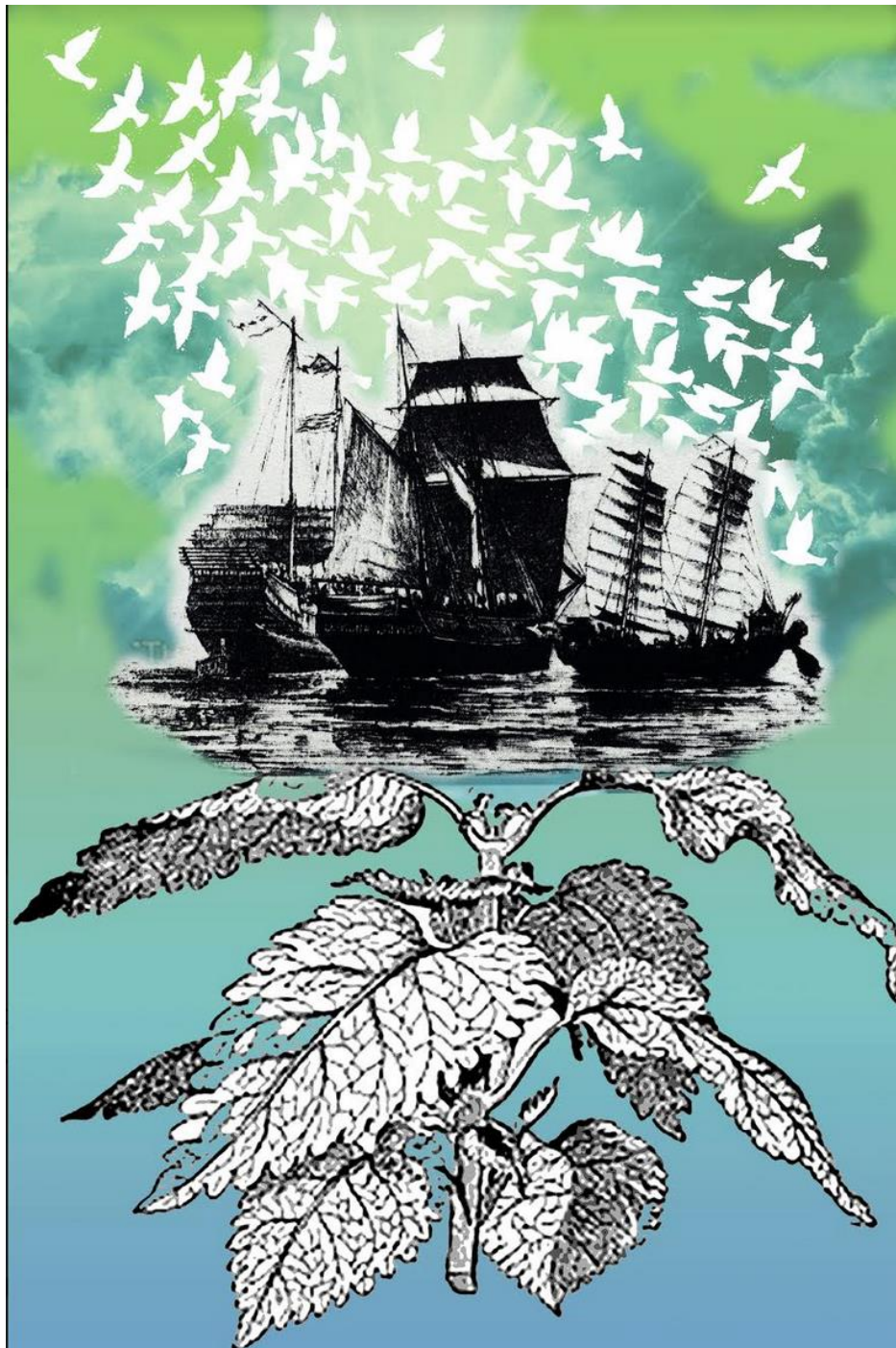


**Rev. Richard Paul Poethig Memorial Service**  
Lake View Presbyterian Church  
Saturday, December 11, 2021, 3:00 pm



## Pre-Service Music and Photo Montage 1925-1972

with John Erickson, pianist

### Opening

Joy Douglas Strome

### Remembrance

Kerry Poethig

Richard Poethig, *On the Sidewalks of New York*, selection from Chapter 21: "Reinie"

<https://onthesidewalksofnewyork.com>

"Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love." Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History*

### Hymn:

Morning has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, spring fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation; praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 25: 1, 4-9

Luke Poethig

**Remembrance**

Erika Poethig

**Hymn**

Gift to be Simple

Tis the gift to be simple, tis the gift to be free,  
Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
to turn, turn, will be my delight.  
Till by turning, turning, we come round right.

**Remembrance**

Johanna Poethig

**Richard Poethig and Margaret Poethig, "Keeping Dad Alive" podcast, selection from Season 2, Episode 1: "Cosmic Theologian."**

<https://keepingdadalive.com/season2-episode1-cosmic-theologian/>

**Remembrance**

Scott Poethig

**Hymn**

Lone Wild Bird

The lone, wild bird in lofty flight  
Is still with Thee, nor leaves Thy sight.  
And I am Thine! I rest in Thee.  
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.

The ends of earth are in Thy hand,  
The sea's dark deep and far off land.  
And I am Thine! I rest in Thee.  
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.

**Remembrance**

Margaret Poethig

**Scripture Reading**

Psalm 139

**Meditation**

Joy Douglas Strome

**Remembrance**

Sam Sendejas

**Closing Prayer and Benediction**

Joy Douglas Strome

**Photo Montage 1972-2021**

John Erickson

We are grateful to Anita David for collecting the plants that adorn the altar.

***Croton (San Francisco)***—This plant grew happily around our house in Manila. It is unclear why it has this name given that it is native to Southeast Asia, but both Kerry and Johanna now live near San Francisco, so this is another good reason for its presence here.

***Variegated poinsettias***—A nod to Scott's Ph.D. thesis research, pink and white poinsettias contain genetically red and genetically white cells in different tissue layers (i.e., they are chimeras). Dad was sure that Scott inherited his interest in plants from him.

***Sunflowers***—Dad's bedroom was enlivened by sunflowers during his last few weeks of life, which reminded him of his beloved Eunice.

***Calla lilies***—The curled "flower" of a Calla lily is actually a modified leaf (called a spathe), not a flower. The flowers are born on the stalk in the center of the spathe, and are small and nondescript. We don't think that dad ever preached about Calla lilies, but if he did, we are certain he would draw all sorts of profound lessons from this truth.

***Tradescantia (Wandering Jew)***—At one time, Tradescantia were everywhere in dad's Chicago apartment because every broken branch was immediately rescued and propagated. Any plant that produced roots when it was stuck in water got this treatment.

***Maranta (Prayer plant)***—So-called because its leaves close at night. An appropriate plant for someone who put his children to bed at night with a benediction: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace, now and forever. Amen.

Link to Richard's obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/nytimes/name/richard-poethig-obituary?id=31662617>