



**Sermon** "The Growing Edge and the Luminous Darkness" Daniel Lawlor

**Offertory** Sing Out, March On Joshua Campbell  
Performed by Mark David Buckles

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**Charge** Hyunwoo Koo

**Hymn** Olam Chesed  
Performed by the Sanctuary Band

**Benediction** Daniel Lawlor

**Postlude** Improvisation Mark David Buckles

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**Hymn texts and readings**

**River – Roberta Flack**

There's a river somewhere  
That flows through the lives of everyone  
It flows through the mountains and the valleys  
And the meadows of time  
There's a star in the sky  
That brightens the lives of everyone  
It brightens the mountains and the valleys  
And the meadows of time

Yes it do, yes it do  
Yes it do, yes it do  
Yes it do, yes it do  
Yes it do, yes it do

There's a voice from the past  
That speaks through the lives of everyone  
And it speaks through the mountains and the valleys  
And the meadows of time  
There's a smile in your eyes  
That brightens the lives of everyone  
It brightens the mountains and the valleys  
And the meadows of time

Yes it do, yes it do  
Yes it do, yes it do  
Yes it do, yes it do  
Yes it do, yes it do

There's a sweet song of love  
That sweetens the lives of everyone  
It sweetens the mountains and the valleys  
And the meadows of time  
There's a river somewhere  
That flows through the lives of everyone  
It flows through the mountains and the valleys  
And the meadows of time

Yes it do, yes it do  
Yes it do, yes it do  
Yes it do, yes it do  
Yes it do, yes it do

**Reading # 666** "The Legacy of Caring," by Thandeka

Despair is my private pain  
Born from what I have failed to say  
failed to do, failed to overcome

*Be still my inner self,  
let me rise to you, let me reach down into your pain  
and soothe you*

I turn to you to renew my life  
I turn to the world, the streets of the city, the worn tapestries of brokerage firms,

*drug dealers, private estates,  
personal things in the bag lady's cart*

rage and pain in the faces that turn from me  
afraid of their own inner worlds.

*This common world I love anew,  
as the life blood of generations  
who refused to surrender their humanity  
in an inhumane world,  
courses through my veins.*

From within this world  
my despair is transformed to hope

*and I begin anew  
the legacy of caring.*

**Reading:** "Life, as it is..." Zora Neale Hurston

"Life,  
as it is,  
does not frighten me,

since I have made my peace with the universe as I find it,  
and bow to its laws.

The ever-sleepless Sea in its bed, crying out "How long?" to Time;  
million-formed and never motionless Flame;

the contemplation  
of these two aspects alone,  
affords me sufficient food for ten spans of my expected lifetime.

...

The springing of the yellow line of morning out of the misty deep of dawn,  
is glory enough for me.  
I know that nothing is destructible; things merely change forms.

When the consciousness we know as life ceases,  
I know that I shall still be part and parcel of the world.

I was a part before the sun rolled into shape and burst forth in the glory of change.

I was, when the earth was hurled out from its fiery rim.

I shall return with the earth to Father Sun, and still exist in substance when the sun has lost its fire, and disintegrated in infinity to perhaps become a part of the whirling rubble in space.

Why fear?

The stuff of my being is matter, ever changing, ever moving, but never lost;  
so what need of denominations and creeds to deny myself the comfort of all my fellow people?

The wide belt of the universe has no need for finger-rings.  
I am one with the infinite and need no other assurance."

**Musical Affirmation # 123** "Spirit of Life"

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.