

# CELEBRATIONS

AHSCKNYE: OUTSIDE THE BOX

OUTSIDE THE MAP BOX

january 4, 2010

epiphany

8:30, 9:45 & 11:15

celebration leaders: howard hanger

the world beat band

## GATHERING

**prelude & welcome to celebrating the holy days...**

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

**call of the dance**

“star song”

nicole & natalie willis

## OPENING

**a song to celebrate living outside the box**

you are invited to **feed the hungry** by placing an offering in the hunger baskets on the altar.

we three kings of orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*(chorus)* o, star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright.  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

born a king on bethlehem's plain.  
gold, i bring to crown him again.  
king forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

*(chorus)*

frankincense to offer have i,  
incense owns a deity nigh.  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshipping god on high.

*(chorus)*

myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,  
sealed in the stone cold tomb.

*(chorus)*

glorious now, behold him arise;  
king and god and sacrifice.  
alleluia! alleluia!  
sounds through the earth and skies.

*(chorus)*

*(w/m: j.h. hopkins, 1857)*

**a gift of song**  
“it’s a wonderful moment”  
lorna merry

## **ACCEPTING**

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

what light is this that shines so bright  
that leads us through this magic night?  
what dazzling brilliance high above  
that guides us now to love?

this, this is mystery:  
ancient wisdom, wild and free.  
dance, dance through this wondrous night  
led by the shimmer of love.  
*(m: greensleeves, w: h.h.)*

### **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**

how silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given.  
so god imparts to every heart  
the gifts of earth and heaven.  
no ear may hear it’s coming,  
but on good mother earth  
to all who seek both love and joy  
will come a glad new birth.  
*(w: p. brooks, m: l. render, adapted)*

### **a gift of song**

“simple gifts”  
earl hefley & howard hanger

## **LEARNING**

### **isaiah 60: 1-6**

*arise, shine, for your light has come; and the glory of the lord is risen on you.*

### **matthew 2: 1-12**

*when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*

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

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

shalom chaverim, shalom chaverim  
shalom, shalom  
l’hit-rah-oat, l’hit-rah-oat  
shalom, shalom.  
*(trad jewish blessing)*

### **meditation**

“outside the isolation box”

**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 for the dark road**

we wish you a cheerful hanukah!  
we wish you a merry christmas!  
glad solstice, joyful kwanza!  
and a happy new year!  
good tidings we bring to both far and near  
good tidings for the holy days and a happy new year!

### **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)*

bounded and bounded,  
a pattern among the stars, a point in motion  
tracing my way. i am my way: it is i  
i travel among the wonders.

□ kathleen raine

it is good to have an end to journey toward;  
but it is the journey that matters, in the end.

□ ursula k. leguin

go - not knowing where. bring - not knowing what,  
the path is long, the way unknown.

□ russian fairy tale

the map is not the territory.

□ alfred korzbyski

do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the men of old;  
seek what they sought.

□ basho

when we are chafed and fretted by small cares, a look at the stars will show us  
the littleness of our own interests.

□ maria mitchell, life, letters, and journals

crucial to finding the way is this: there is no beginning or end.  
you must make your own map.

□ joy harjo

here or there does not matter  
we must be still and still moving  
into another intensity  
for a further union, a deeper communion  
through the dark cold and the empty desolation,  
the wave cry, the wind cry, the vast waters  
of the petrel and the porpoise.  
in my end is my beginning.  
□ t. s. eliot

surely, you too have longed for this -  
to pour yourself out  
on the rising circles of the air  
to ride, unthinking,  
on the flesh of emptiness.  
□ lynn ungar, from "hawks"

don't forget love;  
it will bring all the madness you need  
to unfurl yourself across the universe.  
□ mira, love poems from god, daniel ladinsky, editor