

# CELEBRATIONS

via transformative: what if...  
...praise and glory hooks us up?

may 24, 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.

the thunder and lightning gave voice to the night,  
the little lame child cried aloud in her fright,  
hush little baby, a story I'll tell,  
of a love that has conquered the powers of hell.

*(chorus)* alleluia, the great storm is over,  
lift up your wings and fly!  
alleluia, the great storm is over,  
lift up your wings and fly!

sweetness in the air and justice on the wind  
laughter in the house where the mourners have been  
the deaf shall have music, the blind have new eyes  
the standards of death taken down by surprise.

*(chorus)*

release for the captives, an end to the wars,  
new streams in the desert, new hope for the poor,  
the little lame children will dance as they sing,  
and play with the bears and the lions in spring.

*(chorus)*

*(w/m: b. franke)*

### **a gift of song**

"american tune" (p. simon)  
jim taylor

## ACCEPTING

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

hallelujah! hallelujah!  
*(from "messiah," g.f. handel)*

## **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)*

### **gift of music, poetry & dance**

anne wray and the world beat band

### **baptism of**

### **willaree friend everett (11:15)**

born on  
may 24, 2008  
to  
rob & angi everett

## **LEARNING**

psalm 47

*sing praises to god! sing praises!*

john 17: 1-5

*glorify me... with the glory that I had in your presence  
before the world existed.*

### **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...praise and glory hooks us up?”**

### **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)*

fully to enjoy is to glorify.  
in commanding us to glorify him, god is inviting us to enjoy him.  
 c.s. lewis

keep my moments and my days  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
 frances ridley havergal

glory is what god looks like when for the time being all you have to look at him  
with is a pair of eyes.  
 frederick buechner

sing, my tongue; sing, my hand;  
sing, my feet, my knee, my loins, my whole body.  
indeed i am his choir.  
 st. thomas aquinas, *love poems from god*, daniel ladinsky, editor

let us all resolve: first to attain the grace of silence: second to deem all fault-  
finding that does no good a sin . . . third to practice the grace and virtue of  
praise.  
 harriet beecher stowe

let us praise and bless the lord, all creatures,  
and give him thanks  
 st. francis of assisi

not vain, just wanting to share a good thing. i think it pisses god off if you walk  
by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it.  
 alice walker

the practice of giving praise teaches us the virtue of humility we need to employ  
to be in partnership with god. it also enables us to deepen our faith in learning  
the ways of the divine.  
 lucinda vardey

don't go on about the tree unqualified,  
standing in light that shines  
to time's end beyond its summoning  
name. don't praise the speechless starlight just stop.  
□ wendell berry

god be glorified!  
o my lord,  
if i worship you from fear of hell, burn me in hell.  
if i worship you  
from hope of paradise, bar me from its gates.  
but if i worship you  
for yourself alone, grant me then the beauty of your face.  
□ rabeah of basra