

PARKER J. PALMER

Author of Let Your Life Speak

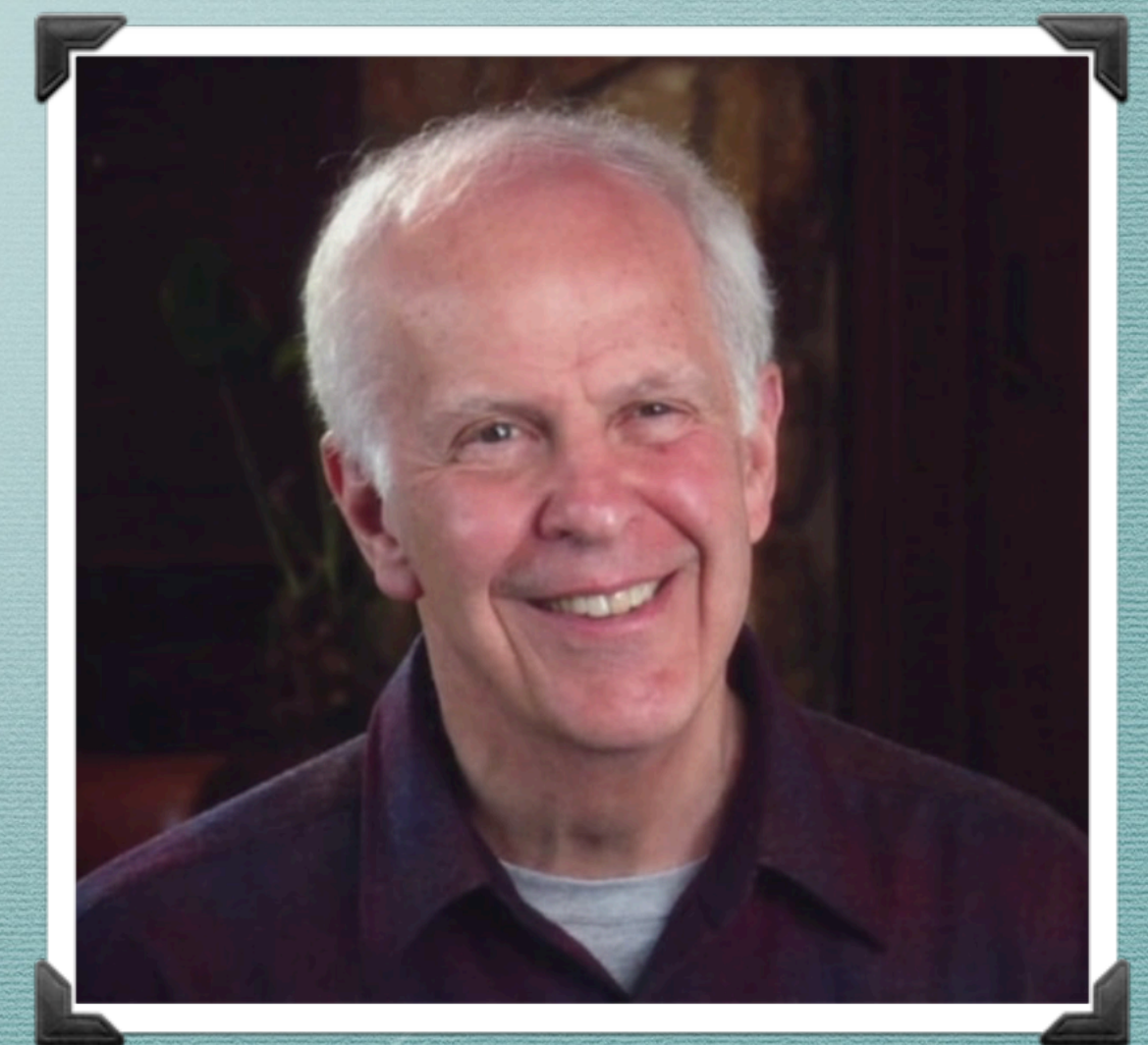
ON the BRINK
of EVERYTHING

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old

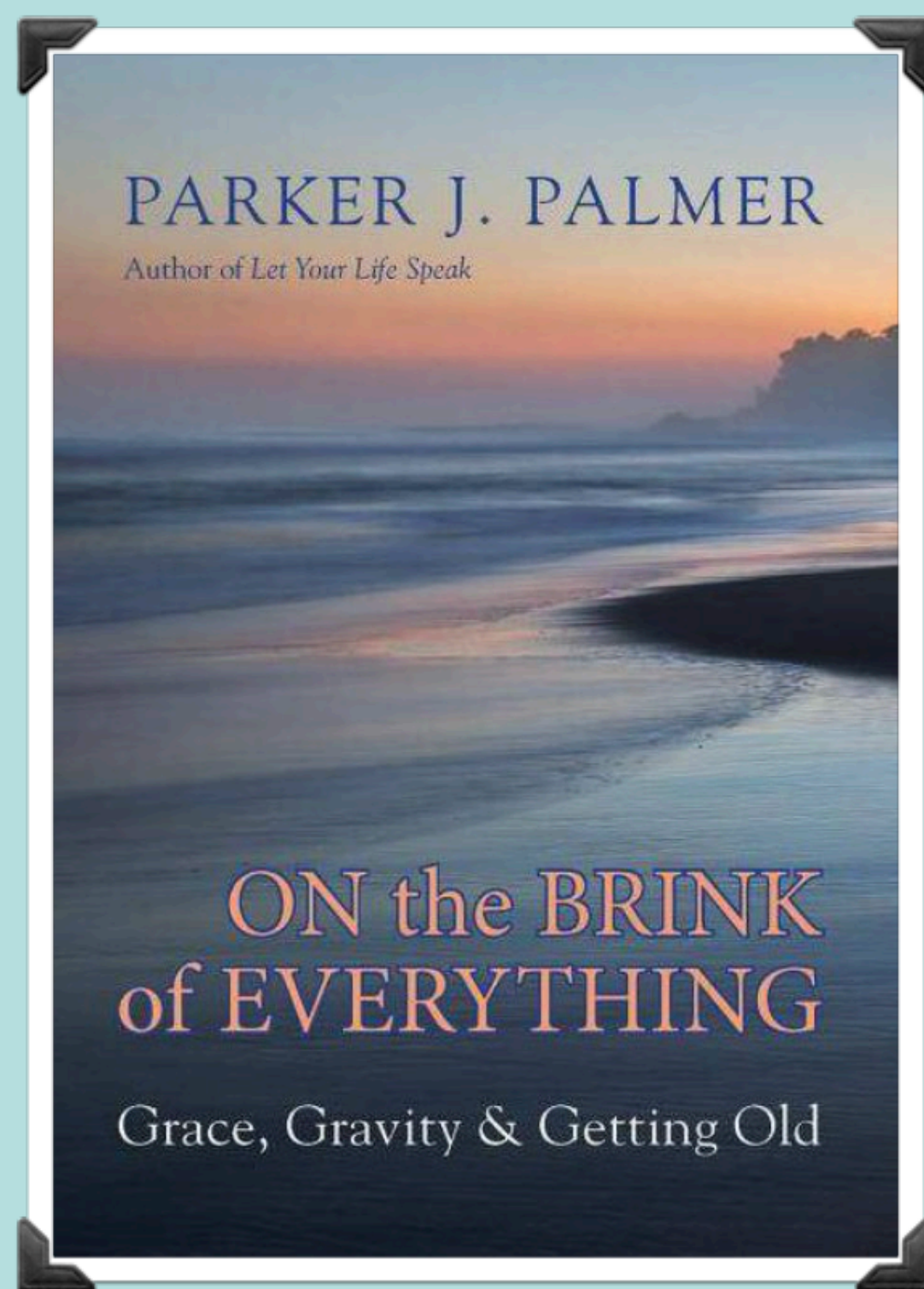
On the Brink of
Everything: Grace,
Gravity & Getting Old

Monday Night Book
Study at St. David's
United Church —

48 - 07



"We need to reframe aging as a passage of discovery and engagement. Not decline and inaction" (p.8)



Monday Night Book Study

with

WAYNE, JOAN & BRENDA

ST. DAVID'S BOOK STUDY TEAM
ACTS WINTER 2022

BEFORE WE BEGIN

OPENING with Ruth



Carry on.



“Sanctuary” by Carrie Newcomer written for “On the Brink of Everything”

Reading Guide for Monday Nights

- * **Session Eight: Chapter VI March 14**
- * **Session Nine: Chapter VII & Postlude March 21**
- * **Session Ten: Conclusions and 'Where to from here' March 28**

housekeeping





**PALMER'S STORY of
Reaching Out**

**Reflection on the
meanings of “Keep
Reaching Out:
Staying Engaged
with the World”**

What does it mean to live purposefully in a post truth world?

What might be a Canadian application for a focus on Trump?

Why might this be important for us?



Setting the tone for Ch. 5



**Palmer, like many, sees tragedy
in his country today but he seeks
to turn that into triumph...
historical precedents for this in
US history**

Eleven Discoveries from Chapter Five

1. This chapter is laced with
Palmer's political convictions.



Comments

“Seeking Sanctuary”



2....finding solace and support in our rough and tumble world.

p. 118

3. Question for discussion

How accurately does Palmer portray Trump in Ch. 5



**4. Finding the alchemy to transform
anger from a death-dealing force into
a power for new life (p. 121)**



**5. "I want to harness
the energy of anger
into life-giving
encounters."
(Palmer) (122)**

**ANGER
IS AN
ENERGY**



**6. Spirituality and
anger are not
necessarily at odds
(p. 123)**





**FAKE
NEWS**

7. “We need to work to preserve the facts today.” p. 127... how??

8. “We’ve overcome before and we can do so again.” p. 129



9. "In praise of diversity" - we start by not fearing it.(130 ff)

An Example...



10. Biodiversity and Social Diversity



- **diversity makes our life more vital**
- **diversity makes us smarter and more creative**
- **diversity can increase our personal resilience**

11. Seeking Sanctuary p. 137-141

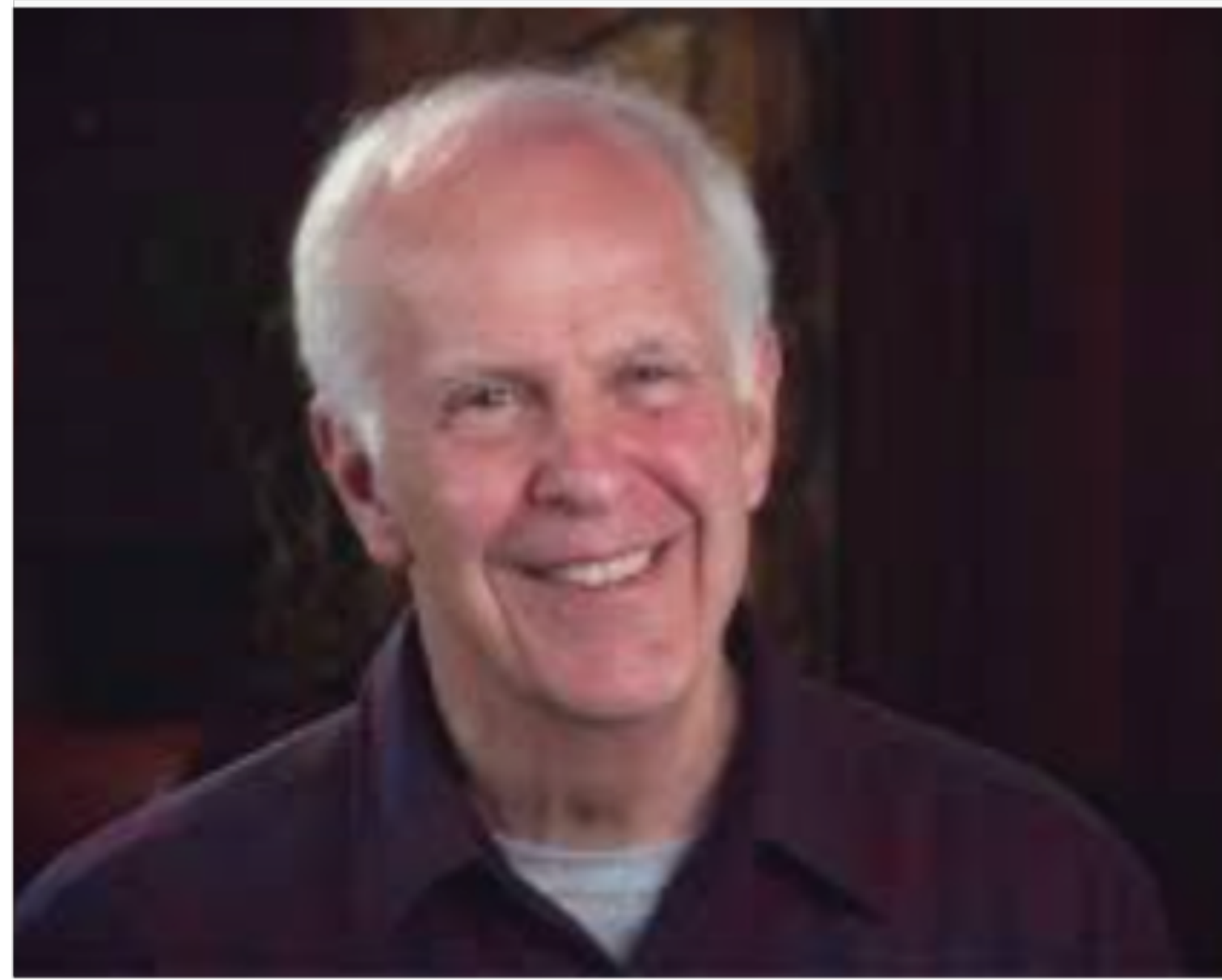
“Sanctuary is wherever I find safe space to regain my bearings, reclaim my soul, heal my wounds and return to the world as a wounded healer...

I know I need sanctuary if I want to loosen the grip of our culture’s violence on me...”

10. Key theme of this study -

“We need to reframe aging as a passage of discovery and engagement, not decline and inaction.”





[https://
www.newcomerpalmer.com/
home](https://www.newcomerpalmer.com/home)

<https://onbeing.org>

The Growing Edge Podcasts
[https://www.facebook.com/
parkerjpalmer](https://www.facebook.com/parkerjpalmer)

Four Essays:

- **What's an Angry Quaker to Do?**
“I write not to change yours (political conventions), but to encourage you to express them, as citizens of a democracy have the right and responsibility to do.”
- **The Soul of a Patriot**
“I needed to reconsider the meaning of the word Patriot”
- **In Praise of Diversity**
“Our fear of ‘otherness’ will be our undoing, unless...”
- **“Seeking Sanctuary”**
“... keep reaching deep for something better.”

Quotes to Consider

Repressed anger is dangerous, a weapon we aim at ourselves that sooner or later injures others. But anger harnessed as an energy that animates social action on behalf of new life for all is redemptive. PP

There's much I don't know about this primal wildness I came to liken to my soul, but I know this: it's unafraid of the dark, it loves life and light, and it tells us the truth about ourselves and how we get lost and might find our way home.

All of us together are smarter than any one of us alone.

Merton names one of our deepest needs: to protect and nurture the 'root of inner wisdom' that makes work and life itself fruitful.

The Winter Woods

The winter woods beside a solemn
river are twice seen—
once as they pierce the brittle air,
once as they dance in grace beneath the stream.

In air these trees stand rough and raw,
branch angular in stark design—
in water shimmer constantly,
disconnect as in a dream,
shadowy but more alive
than what stands stiff and cold before our eyes.

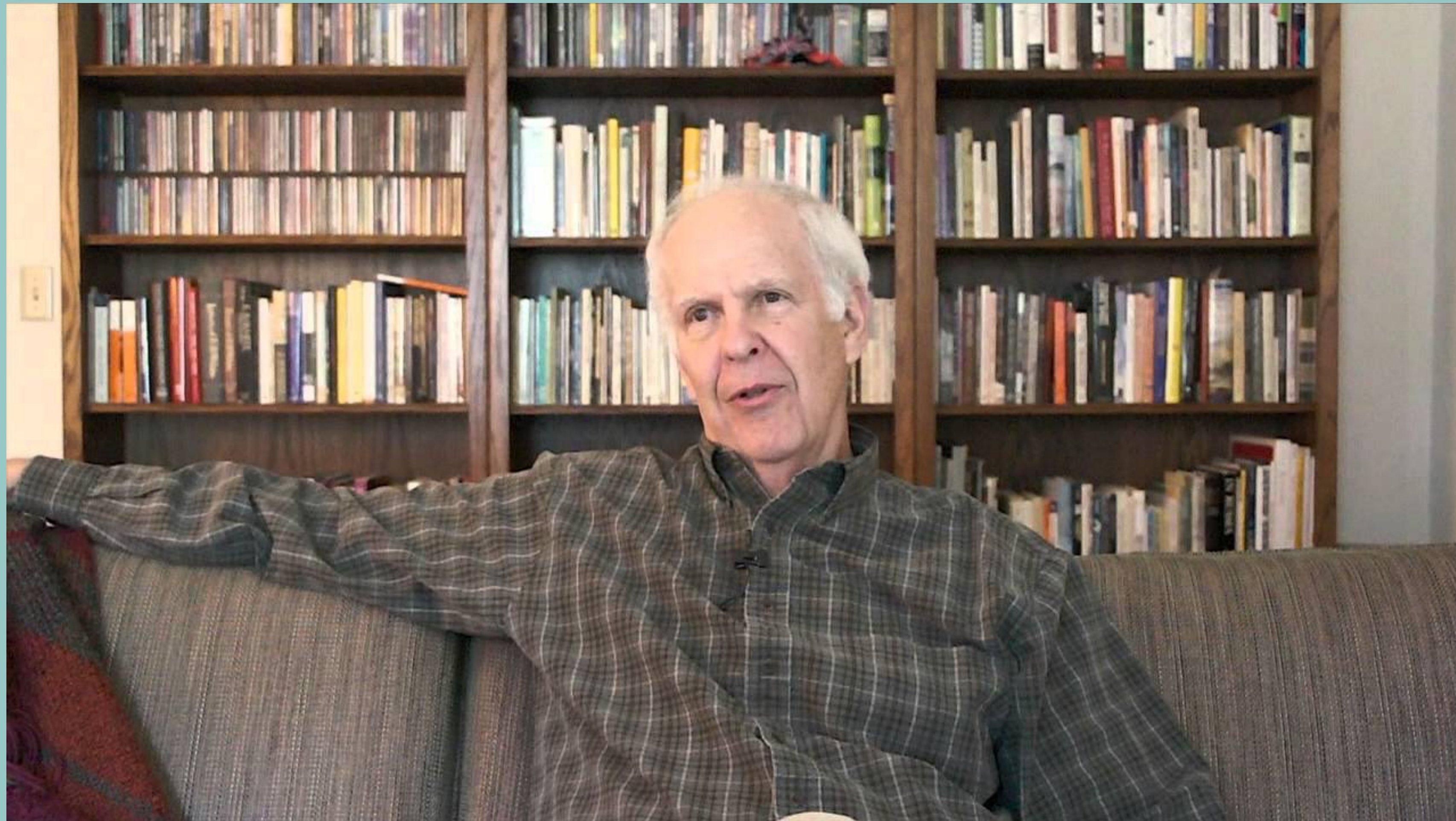
Our eyes at peace are solemn streams
and twice the world itself is seen—
once as it is outside our heads,
hard frozen now and winter-dead,
once as it undulates and shines
beneath the silent waters of our minds.

When rivers churn or cloud with ice
the world is not seen twice—
yet still is there beneath
the blinded surface of the stream,
livelier and lovelier than we can comprehend
and waiting, always waiting, to be seen.

—Parker J. Palmer



PORTRAITS OF FAITH WITH PARKER PALMER



**2014: SPIRITUAL INSIGHT— The Chaotic Dimension of God and
Honouring the Shadow Side
(23:40 to₃ 29:50)**

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old

Break out Rooms

2022: Some things to discuss

- * Seeking Sanctuary? Finding solace and support?**
- * Fake News? Living in a Post-Truth world? Trumpism?**
- * Value of Anger? Anger as Energy? Spirituality and Anger?**
- * Chaotic Dimension of God — “Honouring the Shadow Side”**
- * Paradox in our lives/ Growing Edges/Diversity in our lives**

Feedback and Summary

**Great ideas and
stories that need to
be shared**

NEXT WEEK:

Session VIII — March 14, 2022

Read Chapter Six:

Keep Reaching in:

Staying Engaged with Your Soul

Check out 'Pause to Consider'

VOLUNTEER FOR OPENING

AND/OR CLOSING Next Week





CLOSING WITH

Karen McKeown

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