

# CELEBRATIONS

**via creativa: symphony of creation  
a whole new world  
february 14, 2010 – valentine's day  
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)* inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow.  
gonna mulch it deep and low, gonna make it fertile ground.  
inch by inch, row by row, somethin' bless these seeds i sow.  
try to keep them safe below 'till the rain comes tumbling down.

pullin' weeds and pickin' stones.  
we are made of dreams and bones.  
need a place to call my own  
'cause the time is close at hand.  
grain for grain, sun and rain,  
find my way in nature's chain  
till my body and my brain  
sings the music of the land.  
*(chorus)*

plant your rows straight and long;  
season with a prayer and song.  
mother earth will make you strong  
if you give her loving care.  
old crow watching from a tree  
got his hungry eye on me.  
in my garden i'm as free  
as that feathered thief up there.  
*(chorus)*

slug by slug, weed by weed  
boy this garden's got me teed.  
all the insects come to feed  
on my tomato plants.  
sunburt face, skinned up knees,  
kitchen's chocked with zucchinis.  
i'm shopping at the a&p  
next time i get the chance  
*(chorus)*  
*(w/m: david mallet)*

**a gift of song**  
“a new world”  
jubilee! kids choir

## **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)*

#### **a gift of poetry & song**

“i want to give you space”  
majo & paula hanke

## **LEARNING**

isaiah 43: 18-25

*i am about to do a new thing. now it springs forth. do you not perceive it?*

tao te ching – Chapter 28

*you are... content to be a model of the world.*

mark 2: 1-12

*we have never seen anything like this.*

**reader: this is ancient wisdom and holy word.**

**people: thanks be to all that is wise and holy.**

**reader: all creation is wisdom and holy word.**

**people: all creation sings of wisdom and god. hallelujah!**

#### **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**

“a whole new world”  
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 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 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)*

we have only begun  
to love the earth.  
□ denise levertov

universe is always seeking a new domain of emergence.  
□ brian swimme

when the old self dies  
a new world is born.  
what was stale  
is renewed by wonder.  
the surprise bursts out of nothingness.  
the young earth  
is ruled by the unexpected.  
things will never be the same again.  
□ sam keen, beginnings without end

let all go - the  
big small middling  
tall bigger really  
the biggest and all  
things - let all go  
dear  
so comes love  
□ e. e. cummings

using the same old materials of earth, air, fire, and water, every twenty-four hours god creates something new out of them. if you think you're seeing the same show all over again seven times a week, you're crazy. every morning you wake up to something that in all eternity never was before and never will be again. and the you that wakes up was never the same before and will never be the same again either.  
□ frederick buechner, wishful thinking

. . . i was in love with the whole world and all that lived in its rainy arms.  
sometimes i'd look out on my yard and the green leaves would be glowing. i'd  
see the oil slick on the wing of a grackle. i'd hear the wind rushing, rolling, like  
the far-off sound of waterfalls. then i'd open my mouth wide, my ears wide, my  
heart, and i'd let everything inside.

□ louise erdrich, love medicine

love consists in this,  
that two solitudes protect and border and salute each other.

□ rainer maria rilke, letters to a young poet

o my love, where are they, where are they going?  
the flash of a hand, streak of movement, rustle of pebbles.  
i ask not out of sorrow, but in wonder.

□ czeslaw milosz

i restore lost love.  
act now! special offer!  
you lie on last year's grass  
bathed in sunlight to the chin  
while winds of summers past  
caress your hair and seem  
to lead you in a dance.  
for further details, write: "dream."

□ wislawa szymborska

in truth, the more we let love flow through, the more we have to love. this is  
the inner glow that sages and saints of all ages seem to share: the wash of their  
love over everything before them; not just people, but birds and rocks and  
flowers and air.

□ mark nepo, the book of awakening