

PARKER J. PALMER

Author of Let Your Life Speak

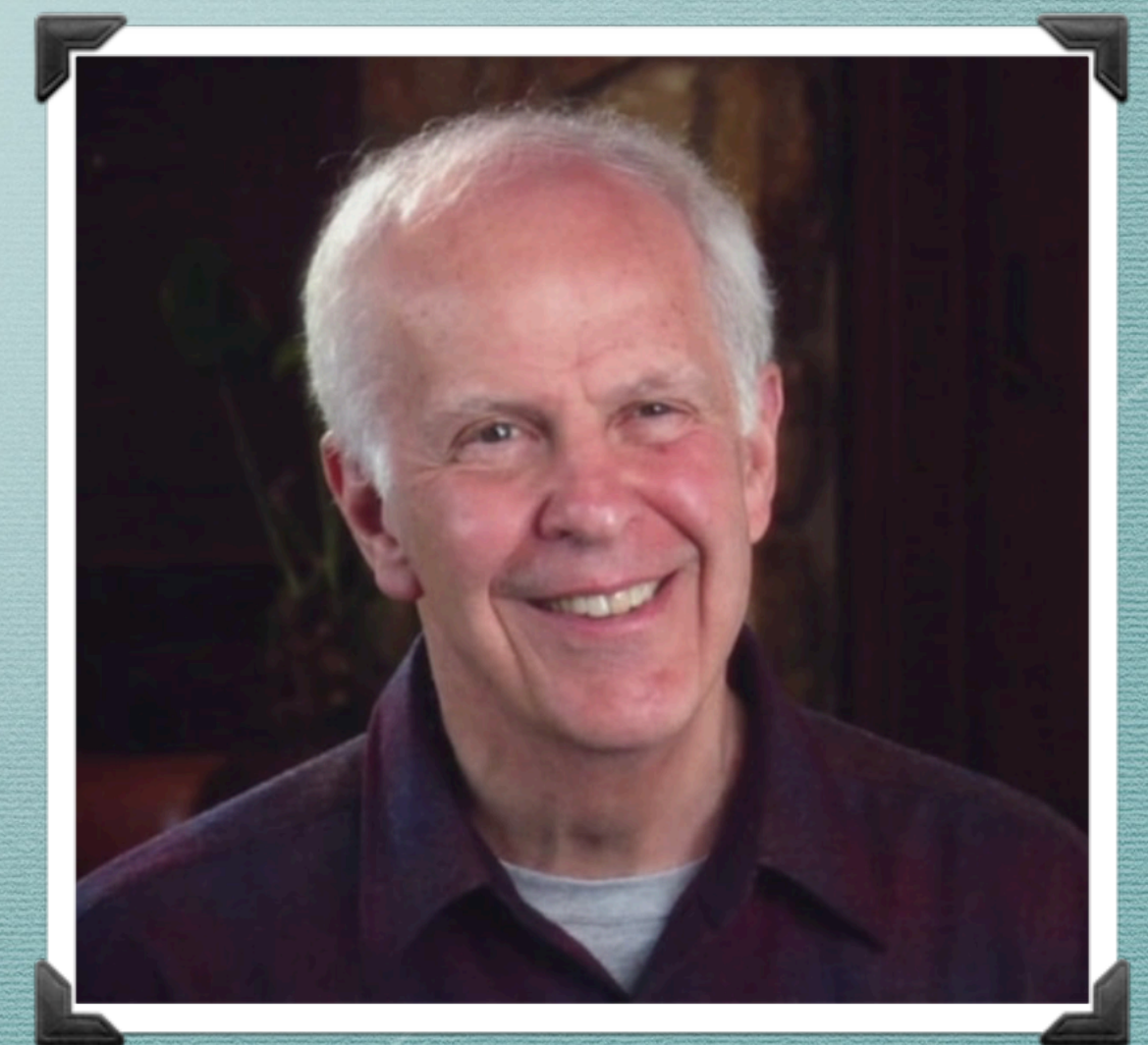
ON the BRINK
of EVERYTHING

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old

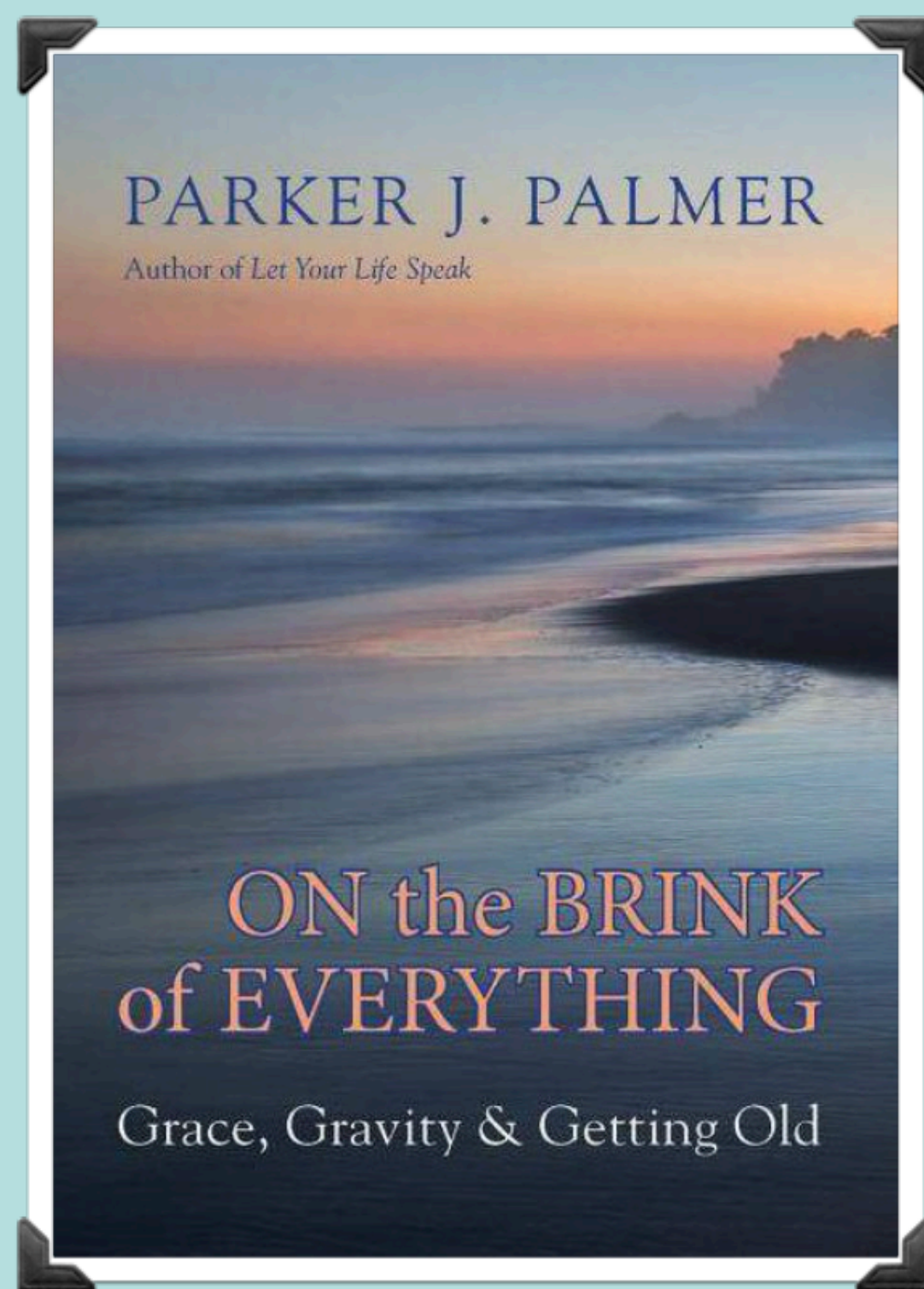
On the Brink of
Everything: Grace,
Gravity & Getting Old

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

48 -09



"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

A Sobering Perspective



OPENING
with
Frans



Reading Guide for Monday Nights

**Session Ten: Conclusions and
‘Where to from here’
— March 28**

housekeeping





**Finality of
death —
challenges us
to decision**

Reflection on the meanings of “Over the Edge: Where We Go When We Die”

Setting the Tone of this Chapter

- Preparing for the afterlife
- Wayne's personal experience during virus-time.





**What does it
mean to be “fully
present to ‘right
here, right now?’”**

**“Life is a gift I didn’t
earn and won’t have
forever... We need to
show up as our true
selves as often as we
can while we have life.”**

P. 172



Comments



**“There are no
shortcuts to
wholeness.”**

p. 174

**“If we can’t accept all
that we’ve been or done,
we’ll age away from
‘integrity’ toward
‘despair.’”**

Erik Erikson (1950)





**“I am my
shadow as well
as my light.”**

p. 175

Three insights from Palmer:

- Reach out to the younger generation**
- Move toward whatever you fear**
- Spend as much time as you can in the natural world (p. 176)**



A Special Place in Nature

p. 177



A photograph of a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the sky and the water. Several birds are flying in the sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

*Wholeness does not mean perfection;
it means embracing brokenness as an
integral part of life*

—Parker J. Palmer—

FIRE AND STORM

**What does it
mean to witness
resurrection in
nature? (p.179)**





A Glimpse
Of
Heaven

...
while
on
Earth

**“I won’t be shocked if death
has surprises for me.”**



**“I won’t be glad to say
goodbye to life.”**





“I’ll be glad to pay a bit part in making new life possible for others.”



All shall be well, and all shall be
well and all manner of thing shall
be well.

– Julian of Norwich

Our Key Theme for this Study

Let's reframe aging as
a passage of discovery
and engagement, not
decline and inaction.



CARRIE NEWCOMER

the point of arrival



<https://www.newcomerpalmer.com/home>

<https://onbeing.org>

The Growing Edge Podcasts

<https://www.facebook.com/parkerjpalmer>

Two Essays and a Poem

Fierce with Reality: “But if we are willing to move through the gravitas of honest self-examination toward the grace of compassionate self-acceptance, the rewards are great.”

A Wilderness Pilgrimage: “...’thin places’ as Celtic Christians called them — a place where ‘the veil between worlds’ is more transparent and one can catch a glimpse of whatever lies beyond it.”

Waving Good-bye from Afar: “It must be a breathless climb, the kind I’ve made many times in the mountains of New Mexico. The last thing I wanted there was someone who just had to talk, when it was all I could do to climb, to breathe, then stop — marvelling at the view, wondering what’s up top.”

Brother Davie Steindl-Rast

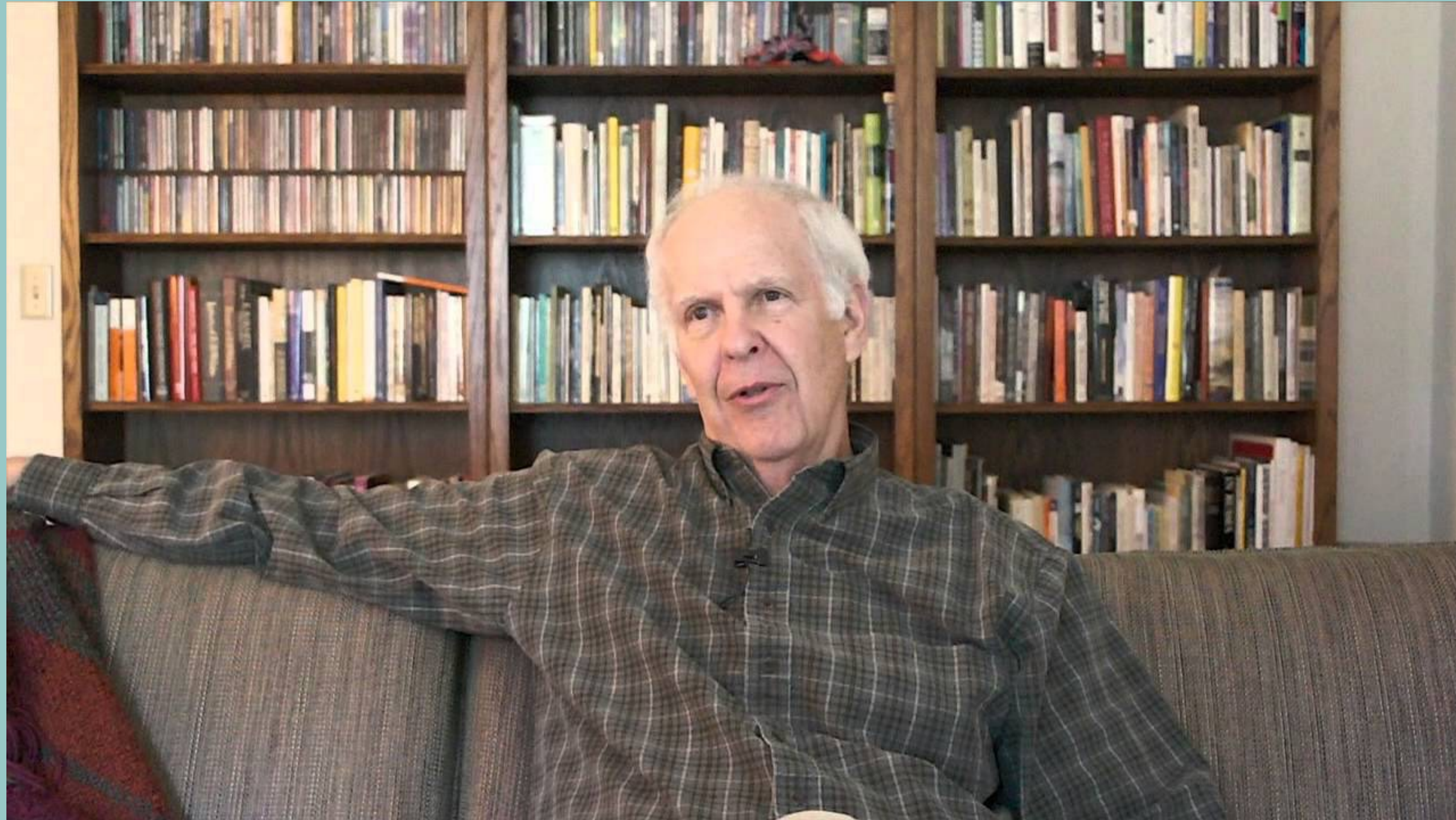


Saint Benedict writing the rules. Painting (1926) by [Hermann Nigg](#) (1849–1928).



1:14 - 3:36

PORTRAITS OF FAITH WITH PARKER PALMER



**2014: SPIRITUAL INSIGHT— A Time I Doubted My Faith
(35:00 - to the end)**

Grace, Gravity & Getting Old

Break out Rooms

2022: Some things to discuss

- * What is eternal life?**
- * Three insights: reaching out, moving toward, nature's importance**
- * Fierce Reality, Thin Places — Glimpse of Heaven on earth**
- * Doubting Moments — Cycles of Faith — embracing our brokenness**
- * Br. David Steindl-Rast/ Rule of Benedictine—keeping death before us always.**
- * Ways of Knowing? Being Fully Present? Being our “True Selves”**

Feedback and Summary

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

NEXT WEEK:

Session X— March 28, 2022

Conclusions &

Where to from here

Check out ‘Pause to Consider’

VOLUNTEER FOR CLOSING

Next Week



Closing with Carrie Newcomer

Praise be that this thin mark, this sound
Can form the word that takes on flesh
To enter where no flesh can go
To fill each other's emptiness

To words and how they live between us
To us and how we live between the worth

And in between the sound of words
I hear your silent, sounding soul
Where one abides in solitude
Who keeps us one when speech shall go

To words and how they live between us
To us and how we live between the worth

CARRIE NEWCOMER

KINDRED SPIRITS: A Collection



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