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## **“Your Living Water: Sensing God's Call Over a Lifetime”**

Ten O'Clock Hour, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, Marble Collegiate Church

- “Let each of you lead the life... to which God called you.” 1 Cor: 7:17

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.*

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

- Isaiah 43: 18-19

“Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” - Gospel of John 4:13-14

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“It may be that when we no longer know what to do  
we have come to our real work,  
and that when we no longer know which way to go  
we have come to our real journey.

The mind that is not baffled is not employed.

The impeded stream is the one that sings.”

- Wendell Berry

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*“To live our own myth, to encounter all the aspects of ourselves, to meet the realities of life's situations... is to keep related to the eternal source in and beyond us. This is the living water.”*

- Elizabeth Boyden Howes, Journey Toward Jerusalem

“A life's work is not a series of steppingstones onto which we calmly place our feet, but more like an ocean crossing where there is no path, only a heading, a direction, which, of itself in in conversation with the elements.”

David Whyte, Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity

*“Saying yes to the calls tends to place you on a path that half of yourself thinks doesn't make a bit of sense, but the other half knows your life won't make sense without.”*

Gregg Levoy, Callings: Finding and Following an Authentic Life

## Further Exploration

*"Finding what supports you from within will link you to transcendence, reframe the perspectives received from your history, and provide the agenda of growth, purpose and meaning that we all are meant to carry into the world and share with others. The soul asks each of us that live a larger life. Each day this summons is renewed."*

James Hollis, Finding Meaning in the Second Half of Life

- **Name and discard drains on your energy, your living water.**

What are some of the things that drain your living water... certain people... internal attitudes... circumstances? Especially look for the "shoulds" and "shouldn'ts" that may be operating in your life...

Name them, and perhaps write a prayer asking God for help in diminishing them.

- **Name your sources of living water.**

As in the Hollis quote above, what are some of the strengths and gifts you know (or suspect) reside within you.... Your sources of living water?

What commitment can you make today to honor these... to add them as much as possible to your life... to follow their lead?

- **Living where the question is born....**

"A novice master once responded when asked about a life lived in Christian authenticity, said that to be a Christian was not to know the answers but to begin to live in the part of the self where the question is born... He was speaking of an attitude of listening, of awareness of presence, of an openness to mystery."

- Wendy Wright in Weavings magazine

What does this quote remind you of in this new year... or prompt you to do, or wonder about?

## Prayers

From Ted Loder's book, "Guerillas of Grace"

### Opening Prayer: Lead Me Out of My Doubts and Fears

Eternal God,  
Lead me now  
out of the familiar setting  
of my doubts and fears,  
beyond my pride  
and my need to be secure  
into a strange and graceful ease  
with my true proportions  
and with yours;

that in boundless silence  
I may grow  
strong enough to endure  
and flexible enough to share  
your grace.

### Closing Prayer

For at last I believe  
life itself is a prayer,  
and the prayers we say  
shape the lives we live,  
just as the lives we live  
shape the prayers we say;  
and it all shapes the kingdom  
which expresses itself in and among us,  
and for which we are guerillas.

I hope these prayers help you to take some new territory,  
To liberate imaginatively some part of your life  
My sister and brother guerillas.  
"... thy kingdom come..."

*"Learn enough from the wise until finally, if you do it right and things break your way, you are wise enough to be yourself, and brave enough to speak with your own voice, and foolish enough, for Christ's sake, to live and serve out of the uniqueness of your own vision of him and out of your own passion."*

- Frederick Buechner

## Resources

James Hollis, The Middle Passage: From Misery to Meaning at Midlife and Creating a Life: Finding Your Individual Path

Parker Palmer, Let Your Life Speak

Gregg Levoy, Callings: Finding and Following an Authentic Life

Thomas Moore, A Life at Work: The Joy of Discovering What You Were Born to Do

David Whyte, Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity

Finding Jesus, Discovering Self, by William Dols and aren Goldman

The Wisdom Jesus by Cynthia Bourgeault

John Sanford: The Kingdom Within: The Inner Meaning of Jesus' Sayings

The Artists Rule: Nurturing Your Creative Soul with Monastic Wisdom by Christine Valters Painter

Soul Mapping: An Imaginative Way to Self-Discovery, by Nina Frost, Ken Ruge and Richard Shoup

## The Way It Is

There's a thread you follow.

It goes among things that change.

But it doesn't change.

People wonder about what you are pursuing.

You have to explain about the thread.

But it is hard for others to see.

While you hold it you can't get lost.

Tragedies happen; people get hurt

Or die; and you suffer and get old.

Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.

You don't ever let go of the thread.

— William Stafford

