

# CELEBRATIONS

**via transformative: what if...  
what we seek is closer than we think?**

**april 26, 2009**

**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.

when i was a boy, each week, on sunday, we would go to church  
and pay attention to the priest. he would read the holy word  
and consecrate the holy bread, and everyone would kneel and bow  
today the only difference is everything is holy now  
everything, everything  
everything is holy now.

when i was in sunday school, we would learn about the time  
moses split the sea in two. jesus made the water wine;  
and i remember feeling sad that miracles don't happen still;  
but now i can't keep track 'cause everything's a miracle  
everything, everything  
everything's a miracle.

when holy water was rare at best, it barely wet my fingertips  
but now i have to hold my breath like i'm swimming in a sea of it.  
it used to be a world half there - heaven's second rate hand-me-down;  
but i walk it with a reverent air, cause everything is holy now  
everything, everything  
everything is holy now.

this morning, outside i stood and saw a little red-winged bird  
shining like a burning bush - singing like a scripture verse.  
it made me want to bow my head. i remember when church let out,  
how things have changed since then, everything is holy now  
everything, everything  
everything is holy now.

*(w/m: p.mayer)*

### **a gift of poetry**

**"the loon that couldn't dive"**  
donna glee williams

# **ACCEPTING**

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

be still, my soul. the lord is on thy side.  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
leave to thy god to order and provide.  
in every change, god faithful will remain.  
be still, my soul, thy best, thy heavenly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.  
*(w: k von schlegel; m: j. sibelius)*

## **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**

i give thanks to the waves upholding me,  
hail the great winds urging me on,  
greet the infinite sky before me,  
sing the sky my sailor's song.  
i was born upon the fathoms  
never harbor nor port have i known.  
wide universe is the ocean i travel  
and the earth is my blue boat home.  
*(m: r.p. wetzler, w: p. mayer)*

**a gift of blessing**  
**jubilee's newest members**  
graduates of pathways, spring, '09

### **the baptism of (9:45)**

#### **aleah maria rowe**

born on  
april 25, 2006  
to  
dede and michael rowe

# **LEARNING**

psalm 16  
*you show me the path of life.*

luke 24: 13-35  
then their eyes were opened...

### **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 what we seek is closer than we think?"**

**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)*

all creation is gifted with the ecstasy of god's light.

□ hildegard of bingen

ten years' searching in the deep forest  
today great laughter at the edge of the lake.

□ soen

when you really look for me, you will see me instantly----  
you will find me in the tiniest house of time.

kabir says: student, tell me, what is god?

he is the breath inside the breath.

□ kabir

knock on the sky  
and listen to the sound!

□ zen saying

... there is everywhere the luminous sprawl of gifts,  
the hospitality of the lord and my  
inadequate answers as i row my beautiful, temporary body  
through this water-lily world.

□ mary oliver, from "six recognitions of the lord"

even if our efforts of attention seem for years to be producing no result, one day  
a light that is in exact proportion to them will flood the soul.

□ simone weil

god is in me or else is not at all.

□ wallace stevens

today, walking alone,

i meet him everywhere i step.

he is the same as me, and yet i am not him.

only if you understand it in this way

will you merge with the way things are.

□ tung-shan

stars burn, grass grows, men breathe: as a man finding treasure

says "ah!" but the treasure's the essence:

before the man spoke it was there, and after he has spoken he

gathers it, inexhaustible treasure.

□ robinson jeffers