

# CELEBRATIONS

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

**...it's all a song and dance?**

**mother's day**

**may 10, 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.

you put your right hand in,  
your put your right hand out,  
you put your right hand in and you shake it all about.  
you do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around  
that's what it's all about.

you put your left hand in...  
you put your right foot in...  
you put your left foot on...  
you put your head in...  
your put your whole self in...

*(origin uncertain.)*

*(hokey pokey> hocus pocus> hoc est einim corpus meum)*

**a gift of song**

julie rust

## ACCEPTING

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

lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring  
ring with the glorious sounds of liberty.  
let our rejoicing rise high as the lifting skies.  
let it resound with the rolling sea.  
sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
let us sing on till victory is won.

*(w: j.w.johnson, m: j.r.johnson)*

## **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 sea 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 dance**

barrie barton

## **LEARNING**

psalm 33:1-11

*sing to god a new song.*

john 14:8-12

*whoever has seen me has seen the holy one.*

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

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

thy word is a 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...it's all a song and dance?”**

### **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)*

earth sprouts and blooms, the grandmothers  
keep following the creation  
that opens before them  
as they sing.

□ linda hogan, from "the grandmother songs"

listen with inward ear to the music of her wisdom, teaching all creation.  
with inward eye visualize her brilliant name, flowing across your heart in letters  
of molten gold.

□ ramprasad

he is sweet that way,  
trying to coax the world to dance.

□ rabia, love poems from god, daniel ladinsky

the earth looked at him and began to dance.  
mira knows why, for her soul too is in love.

□ mira

(we are all artists) what prevents the painter from twirling like a dervish or the  
poet from leaping like a stag? only forgetfulness; forgetfulness of how it felt to  
tumble, spin, dive, and soar as a child, when dance was natural.

□ eric maisel, affirmation for artists

"i won't take no for an answer," god began to say to me  
when he opened his arms each night wanting us to dance.

□ st. catherine of siena

when you move any parts of your body to music, you open pathways in your  
heart that help you to express all kinds of emotions---joy, pleasure, anger,  
rage, sadness, happiness. this helps you discover things about yourself that you  
might not have known before. when that happens, your self-image changes,  
and ultimately you experience more of life and what it means to be alive."

□ caren goldman, healing words

we should consider every day lost in which we have not danced at least once.

□ friedrich nietzsche

it's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance.

□ amanda mcbroom, "the rose"

on with the dance! let joy be unconfined.

□ lord byron

perhaps love is an instrument we play for all we're worth in an orchestra yet to  
be convened.

□ mark nepo, the book of awakening

there's a song in the air! there's a star in the sky!  
there's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!  
□ j.g. holland, "there's a song in the air"

place is sacred ground, for it can become a place of encounter with the divine presence.

□ brother david steindl-rast, *a listening heart*

not only was the wind the source of life and breath, but it bestowed on humans (as in the biblical genesis) the power of thought. at first all the tribes wandered aimlessly though the underworld incapable of making plans, until they encountered wind in the form of a human. "i will see for you," wind first told man, first woman, talking god, and calling god. "i know about what is in this earth and what is on it. i am wind!"

□ jan deblieu, *wind*

awake awhile.

it does not have to be forever.

right now.

one step upon the sky's soft skirt

would be enough.

□ hafiz, *i heard god laughing*, daniel ladinsky, translator

when the crowded refugee boats met with storms or pirates, if everyone panicked, all would be lost. but if even one person on the boat remained calm and centered, it was enough. they showed the way for everyone to survive.

□ thich nhat hanh

and so he was, at least in the moments immediately before a show, wildly hopeful, even when there was absolutely no reason to be.

□ daniel wallace

tip us off balance.

etch in our souls the absolute truth

that we are all

pilgrims      sojourners      tourists.

□ frederick ohler, *better than nice and other unconventional prayers*

we can sense the ever-changing waves around us,  
and breathe and relax.

we can rest in the eternal present, the still point.

we can learn that no matter what happens,

we are home.

□ donald c. babcock

so if you really want to help this world, what you will have to teach is how to live in it. and that no one can do who has not themselves learned how to live in the joyful sorrow and sorrowful pain of the knowledge of life as it is.

□ joseph campbell