

# CELEBRATIONS

VIA TRANSFORMATIVA: LEGACY

legacy of infinite joy

may 29, 2011

9:45 & 11:15

celebration leaders: howard hanger

the world beat band

## GATHERING

*you are encouraged to read the meditation readings,  
and to hug, shake hands and know you are welcome here.*

**welcome to celebrating the path of transformation**

**calling of the drums & the four directions**

## OPENING

**a song to celebrate the legacy of transformation**

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

joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
god of glory, lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day!

all thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.

thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
thou, our father and our mother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
love divine is flowing through us,  
binding all within its span.  
ever singing, dance we onward,  
fervent in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward,  
in the triumph song of life.  
*(w: h. van dyke, m: l. van beethoven)*

**a gift of song**  
christina vonthronsohnhaus

## **ACCEPTING**

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

### **singing the buddhist bowl**

#### **a song of assurance**

ubi caritas, et amor,  
ubi caritas, deus ibi est.  
where love and caring are, there is god,  
where love and caring are, there is god.  
(w/m: taize brothers)

(9:45)

### **the baptism of gracelyn lavender mulkey**

born on  
september 7, 2010  
in asheville, north carolina  
to  
bruce ross mulkey & shonnie lyn lavender  
a gift of song by billy jonas

## **LEARNING**

psalm 98

*let the floods clap their hands and the hills sing for joy.*

sura adh-dhariyat (the winnowing winds) 51: 15-21  
*they will be in... gardens and springs, taking joy in the things which allah gives them.*

john 15: 9-17

*i have said these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy complete.*

**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.  
thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
when i feel afraid, 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 a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path.  
(w/m: a. grant)

### **meditation**

- **the legacy of infinite joy** -  
howard hanger

# **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)*

### **benediction for the transforming journey**

i would like to hold my little hand  
and we will run, we will. we will crawl, we will.  
i would like to hold my little hand  
and we will run, we will. we will crawl, we will.  
send me on my way – on my way  
send me on my – on my way  
send me on my way-ay-ay-ay.  
*(w/m: rusted root)*

### **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 greatest of god's angels is joy.  
she leans over us and gives us the secret of eternity,  
which is love.

❖ norman lee

ordinary happiness depends on happenstance. joy is that extraordinary happiness that is independent of what happens to us. good luck can make us happy, but it cannot give us lasting joy. the root of joy is gratefulness. we tend to misunderstand the link between joy and gratefulness. . . . we hold the key to lasting happiness in our own hands. for it is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful.

❖ brother david steindl-rast, gratefulness, the heart of prayer

once we recognize what it is we are feeling, once we recognize we can feel deeply, love deeply, can feel joy, then we will demand that all parts of our lives produce that kind of joy.

❖ audre lorde

listen. there is secret joy,  
sweet dreams you may never forget.  
how worthy the being in the human body. if,  
when you are there, you see women wading on the water  
and clouds in the valley, the smell of rain,  
or a lotus blossom rises out of round green leaves,  
remember there is always something  
besides our own misery.

❖ linda hogan

joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.

❖ leo tolstoy

joy does not simply happen to us.  
we have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.

❖ henri nouwen

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

now i shall tell you something i have never spoken of before.  
god enjoys himself/herself.  
in the same enjoyment in which god enjoys him/herself  
s/he enjoys all creatures.  
god finds joy and rapture in us.

❖ meister eckhart