

A Celebration of Life

Invocation

One: As the sun rises in the East, we celebrate life and light.
All: We welcome the Light.
One: As the fruits and flowers burst forth in the warmth of the South,
All: We welcome the Fire.
One: As the rains come from the West at the waxing of the Moon,
All: We welcome the Water.
One: As the shadows deepen in the North, bringing us wisdom and rest
All: We welcome the Earth.

Chant: Gathered Here in the Mystery of this Hour
 Gathered here in one strong body
 Gathered here in the struggle and the Power
 Spirit draw near

Readings

Psalm 23 (Bobbie McFerrin's translation)

The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, she will lead

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs
She leads me in a path of good things
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land
There is nothing that can shake me
She has said she won't forsake me
I'm in her hand.

She sets table before me in the presence of my foes
She anoints my head with oil
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me
All the days of my lives
And I will live in her house forever, forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and daughter,
And to the holy of holies
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen.

Song

Circle of Remembrance [those who wish share memories of the one who has died]

Song

Eucharist

One: The Eucharist is about the universe loving us unconditionally still one more time and giving itself to us in the most intimate way (as food and drink). Interconnectivity is the heart of the Eucharistic experience: God and humanity coming together, God and flesh, the flesh of wheat, wine, sunshine, soil, water, human ingenuity, stars, supernovas, galaxies, storms, fireballs every Eucharist has a 15 billion-year sacred story that renders it holy.

The gratitude from which the Eucharist derives its very name (eucharistein means “to give thanks” in Greek) is not just our gratitude toward the Source of all things; it is also the universe’s gratitude for our presence and for our efforts at contributing, however imperfectly. (Matthew Fox, “Sins of the Spirit, Blessings of the Flesh,” Harmony Books, 1999)

Litany from Matthew 5: 3-4,6 (Robert Funk and The Jesus Seminar: “The Five Gospels,” HarperSanFrancisco, 1993)

One: Congratulations to the poor in spirit

All: Heaven's domain belongs to them!

One: Congratulations to those who grieve.

All: They will be consoled!

One: Congratulations to those who hunger and thirst for justice.

All: They will have a Feast!

One: The Eucharist is heart food from the cosmos the "mystical body of Christ" and the Cosmic Christ or Buddha nature found in all beings in the universe to us. Christ is the light of the world, which we now know is made only of light. Flesh is light and light is flesh. We eat, drink, sleep, breathe, and love that light. The Eucharist is also our hearts expanding and responding generously: “Yes, we will.” We will carry on the heart-work called compassion, the work of the cosmos itself. (Fox)
[Pour wine, break bread, feast]

Sending

One: Lover of the Earth and its ways,
All: We remember.
One: Lover of the Moon and its dreams
All: We remember.
One: Lover of the Fire and its stories
All: We remember.
One: Lover of the Light of the morning
All: We remember.

ALL: Shalom, Amen, Hoh, Blessed be.