

All: Let us live as people sure of this grace. Let us live as people restored to abundant life. Amen.

* Act of Praise #581

Gloria Patri

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Gracious and holy God, as we reflect on the sacred in the ordinary, make us mindful of your presence in and around us. Each day you show your face in the people we encounter—We see you in our children, in the person seated next to us, even in the people we find most challenging. We look into space and see you walking in the cloud, outstretching your arms in the lightning, and descending in the rain. We see you smiling in the flowers and waving in the branches of trees. As we hear scripture read and interpreted, let the experience and time together connect us to you through one another. Let some word of this be yours. Amen.

Scripture Reading

1 John 4: 7-13

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Sermon

The Sacred in Our Connection

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

Special Music

Land of Rest

John Weaver

[Three American Folk Hymn Settings]

Christine Beamer, viola

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Minute for Mission

Simbolei Academy

Andrea Kaitany

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Blest Be The Tie That Binds

setting: Emma Lou Diemer

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Rebekah Anderson

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts,

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give both thanks and praise.

Below are the words of the poem included in today's sermon.

Life as Music by Alan Watts

Existence, the physical universe, is best understood by analogy with music. In music, one doesn't make the end of the composition the point of the composition. If that were so, the best conductors would be those who played fastest, and there would be composers who wrote only finales. People would go to concerts just to hear one crashing chord — because that's the end! Same way in dancing. You don't aim at a particular spot in the room; that's where you should arrive. The whole point of the dancing is the dance.

But we don't see that as something brought by our education into our everyday conduct.

We've got a system of schooling that gives a completely different impression. It's all graded and what we do is we put the child into the corridor of this grade system, with a kind of, "Come on kitty kitty kitty!" and now you go to kindergarten, you know, and that's a great thing because when you finish that you'll get into first grade. And then — Come on! — first grade leads to second grade, and so on, and then you get out of grade school. You go to high school and it's revving up — The thing is coming! — then you're gonna go to college, and by jove, then you get into graduate school, and when you're through with graduate school you go out and join the world.

Then you get into some racket where you're selling insurance, and they've got that quota to make and you're gonna make that, and all the time "the thing" is coming — It's coming, it's coming! — that great thing: the success you're working for.

Then when you wake up one day, about 40 years old, you say, "My God, I've arrived! I'm there!" And you don't feel very different from what you always felt. And there's a slight let down because you feel there was a hoax.

And there was a hoax.

A dreadful hoax.

They made you miss everything.

By expectation—look at the people who live to retire and put those savings away. And then when they're 65, they don't have any energy left. They go and rot in an old people's senior citizen's community. Because we simply cheated ourselves the whole way down the line.

We thought of life by analogy with a journey, with a pilgrimage, which had a serious purpose at the end, and the thing was to get to that end: success, or whatever it is, or maybe heaven after you're dead.

But we missed the point the whole way along.

It was a musical thing — and you were supposed to sing, or dance, while the music was being played.

But you had to do that thing. You didn't let it happen.

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