

# CELEBRATIONS

**via transformative: what if...**

**...fear and joy are part of it?**

**april 12, 2009 (easter sunday)**

**8:30, 9:45 & 11:15**

**celebration leaders: howard hanger**

**the world beat band**

## GATHERING

**prelude & welcome to celebrating what if...**

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 transformation**

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

spring has now unwrapped the flowers, day is fast reviving.  
life in all her growing powers toward the light is striving.  
all the world with beauty fills, gold, the green enhancing.  
flowers make way among the hills and set the meadows dancing.

through each wonder of fair days, holiness expresses.  
beauty follows holy ways as the world, it blesses.  
so as life renews the earth, artist without rival,  
in the grace of glad new birth, we must seek revival!

earth puts on her dress of glee; flowers and grasses hide her.  
we go forth in charity – family all beside her.  
for as we, this glory see in the wakening season,  
reason learns the heart's decrees, hearts are led by reason.

with the blooms and blossoms now is jesus resurrected,  
all with him and nature now create the unexpected.  
so, with all the earth below and heavens all above,  
we celebrate that even death has no control of love.  
*(w: 13<sup>th</sup> century author unknown, adapted; m: trad 13<sup>th</sup> cent swedish carol)*

**a gift of song**

“hallelujah!” (from g.f. handel, “messiah”)  
jubilee! singers

## ACCEPTING

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

i'm free! praise the lord, i'm free!  
no longer bound, no more chains holding me.  
my soul is resting. it's just another blessing.  
praise the lord! hallelujah! i'm free!

## **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**

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 light of the heavens  
in our beautiful blue boat home.  
*(m: r.p. wetzler, w: p. mayer)*

### **a gift of prose**

"fearsome"  
laura collins

## **LEARNING**

psalm 150

*let everything that breathes praise the lord!*

matthew 28: 1-10

*they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy.*

### **singing & sharing a holy peace**

*(you are invited to offer god's peace to another and receive it, yourself)*

thy word is lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path. *(2x)*  
when i feel afraid and think i've lost my way,  
still, you're there right beside me.  
nothing will i fear as long as you are here.  
please be near me to the end.  
thy word is lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path. *(2x)*  
*(w/m: a. grant)*

### **meditation on**

**"what if...fear and joy are part of it?"**

### **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 of possibility**

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 the hollow of a hand.

## **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)*

god's joy moves from unmarked box to unmarked box,  
from cell to cell, as rainwater, down into flowerbed.  
As roses, up from ground.

□ rumi

anxiety and fear are what we know best in this fantastic century of ours. . .  
but the proclamation of easter day is that all is well. and as a christian, i say  
this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all  
was not well but as one who has faced the cross in all its obscenity as well as in  
all its glory, who has known

one way or another what it is like to live separated from god. in the end, his  
will, not ours is done. love is the victor. death is not the end. the end is life.

□ frederick buechner, listening to your life

sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can  
be the source of your joy.

□ thich nhat hanh

only love can quiet the fear  
of love, and only love can save  
from diminishment the love  
that we must lose to have.

□ wendell berry, selected poems

fear will only drive you toward madness. instead, with focused courage, and  
faith in faith alone, you must turn around your shuddering will to face the  
depths, and dive.

□ andrew boyd, daily afflictions

the unendurable is the beginning of the curve of joy.

□ djuna barnes, nightwood

two dragons guard fear's mansion. one is ceramic and chinese. the other is  
real. if you make it past the dragons and speak to him close up, it is amazing to  
see how fragile he is. he will try to tell you stories. be aware. he is a master of  
disguises and illusions. fear almost convinced me that he was a puppeteer and  
i was the marionette

□ j. ruth gendler, the book of qualities

they are something else now  
from what they were before this began.

□ mary oliver, thirst

the gloom of the world is but a shadow. behind it, yet within its reach, is joy.  
there is radiance and glory in the darkness could we but see, and to see  
we have only to look. i beseech you to look.

□ fra giovanni

