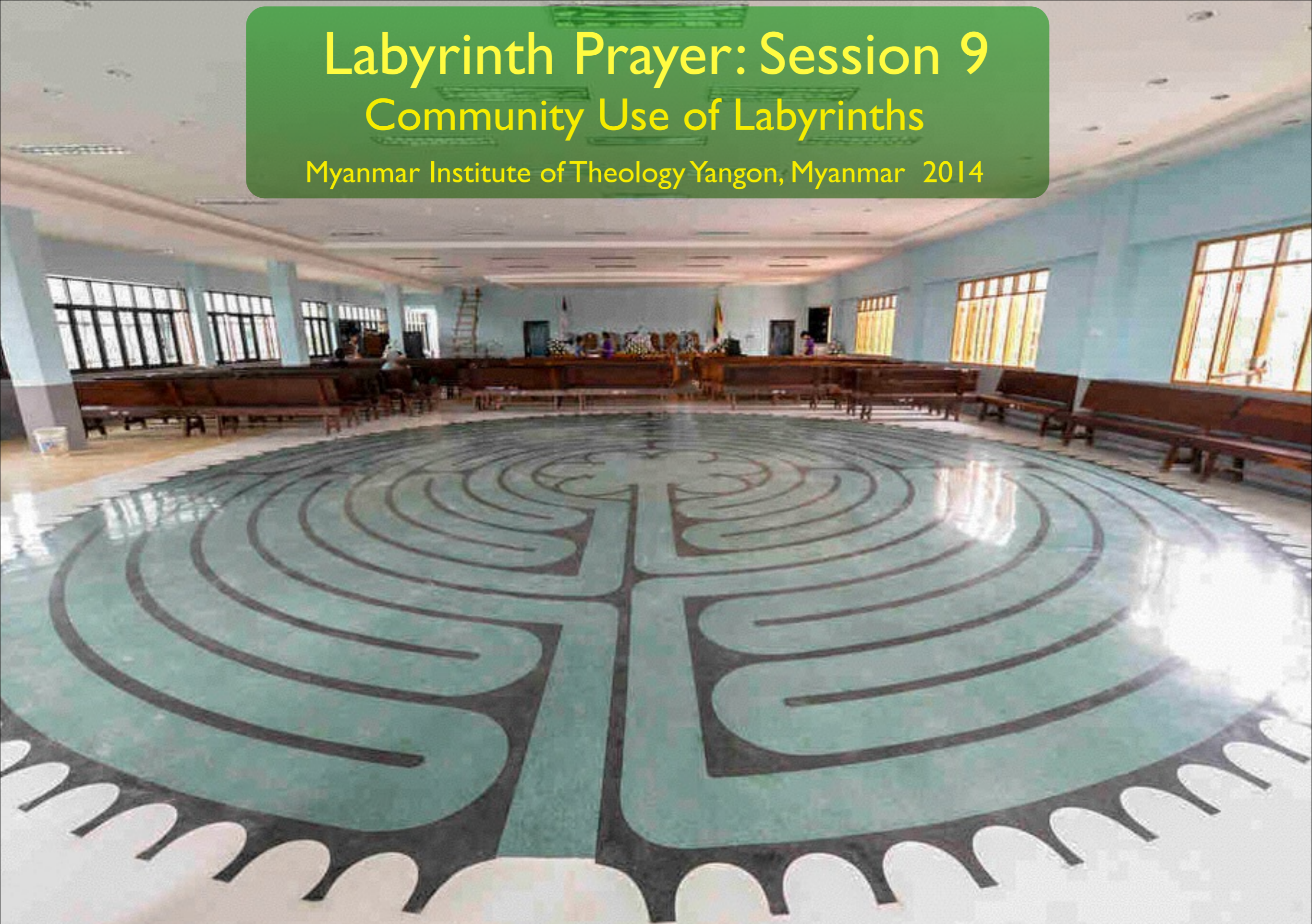


Labyrinth Prayer: Session 9

Community Use of Labyrinths

Myanmar Institute of Theology Yangon, Myanmar 2014



Gathered

Gathered, gathered,
God's people are gathered.
We lift up our hearts to the Lord.

Gathered, gathered,
God's people are gathered.
We lift up our hearts to the Lord.

Listening, listening,
God's people are listening.
We lift up our hearts to the Lord.
Listening...

Praying, praying,
God's people are praying.
We lift up our hearts to the Lord.
Praying...

Moving...

...



Prayer



Scheduling Guest Presenter:
The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley

Closing Prayer

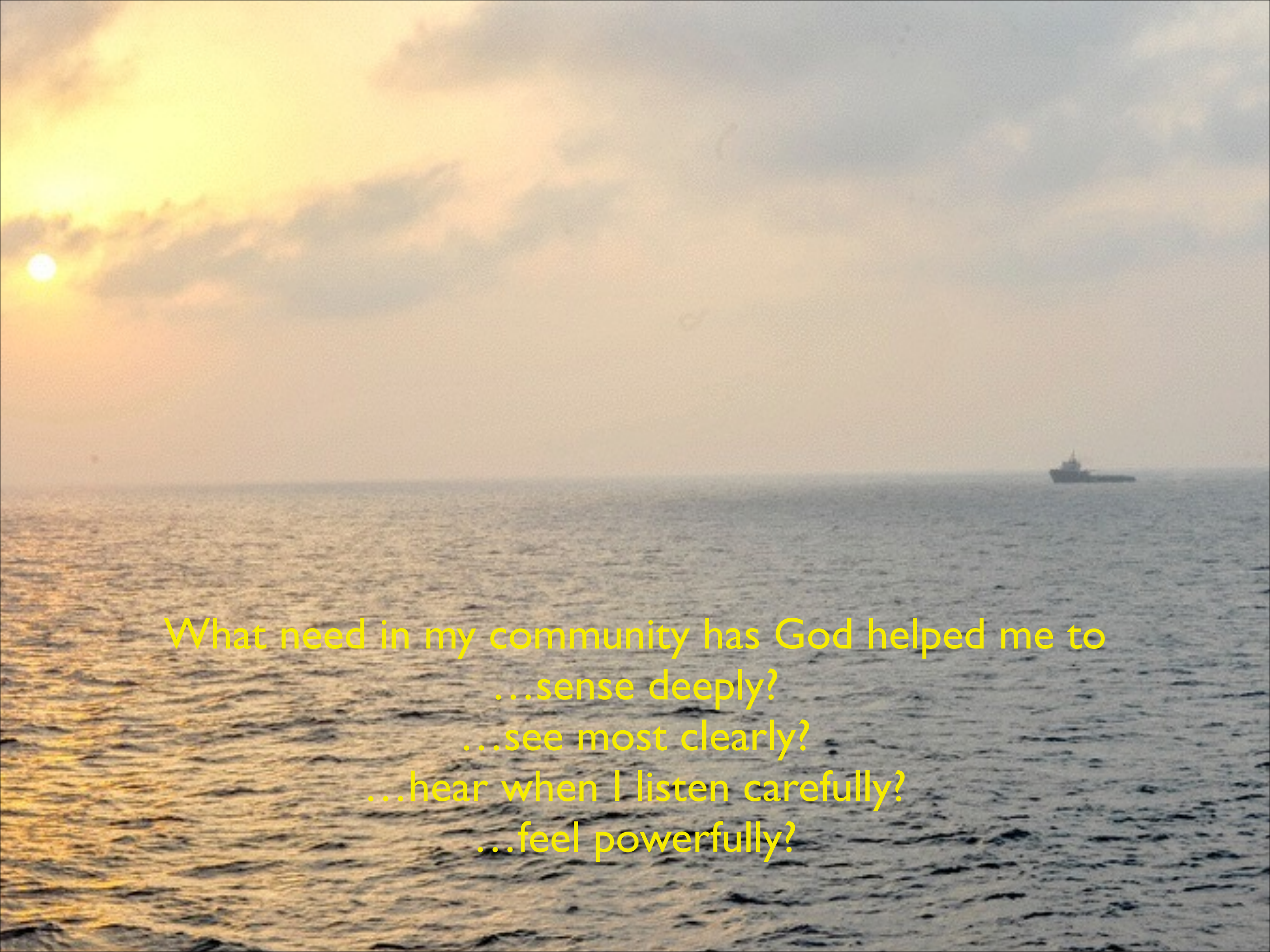


Sign up for labyrinth introductions

1. Who is your audience?
2. What needs to be said?
3. What is the best way for YOU to say it?
4. There is no “right way” to introduce the labyrinth
5. No more than 5 minutes



A guiding question for this class:
How can labyrinths be used to meet community needs?

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and water. A large ship is visible on the horizon to the right. The text is overlaid in the lower half of the image.

What need in my community has God helped me to
...sense deeply?
...see most clearly?
...hear when I listen carefully?
...feel powerfully?

Our Labyrinth Walk



“God, how might the labyrinth be used to help meet the need I care about?”

Use your labyrinth prayer journal
to reflect on your labyrinth experience.



Image painted by Lea Goode-Harris

What questions do you have about community use & labyrinths?



A blue circular labyrinth with a central floral design. The labyrinth is composed of multiple concentric paths that spiral inward toward a central point. The central point is a stylized floral or star-like shape with six petals. The paths are formed by thick blue lines on a black background.

Using the labyrinth
in service of a
Christian Community



Ecumenical
Groups
Praying Together



We can pray together during times of disagreement or conflict.

Labyrinth Walk For Christian Unity

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, we are always in your presence. You are our companion on our path. Your words are a light that guides our feet and your Spirit feeds our souls. May we always hear your voice and love and serve you all the days of our lives through Jesus Christ your son, our Lord and brother. Amen.

Introduction: Today we celebrate the love and unity there is between all Christians and we pray for the grace to deepen that unity so that we might all be one. We are all pilgrims seeking God, walking together as witnesses to the faith Jesus taught us. St Paul calls us to be worthy witnesses; to renew our efforts to be part of the one body of Christ, living in the one Spirit for the glory of the one God who is above all.

Reading from Scripture:

I therefore beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NRSV)



Pause for Thought: Humility, gentleness, patience, love peace and hope... these are essential for unity. As followers of Christ we are called to bear with one another, make every effort to be bonded as the Spirit, Lord and Father are one in the Holy Trinity.

As you pray on the labyrinth today you might like to reflect on some of the joys of faith we share with other Christians or consider ways in which you might meet and pray with other Christians - perhaps by attending your local church, joining in a Churches Together prayer group or walk of witness this coming Good Friday.

Labyrinth Walk: As you follow the path think of the millions of people around the world who also walk in the ways of Jesus... pray for them... and for your pilgrim companions close to home.

When you get to the centre pause in some time of prayer and reflection receiving God's love and blessing...When you are ready return along the same path, gratefully and prayerfully...

When you leave the labyrinth sit quietly in the peace of God. If you keep a prayer journal you might like to write down a few words to remember your time of prayer for Christian Unity.

Closing Prayers: Ever-loving God we give you thanks and praise for the grace and blessings you give us each day.

May we always seek your path of justice, love and humility and be mindful of you in all that we do. May we walk together and love each other and be worthy witnesses to our call.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Special Church Days
Epiphany
Ash Wednesday
Good Friday
Easter
All Saints Day



St. Edwards Episcopal Church burnt down and rebuilt a labyrinth with altar in the center for their sanctuary. (chairs go on the path dividers), Long Lake, Minnesota, USA

Serving the needs of
the larger community



Reaching out with God's love through labyrinth walks



Gresham, Oregon (USA) labyrinth sign used by a church to invite neighbors



Deephaven Labyrinths & Retreats



Notre maison est aussi au centre de prière (retraite) pour les individus et les groupes.

Ministries with refugees



Ethiopian children, USA labyrinth

During times of community crisis



Columbine, Colorado (USA)

Praying a labyrinth in response to the tsunami in Asia, 2005
St. Paul Monastery, Temporary Shell Labyrinth



In response to a need identified by the Global Labyrinth Network:
Masking tape Chartres Labyrinth
Community Prayer Vigil, New Palestine, Indiana (USA)
Photo ©Warren Lynn, www.wellfedspirit.org
See: http://www.wellfedspirit.org/labyrinth_pages/GHR_archives.html





Serving the needs of
community:
interfaith understanding
and collaboration

Creating bridges
through shared labyrinth
experiences



“Life is suffering.”
Buddhist Teaching

“Life is difficult.”
Scott Peck,
The Road Less Traveled

“In this world
you will have troubles...”
John 16:33 (NIV)

Wooden match 3 circuit labyrinth.



My peace I give unto you...
Let not your heart be
troubled, neither let it
be afraid.
John 14:27

Reaching out to universal needs.

Peace Garden Labyrinth
Stillwater Presbyterian Church, Minnesota (USA)

A respite in troubled communities.



This Amazing Port Street Labyrinth is: a common space for all; a winding path in which you cannot get lost; a place where people walk and meditate and gain spiritual centering and healing; a witness for peace and healing that we desire in our community.

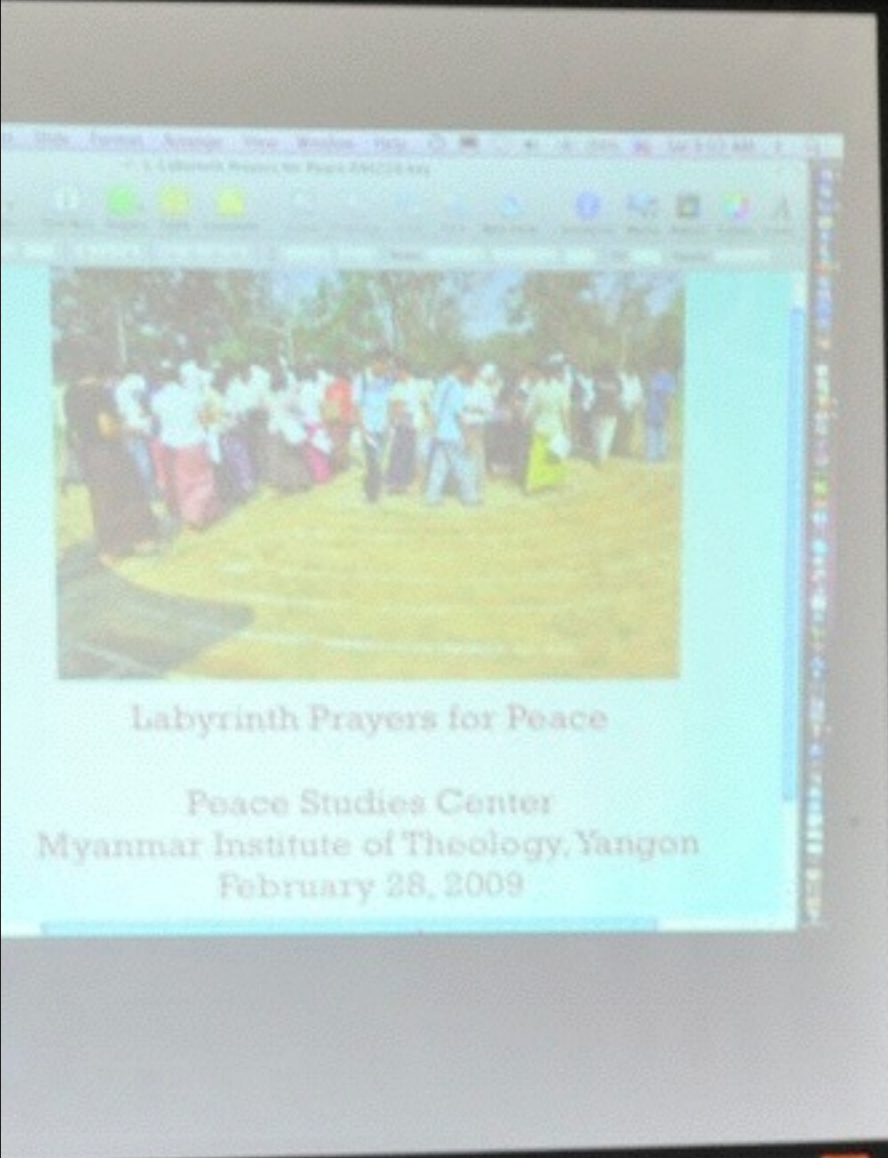
“Troubled” neighborhood, Baltimore, Maryland



GOD, IN YOUR MERCY HEAL OUR LAND

2 HRO. 7:14; MATT. 10:8; EPH. 2:4

MYANMAR INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY
PEACE STUDIES CENTER
PEACE AND ART PROGRAM
"LABYRINTH PRAYERS FOR PEACE"
Resource Person: Jill Geoffrion
Feb. 28, 09 MIT



Labyrinth Prayers for Peace

Peace Studies Center

Myanmar Institute of Theology, Yangon

February 28, 2009



Interfaith Events

WALK FOR PEACE



AS YOU WALK, WE OFFER YOU THIS TIME TO
REFLECT, PRAY, MEDITATE ON PEACE WITHIN
YOURSELF, YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE
GLOBAL FAMILY.

UPON COMPLETION OF YOUR WALK, YOU
ARE INVITED TO WRITE OR DRAW YOUR
COMMENTS, THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ON THE
PAPER PROVIDED.

LABYRINTH WALKS FOR PEACE ARE REGULARLY OCCURRING
BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

WITH YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS WALK,
PLEASE KNOW YOU JOIN A LARGER COMMUNITY
OF THOSE WHO WALK, MEDITATE, AND PRAY WITH YOU
FOR THE CONCERNS AND REALITIES OF THESE DAYS.

PEACE.



Peace in Education

by [tts365club](#)



The Peace Labyrinth at [St. John's Prep](#), a school for young men in Danvers, MA

There are a number of labyrinths noted as "Peace Labyrinths" now within the educational setting. Perhaps it allows for the conflicts to become the lessons or finds its way to be utilized as a tool for reflection and then again it just might be the meditative or spiritual path that opens the door to insight, creativity or balance.

At St. John's Prep in Massachusetts, this unique design mostly highlights the idea of peace, meditation and spiritual growth. . The mosaic steppingstones that guide your way are based on religious and spiritual symbols from around the world and throughout the ages. At the center of the path is a dove representing the peace we search to find in ourselves and in our world. Experienced together, these symbols reflect the spirit of inclusion, understanding and diversity that are the ethos of the school.

We can talk about peace, though when we put the idea out there to not only be witnessed, but experienced uniquely and collectively, then we are the bearers of peace. For today, allow the walk to bear the fruit of what you put out there.

"Peace and friendship with all mankind is our wisest policy, and I wish we may be permitted to pursue it."

Thomas Jefferson

Peace labyrinths

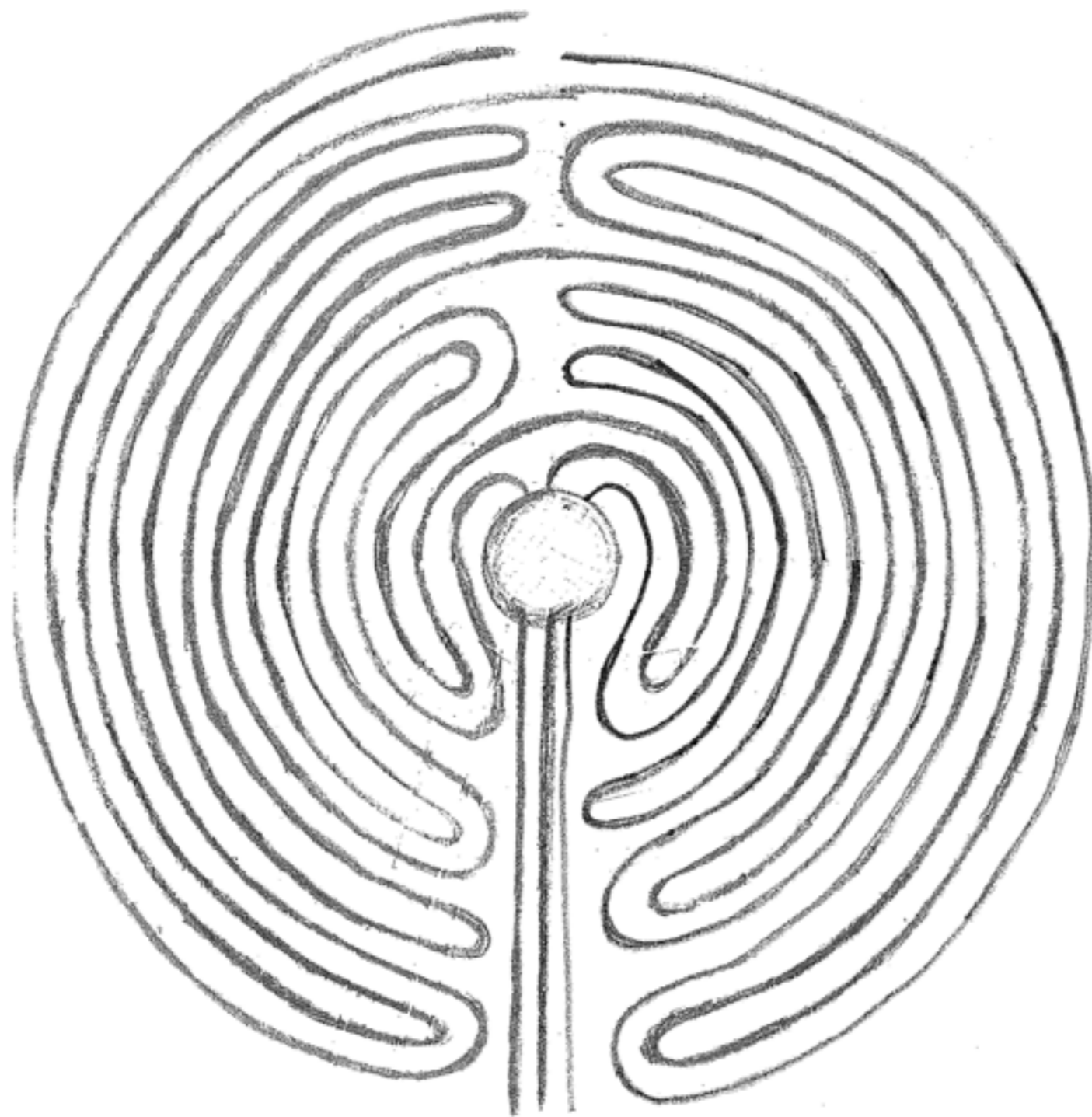
Interfaith Fellowship in Prayer National Conference
Princeton University, New Jersey (USA)



Use the labyrinth as a place to collect the prayers of those gathered.

Ask each person to bring something to offer as a symbol of her/his prayer. Have candles on hand for those who need them.

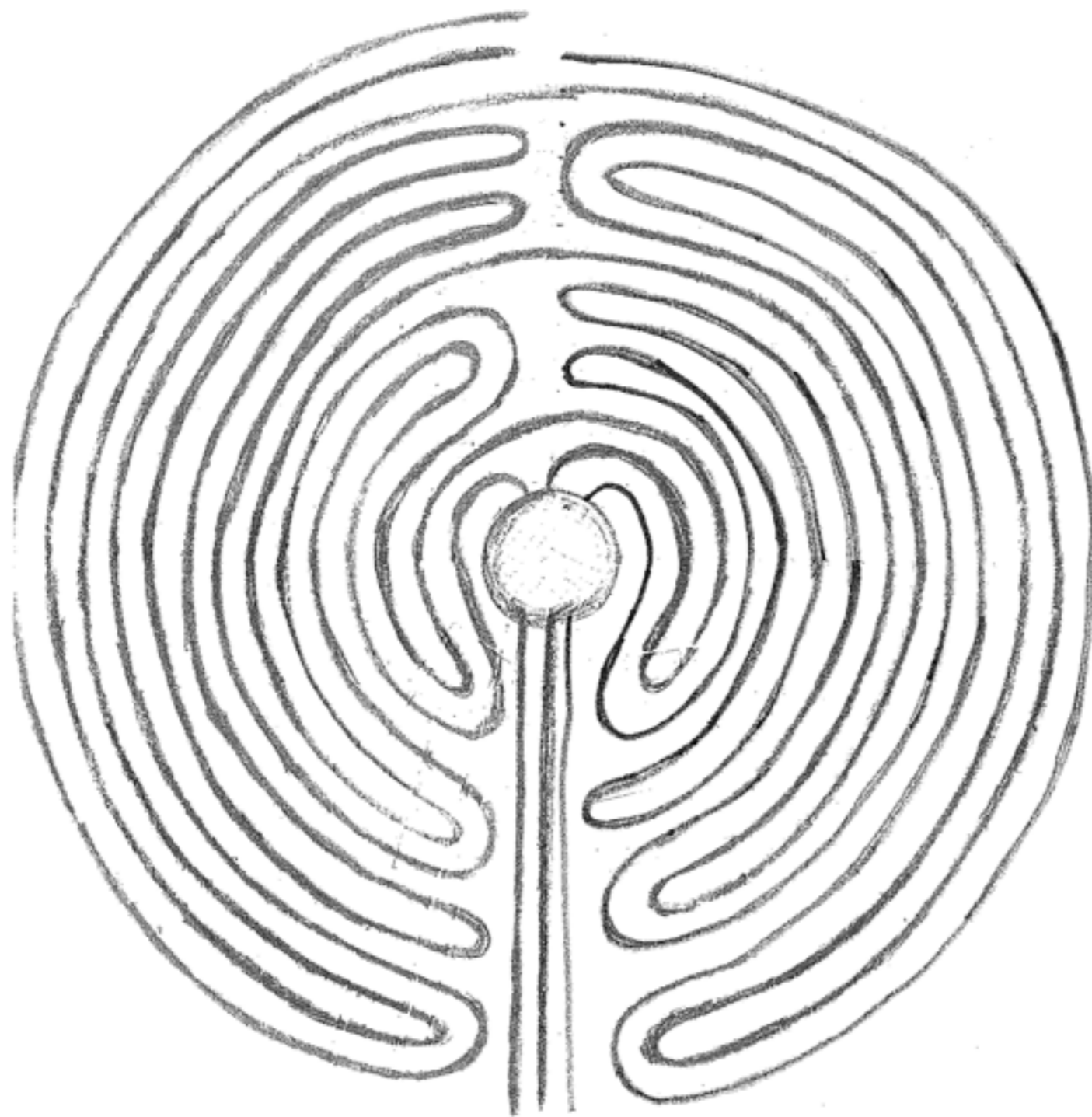




Labyrinths can help us to walk
together..
when we are afraid,
when we yearn for forgiveness,
and
as we move towards freedom.

©CFDudley

“Abrahamic Strands”
3 path labyrinth design (in
process) reflecting the desire for
Christians, Jews, and Muslims to
walk together



The path or way of God
is important in all thee religions.

(See Psalm 77 & 86;
many references to the path in
the Old Testament and
The Koran



Prayers from Various Religious Traditions To Use At Labyrinths

From the Christian Tradition

“Thy will be done.”

Matthew 6:10



From the Muslim Tradition- Egyptian Prayer for Pilgrims

“Be safe and well. Peace, love, and courage.”

Phil Cousineau, The Art of Pilgrimage. Conari Press, 1998

Ancient Sanskrit Prayer to be said in the morning.

“From darkness, to light.

From death, to life.

From falsehood, to truth.”

From the Hindu Tradition:

“From what is unreal, lead me to what is real.”

From the Sufi (Muslim) Tradition

“May Divine Light be

before me,


behind me,

to my right,

to my left,

above and below.”





What if we used the labyrinth as a tool
to help us to forgive others?

At an inter-religious event one man shared,
“Without expecting it,
I began to pray for my enemies.”

Labyrinths are sometimes used as a tool to explore the possibilities of reconciliation.

Charism canvas labyrinth, modern design for racial reconciliation, New York City, USA

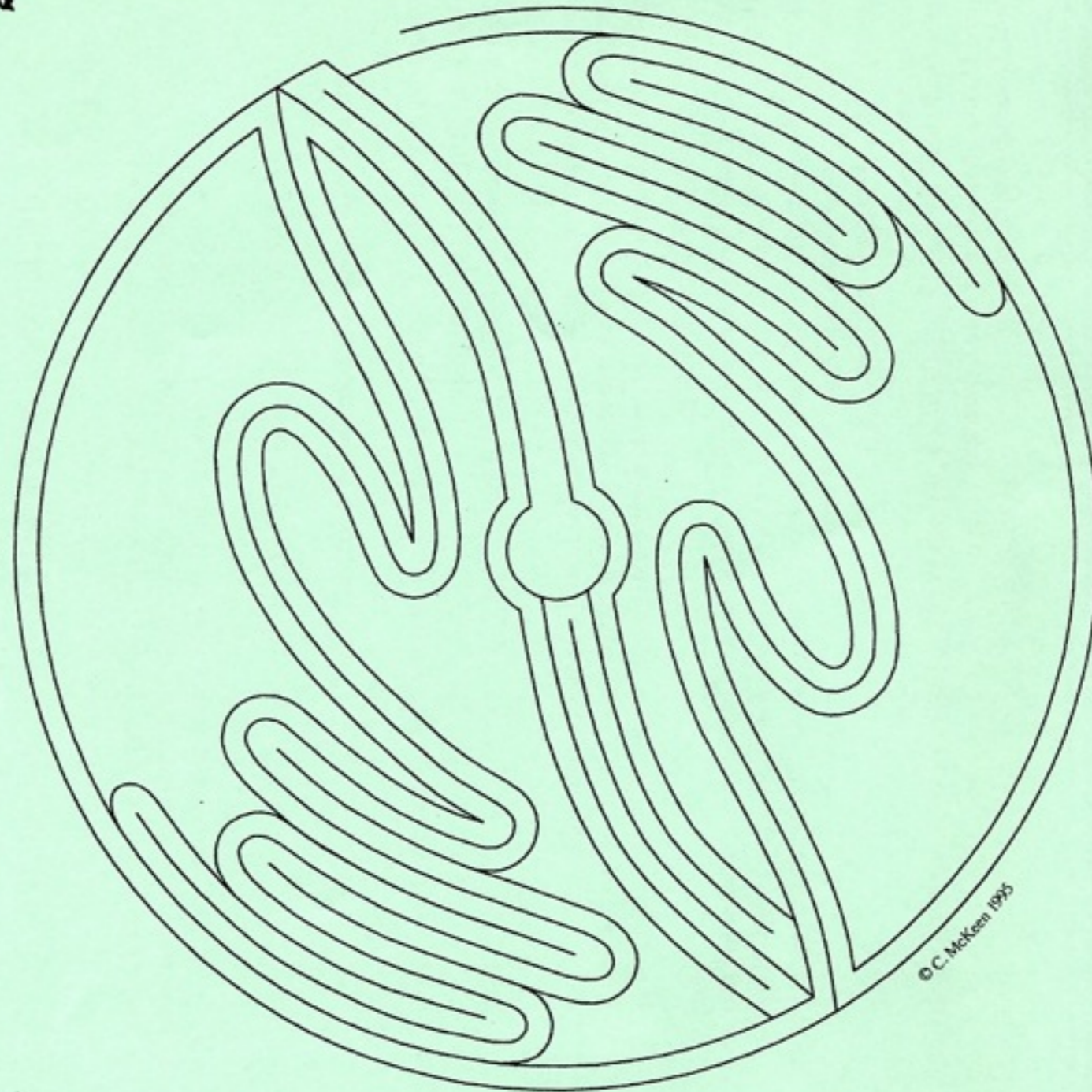


“God, who reconciled us to Godself through Christ, has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:18



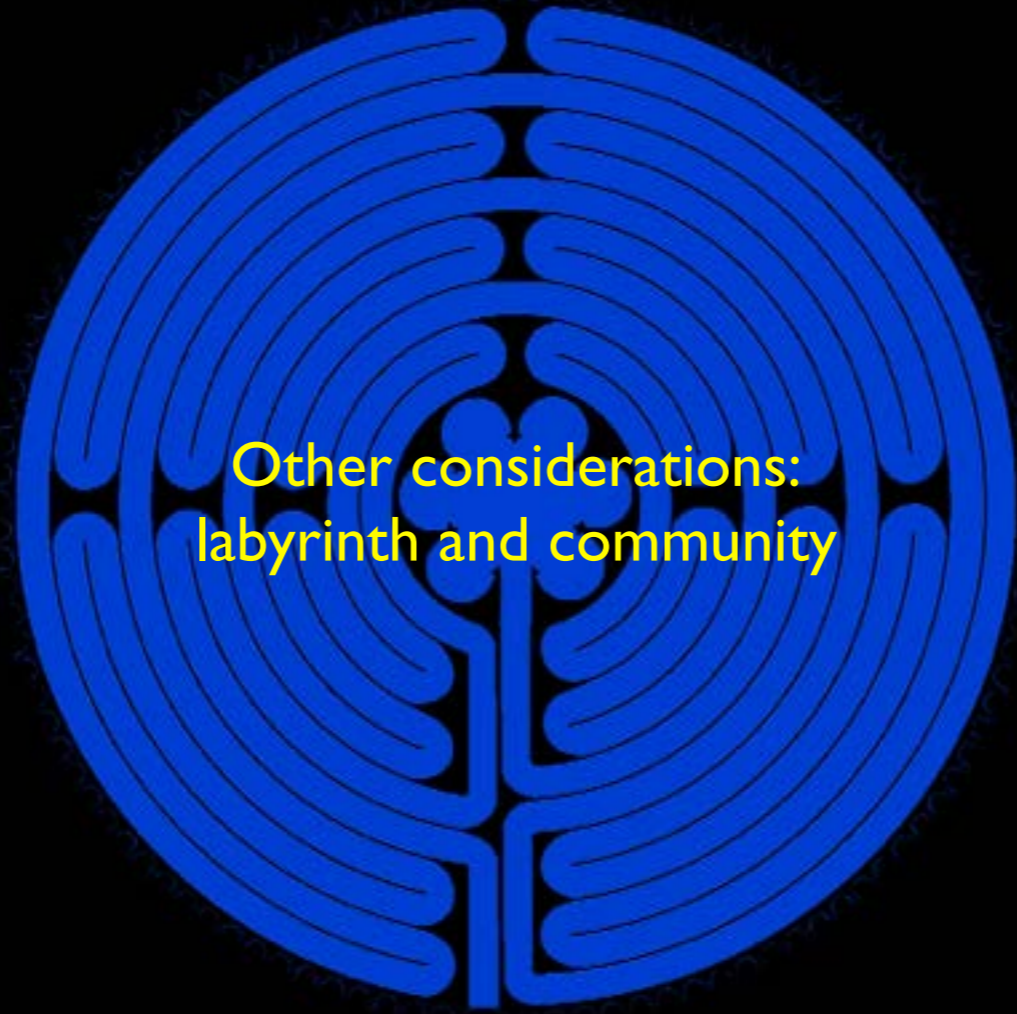
世界
協和

GLOBAL
HARMONY



© C. McKen 1995

Global Harmony Labyrinth St. Paul, Minnesota (USA)



Other considerations:
labyrinth and community



Disability awareness
and labyrinth events



A guiding question for this class:
How can labyrinths be used to meet community needs?

A circular mosaic floor, likely from a historical site in Sintra, Portugal. The mosaic features a prominent border of vibrant blue tiles surrounding a central area of light-colored, irregularly shaped tiles. The tiles are set in a dark, possibly gold or brown, mortar. The overall design is simple and geometric.

What questions do you want to ask?

Sintra, Portugal

Assignment for next session: Week 9

Preparation for session 9: Story and Music & Labyrinths

1. Read pages for Session 10: 3 pages
2. Identify two to five songs, hymns, or other music that you might use during a labyrinth walk or with a group when you introduce the labyrinth. Bring the words and lyrics (if possible) to class next week. I will ask, "What does this song remind us or teach us about labyrinth prayer?"
3. Pray the labyrinth at least once (hopefully more!) before our next class and reflect on your walk using the labyrinth journal page.
4. Initial project proposal due on January 21st at the beginning of class. One page typed. I prefer if you email it to me whenever possible.
5. Scheduling class session led by guest professor Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley on Friday, January 24th. What time can we meet?

Closing Prayer



Ministry website www.fhlglobal.org

Labyrinth resources by jill www.jillgeoffrion.com

Photo travel blog by jill www.throughjillseyes.wordpress.com

Journey blog by jill jillgeoffrion.wordpress.com

