# Opening Worship for Summer Institute on Theology and Disability

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 3:30 PM

Georgia State University Student Center

# Welcome Mark Crenshaw

**Music for Gathering**  “My Life Flows on in Endless Song” Taylor Clair Bean,

Genevieve Bowles,

and Sarah Katerina Corrigan

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**Interfaith Call to Worship**  Beth Valentine and Don Pollard

Voice 1: I bow to the one who signs the cross

Voice 2: I bow to the one who sits with the Buddha

Voice 1: I bow to the one who wails at the wall

Voice 2: I bow to the one who sounds the OM that flows down the Ganges

Voice 1: I bow to the one who faces Mecca, whose forehead touches holy ground

Voice 2: I bow to the dancers whirling in the mystical wind

ALL: **We bow to the north,**

**to the south,**

**to the east,**

**to the west**

**We bow to the God within each heart**

**We bow to the epiphany of this gathering**

**to God’s face revealed within our diversity.**

**We bow in spirit and in truth .**

*(adapted from Prayer for Dialogue with Greater Religions, Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB)*

**Hymn:** “All Creatures of Our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
O praise ye! Alleluia!  
O brother sun with golden beam,  
O sister moon with silver gleam!

*Refrain*

O praise ye! O praise ye!Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain  
by which all creatures ye sustain,  
O praise ye! Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

*Refrain*

O sister water flowing clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O brother fire who lights the night,  
providing warmth, enhancing sight.

*Refrain*

Dear mother earth, who day by day  
Unfoldest blessings on our way,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,  
Let them God’s glory also show.

*Refrain*

All ye who are of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part,  
O praise ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care!

*Refrain*

And thou our sister gentle Death,  
Waiting to hush our latest breath,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou leadest home the child of God,  
And Christ our Lord the way has trod.

*Refrain*

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise ye! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

*Refrain*

*(from The United Methodist Hymnal p62 Words: St. Francis of Assissi circa 1225; trans. By William H. Draper, 1925; adapted 1987)*

# Prayer John Swinton

Creator of all life, let our first impulse be to praise and thanksgiving.

For a safe journey and arrival.

For this assembly, and all gathered here.

For all who have pioneered in the issues and questions we will explore.

For all who have made this Institute possible

For all who search and work for justice and peace…

We give you thanks and praise.…

Strengthen our work,

enable our spirits,

enliven us to celebrate the gifts shared among us.

Hasten the day of full justice and full life for all, in every

human community.

We pray in your Holy Name.

**AMEN.**

# Readings from religious traditions

**Buddhist tradition:** Mark Crenshaw

“Waking up this morning, I smile.

Twenty-four brand new hours are before me.

I vow to live fully in each moment and to look at all beings with

Eyes of compassion.”

-Thich Nhat Hanh, *Waking Up****,*** *plumvillage.org*

**Sufi tradition:** Andy Roach

“In my soul there is a temple, a shrine, a mosque, a church

where I kneel.

Prayer should bring us to an altar where no walls or names exist.

In my soul there is a temple, a shrine, a mosque, a church

That dissolve, that dissolve in God.” –Rabia al Basri, *In My Soul*

**Music for Meditation** “Meditation” from *Thais* by Jules Massenet Laura Nadine

# Readings from religious traditions

**Hindu Tradition**: Bill Gaventa

“The Human body is the temple of God.

One who kindles the light of awareness within

gets true light.

The sacred flame of your inner shrine

is constantly bright.

The experience of unity

is the fulfillment of human endeavors.

The mysteries of life are revealed.” -Rig Veda

**Jewish Tradition** Ruti Reagan

“How very good and pleasant it is

When kindred live together in unity.

It is like the precious oil on the head,

Running down upon the beard,

On the beard of Aaron,

Running down the collar of the robes

It is like the dew of Hermon,

Which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing,

Life for evermore.” -Psalm 133

# Musical Response “When God Restored Our Common Life” Lisa Hancock

# Brief Reflections on Communities of Support

# Deborah Krotenberg, Russell Ewell and Pam Hunter Dempsey

**A Ritual Action of Mutual Blessing**

**\*Concluding Song**  “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

(All join in on the last refrain)

\***Benediction (Read In Unison)**

*May oppressed people and those who oppress them free each other.*

*May those who have disabilities and those who think they do not, help each other.*

*May those who need someone to listen touch the hearts of those who are too busy.*

*May the homeless bring joy to those who open their doors reluctantly.*

*May the lonely heal those who think they are self- sufficient.*

*May the poor melt the hearts of the rich.*

*May the seekers of truth give life to those who are satisfied that they have found it.*

*May the dying who do not wish to die be comforted by those who find it difficult to live.*

*May the unloved be allowed to unlock the hearts of those who cannot love.*

*May the prisoners find true freedom and liberate others from fear.*

*May those who sleep on the streets share their gentleness with those who cannot understand them.*

*May the hungry tear the veil from the eyes of those who do not hunger after justice.*

*May those who live without hope cleanse the hearts of their brothers and sisters who are afraid to live.*

*May the weak confound the strong and save them.*

*May violence be overcome by compassion.*

*May violence be absorbed by men and women of peace.*

*May violence succumb to those who are totally vulnerable, that we may be healed.*

(a prayer written by Théresè Vanier written when she was 80 years old)

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*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*