

CELEBRATIONS

via transformative: what if...
...we are embedded in the infinite?

may 3, 2009

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.

(chorus) today while the blossoms still cling to the vine,
i'll taste your strawberries, i'll drink your sweet wine.
a million tomorrows shall all pass away
ere i forget all the joy that is mine today.

i'll be a dandy and i'll be a rover,
you'll know who i am by the song that i sing.
i'll feast at your table; i'll sleep in your clover;
who cares what tomorrow may bring?

(chorus)

i can't be contented with yesterday's glories,
i can't live on promises winter to spring.
for now is my moment, today is my story.
i'll laugh and i'll cry and i'll sing!

(chorus)

(w/m: randy sparks)

a gift of poetry

"what if i am not what i think?"
majo

ACCEPTING

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

"from a distance"
jubilee! singers

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 thank 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 gratitude

"the fortunate life"
robert paton

LEARNING

psalm 23

i shall dwell in the house of the lord my whole life long.

john 10: 1-10

i came that they may have life abundantly.

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 ...we are embedded in the infinite?"

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)

your arms and god's are intertwined.
and my lord responded, "how old do you think is existence?"
for eons of time, souls have been entering me. . .
□ st. teresa of avila

what looked like the end of the road was, in fact, merely a shift to the left or to
the right or a dip or a gradual rise.
□ paul harding, tinkers

all that matters is to be at one with the living god
to be a creature in the house of the god of life.
□ d. h. lawrence

he who kisses the joy as it flies
lives in eternity's sun rise.
□ william blake

above us, stars. beneath us, constellations.
five billion miles away, a galaxy dies
like a snowflake falling on water.
□ ted kooser

truly, i am in a sacred cosmic womb, a place where everything is born, and it is
my sweet luck to behold its living core.
□ yann martel, life of pi

what you call "salvation" belongs to the time before death. if you make love
with the divine now, in the next life you will have the face of satisfied desire.
□ kabir

one instant is eternity;
eternity is the now.
when you see through this one instant,
you see through the one who sees.
□ wu-men

in his will is our peace: it is the sea
into which all currents and all streams
empty themselves, for all eternity.
□ dante

we've always been here and we'll always be here. we are a specific arrangement
of particles and this instant is infinite. did we luck out, or didn't we? the odds
against this sentence having ever being typed, much less the odds against you
reading it were inconceivable. smile, because the fact that you're able to is
almost impossible to comprehend.
□ jeffrey rowland

