

# CELEBRATIONS

via creativa: symphony of creation  
composing and decomposing  
january 17, 2010  
9:45 & 11:15  
celebration leaders: howard hanger  
the world beat band

## GATHERING

**prelude, call of the drums & welcome to celebrating the  
symphony of creation...**

you are encouraged to read the meditation readings,  
and to hug, shake hands and greet some images of the infinite.

## OPENING

**a song to celebrate the creative path**

you are invited to **feed the hungry** by placing an offering in the hunger baskets on the altar.  
we call the four directions with incense

*(chorus)* to everything (turn, turn, turn)  
there is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
and a time to every purpose under heaven.

a time to be born, a time to die.  
a time to plant, a time to reap,  
a time to kill, a time to heal,  
a time to laugh, a time to weep.  
*(chorus)*

a time to build up, a time to break down,  
a time to dance, a time to mourn,  
a time to cast away stones,  
a time to gather stones together.  
*(chorus)*

a time of love, a time of hate,  
a time of war, a time of peace,  
a time when you may embrace,  
a time to refrain from embracing.  
*(chorus)*

a time to gain, a time to lose,  
a time to rend, a time to sew,  
a time for love, a time for hate,  
a time for peace, i swear it's not too late.  
*(chorus)*

*(w: adapted from ecclesiastes, m: pete seeger)*

**gift of song**

"gloria!"  
jubilee! singers

# **ACCEPTING**

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

## **singing the buddhist bowl**

*(you are invited to play your own bowl and/or allow the sound of the buddhist bowls  
to open you to the symphony of creation)*

### **a song of assurance**

blessed are you who hunger.  
blessed are you who thirst.  
blessed are you who mourn  
and feel no power on this earth.  
blessed are you who are poor in spirit  
and don't know what to do,  
o, child of god, blessed are you!  
*(w: adapted from the beatitudes; m: h.hanger)*

# **LEARNING**

jonah 3: 1-5

*god changed his/her mind*

tao te ching - chapter 2

*because he does not claim credit, his credit is never lost.*

mark 1: 14-20

*repent.*

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

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

reach out your hand if your cup be empty.  
if your cup is full, may it be again.  
let it be known: there is a fountain  
that was not made by the hand of men.  
*(w/m: j. garcia, r. hunter)*

## **meditation on the symphony of creation**

*"composing and decomposing"*

howard hanger

## **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 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 for the creative life**

morning has broken like the first morning.  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
praise for the singing! praise for the morning!  
praise for them springing fresh from the word!

*(w: eleanor farjean, m: trad scottish)*

## **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)*

The Tao Te Ching - The poetic mysticism of the Tao Te Ching has been translated in more languages than any other Chinese text. Its 81 chapters describe everything from ultimate reality to the way a person can become a sage and rule a nation. Although the concepts of Tao and Ying and Yang were developed around 1000 B.C.E., the text did not surface until 500 B.C.E.. Lao Tzu, an older contemporary of Confucius, is widely accepted as the author of the Tao Te Ching. However, historical scholars doubt that this man who went to the mountains to seek wisdom actually existed. One theory says that the Tao Te Ching is a compilation of writings from several Taoist. Regardless of the debate as to how we have this ancient scripture; it opens us up to an old way of understanding our place in the natural world. The Tao Te Ching reminds us to keep the main thing the main thing; and knowing that you can never speak or touch the main thing is the Way of the main thing

she wants me to refold myself  
into my own life . . .

□ mary oliver, from "moon and water"

we are not nearly as lost as we thought we were, that all the time we thought we were dead inside, beautiful things were being born in us.

□ joyce rupp, praying our goodbyes

in earth, in blood, in mind,  
the dead and living  
into each other pass

□ wendell berry, the wheel

i order the wild creatures,  
i order all creeping and crawling things  
over and under the earth.

in doing, the illumination of a good conscience  
is like the light of the earthly sun.

if they do not see me in that light,  
how can they see me in the dark of their hearts?

□ hildegard of bingen

o lord, i swept my door-step, now you sprinkle the water.

□ omm mohammad

everything is pretending to be born and pretending to die . . .  
the fragrant rose and the stinking garbage are two sides of the same existence.  
without one, the other cannot be. everything is in transformation.

□ thich nhat hanh

over time, with moisture and heat, this decaying pile of unwanted organic matter becomes sweet-smelling, fertile, crumbly compost. and so it is with the discarded parts of ourselves that we have swept under the carpet. under the watchful eye of the self-observer, all that we have rejected, denied, and hidden, is exactly what can nurture our growth.

□ anne scott, serving fire

now i understand:

to blossom is to pray, to wilt and shed is to pray, to turn to mulch is to pray,  
to stretch in the dark is to pray, to break the surface  
after great months of ice is to pray, and to squeeze love  
up the stalky center toward the sky with only dreams of color is to pray,  
and finally to unfold again as if never before is to be the prayer.

□ mark nepo, "god's wounds"

you are the stream, the fish, the light, the pulsing shadow,  
you the unchanging presence, in whom all moves and changes.  
how can i focus my flickering, perceive at the fountain's heart  
the sapphire i know is there?

□ denise levertov, the flowering of the soul, lucinda vardey, editor