

COME SING WITH ME!

Despite the turmoil, anguish and despair
disrupting the planet we inherited,
there is something good I choose to sing about.
That something lies within us, patiently waiting—
beneath us, above us and around us.

Its peaceful message yearns to fill
our places of murderous anger and hatred,
to flourish forever.

Hope is the song I have chosen to sing—
a deathless song, flowing steadily beside my faith.
Whenever the fist of doubt knocks at my door,
it is powerfully turned away by my hopeful singing.
When things go from bad to worse I still sing my song.
Why not?

It helps me endure the bloodthirsty days.
Once Earth's fire had devoured my hopes.
As my twisted soul slid toward Hell,
Fate came racing from another direction.
Pinned to it was a belt of sun with new instructions.

These, it said, are for you! Suddenly Fear was gone.
I made peace with the mean roads I'd walked.
My jackals could now lie down in truce.
From that day on, I began singing the song called Hope.
I still sing it loud—
above the waves, fire, darkness and mud.



SUZANNE FLINNETT / ASSOCIATED PRESS



PHOTO: TONI PARKS

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

GORDON PARKS

NOVEMBER 30, 1912 – MARCH 7, 2006



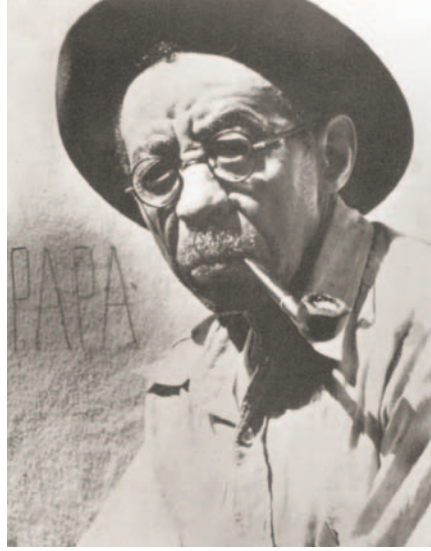
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006

AT 2:00PM

RIVERSIDE CHURCH
490 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK CITY



SARAH PARKS



ANDREW JACKSON PARKS

FOR MOMMA AND POPPA:

*“I stay drenched in
the showers of their love.”*

— GORDON PARKS

PRELUDE

Adagio for Strings, Samuel Barber
Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue, J.S. Bach

PROCESSIONAL

Arioso, J.S. Bach

OPENING WORDS

Reverend Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr

REMEMBRANCES

Avery Brooks

“Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” Gordon Parks;
Kermit Moore, cello, Dorothy Rudd Moore, piano

Alain Brouillaud

John Connell

HYMN

“Joyful, joyful” # 464 Ludwig von Beethoven

MUSIC

“Vocalise,” Sergei Rachmaninoff;
Korliss Uecker, soprano; Diane Walsh, piano

READING

Hamilton Richardson

REMEMBRANCES

David Dinkins

Joel Freeman

Peter Kunhardt

David Parks

Gloria Vanderbilt and Anderson Cooper

MUSIC

"The Learning Tree," Gordon Parks;
Grady Tate, tenor, Mario Sprouse, piano

PRAYERS AND CLOSING WORDS

Reverend Forbes

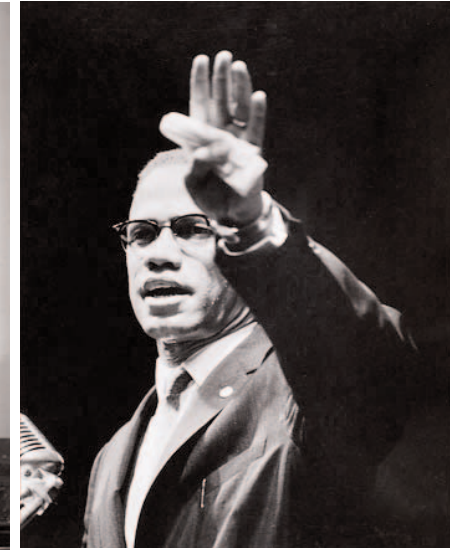
READING

Saleem Rollins

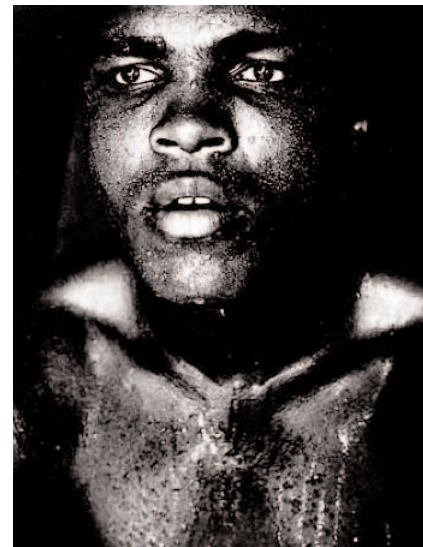
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

Symphonic Set for Piano and Orchestra,
Gordon Parks



*"I saw that the camera could be a weapon
against poverty, against racism,
against all sorts of social wrongs."*





*“The guy who takes a chance, who walks the line
between the known and unknown,
who is unafraid of failure, will succeed.”*



HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Kurt Baker
Stanley Mirskey
Adger W. Cowans
Gordon Parks III
Ed Dessisso
Tyrone Rashid
Howard Greenberg
Saleem Rollins
Douglas Hsieh
Richard Strickler
Richard Yaffa



*The family is deeply grateful to Eric Baker, Kermit Moore
and Mario Sprouse for their contributions to this service.*