

Among the Tendrils in the Mesh of Life

Jesus comments on tragedy in the world

3 Lent, Year C

1. Among the tendrils in the mesh of life
our stories coil, our spirits rise and twine—
we are a cell, a seed, a dappled leaf
in one evolving, interlacing vine.
2. We thought ourselves God's only children once,
and God a Father with a single care;
we chafed whenever paths were dark or barbed
and heaven seemed indifferent or unfair.
3. But we begin to see the way of things—
a larger family, a cosmosphere
where God is one who bears creatively
a grand menagerie of children here.
4. And in this mesh of cause and consequence
we'll live and hurt and heal and sometimes shine
and grow with every creature toward this One
who links and loves us in a common vine.

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Among the Tendrils in the Mesh of Life

Michael Hudson (b.1950)

Ellers, Edward John Hopkins (1818–1901)

arr. Albert Blackwell

The musical score is written for a choir in 3/2 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are arranged in four parts, with the first part starting at measure 1 and the others following. The lyrics are: 1. A - mong the ten - drils in the mesh of life; 2. We thought our - selves God's on - ly child - ren once,; 3. But we be - gin mesh to see the way of things—; 4. And in this mesh of cause and con - se - quence. The score continues with: our sto - ries coil, our spi - rits rise and twine—; and God a Fa - ther with a sin - gle care; a larg - er fa - mi - ly, a cos - mo - sphere; we'll live and hurt and heal and some - times shine. The final system begins with: we are a cell, a seed, a dap - pled leaf; we chafed when - e - ver paths were dark or barbed; where God is one who bears cre - a - tive - ly; and grow with ev - ery crea - ture toward this One.

1. A - mong the ten - drils in the mesh of life
2. We thought our - selves God's on - ly child - ren once,
3. But we be - gin mesh to see the way of things—
4. And in this mesh of cause and con - se - quence

5
our sto - ries coil, our spi - rits rise and twine—
and God a Fa - ther with a sin - gle care;
a larg - er fa - mi - ly, a cos - mo - sphere
we'll live and hurt and heal and some - times shine

9
we are a cell, a seed, a dap - pled leaf
we chafed when - e - ver paths were dark or barbed
where God is one who bears cre - a - tive - ly
and grow with ev - ery crea - ture toward this One

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in one e - volv - ing, in - ter - lac - ing vine.
and hea - ven seemed in - dif - ferent or un - fair.
a grand me - nag - e - rie of child - ren here.
who links and loves us in a com - mon vine.