

Program: Service of Remembrance and Celebration

Harp Prelude

Introduction and Welcome -- Christina Puchalski

Responsive Reading after Rheinhold Niebuhr -- Charlie Sasser

Reader: Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in one lifetime;

The People: therefore we must be saved by hope.

Reader: Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history;

The People: therefore we must be saved by faith.

Reader: Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;

The People: therefore we must be saved by love.

Invocation of Loss & Invitation into Silence -- Pam Baird

Reflection -- Kathleen Foley

A PRAYER

Help us to be the always hopeful
gardeners of the spirit
who know that without darkness
nothing comes to birth
as without light
nothing flowers.

- May Sarton

Ceremony -- Patrick Clary

The Three Sisters (from indigenous legends of the Eastern Woodlands)

Long ago the people stopped tending their gardens. Many had died of new illnesses and those who lived were distracted by hunting their furry brothers the beaver, fisher, and muskrat for their skins. They wanted to trade the skins for the shining things, the mirrors, the sky-blue beads, and the whiskey from Over the Water. When Handsome Lake was dying Corn softly touched his shoulder and asked him to take her to The Creator's Land with him. She and her sisters Beans and Squash wanted to leave the Earth, where they were no longer needed.

Handsome Lake told Corn that taking away the food from the earth would cause even greater suffering among the people, including the women and children, who were not to blame for the errors of the Elders and the warriors. Corn and her sisters agreed to stay if the people would offer thanksgiving every year with celebrations to renew their relationships with the plant world, including Dance of the Old Women, The Bean Song and a feast beginning with Green Corn Soup.

Three Sisters Song

Go home carrying the seeds
Of these Three Sisters,
Corn, Beans, and Squash,

Remembering that planted together
In the mounded darkness they
can restore us to plenty:

Beans renew the spirit of the soil
so Corn can grow tall.
Then Beans can climb the body of Corn
to hold flowers up into the light.
Squash leaves keep the earth
dark and moist at noon
in the hottest part of the summer.

Only together can they feed their people,
And the people, dance, sing and feast
their thanksgiving.

Harp Interlude and Offering of the Three Sisters

Unison Benediction -- Alison Lane-Reticker, MD

Go out into the world in peace,
Have courage,
Hold on to what is good,
Return to no person evil for evil,
Strengthen the fainthearted,
Support the weak,
Help the suffering
Honor all beings

Harp Postlude