the primordial tower.  
i've been circling for thousands of years  
and i still don't know: am i a falcon,  
a storm, or a great song  
□ ranier maria rilke

. . . we must become that moment, make ourselves a sensitive recording  
plate . . . give the image of what we actually see, forgetting everything that has  
been seen before our time.  
□ paul cezanne

to see a world in a grain of sand,  
and a heaven in a wild flower,  
hold infinity in the palm of your hand,  
and eternity in an hour.

□ william blake

let all go - the  
big small middling  
tall bigger really  
the biggest and all  
things - let all go  
dear  
so comes love

□ e. e. cummings

i whirled through transfigurations up and down,  
transfigurations of size and shape and place:  
at one sudden point came still,  
stood in wonder:  
moss, beggar, weed, tick, pine, self, magnificent  
with being!

□ a.r. ammons

something has happened  
to my understanding of existence  
that now makes my heart always full of wonder  
and kindness.

□ hafiz