

Interfaith Blessing & Celebration of LGBT Families

11 a.m., Saturday, October 11, 2008

Chapel, Pacific School of Religion
1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley, CA

IN GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Statement

Meditation

Call to Presence

Please stand if able

Come, let us gather together

- as Chinese and Samoan, Japanese and Filipino, Samoan and Vietnamese, Korean and Indian, and people of all ethnicities

Let us gather together

- as immigrants from many countries and people who have been here for many generations

Let us gather together

- as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, questioning, heterosexual, two spirit, tongzhi, bakla

Let us gather together

- as women, men, transgender, intersex, and people of all genders

Let us gather together

- as mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, cousins, grandparents, uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews, sons and daughters, godparents, and foster parents

Let us gather together

- as friends who have become family, church family, queer family, coworkers, and family of choice

Let us gather together

- as people who are married despite social challenges and legal complications

Let us gather together

- as people who are partnered, happily single, together and alone, grieving and seeking

Let us gather together

- as people who are celebrating the arrival of a child and people who are grieving the loss of a loved one

Let us gather together

- as evangelicals and atheists, people who have left the church, and people who are curious about religion, people who have found a home in the pews or in the woods

Let us gather together

- as Christian, Catholic and Protestant, Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Atheist, and Animist

Let us gather together

- as people who are out on national television and people who have not yet told our families, as people who have not yet begun to tell ourselves

Let us gather together

- as full-time activists and quiet supporters, people who are not sure they want to get involved, people who support through prayer.

Come, let us gather together.

WATER

Introduction

Rev. Trinity Ordon
East Bay Meditation Center

Dr. Patricia Lin
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Rev. Naomi Southard
Berkeley Methodist United Church

“Spirit of Life”
Please stand if able

TESTIMONIES

“Love makes a bridge”

Introduction

Rev. Sharon MacArthur

**Oneida Chi, Alisha Klatt
Tautua Amosa**

Rev. Michael Yoshii

“Love makes a bridge”

STONES

Introduction

Rev. John Oda

Invitation

Responsive Prayer

Rev. Israel Alvaran

One: Today, we are reminded of the inclusive spirit of community and family. We are grateful for relationships and solidarity.

Many: We come together, knowing and living the diverse variety of family arrangements through centuries and cultures

One: We rejoice in our imagination and resilience as we inspire each other to be families and communities for each generation.

Many: We celebrate our family members and allies who have shown us unconditional love and also continue to grow in relationship with us;

One: We delight in our communities which support one another through life and death.

Many: We feel grateful for our supportive siblings, our parents, our grandparents, our friends – our families – who uphold us and bring us joy;

One: We gather to celebrate as community and as families, and also remember those in need of support, those who often feel alone and silenced.

Many: With mindful hearts and assurance in the connectivity of this beautiful earth that is our home, we are thankful of the connection that extends beyond biology and heritage.

ALL: Through this community that surrounds us, we experience the unity of humanity and creation. We now open ourselves to the healing and nurturing presence in this community gathered, knowing that it will be ours wherever we go.

GOING FORTH

“For Everyone Born” verse 1, 3, 5
Please stand if able

Announcement

Benediction

**Friends & family – Let us bless each other
Let us continue our journey – walking in love.**

**Though there may be storms ahead, be encouraged,
Know that you do not walk alone
Know that the simplicity of water – can heal and renew.
Know that the rock of relationships – can foster growth.**

**Care for one another & care for the earth
Seek justice and make peace in our families,
communities, nation and world.**

Postlude