

### **ONE-TWO [6'40]**

Imagine a river, flowing sluggishly, with a towpath running along beside it. It is not a very nice river.

It is dirty and muddy with a lot of black gunge floating on the surface. That's why it flows so sluggishly – not quite yet a stagnant pool – but flowing very sluggishly.

Somebody is heard to say, "The gunge that floats on the surface is fairly easy to deal with, but if you want to clear what is on the bottom of the river, then you've got to go deep, and dig a bit harder."

This river represents YOUR life and MY life.

### **THREE [2'50]**

Now you see a man coming along the towpath.

He is wearing heavy rainwear and wellies, and is carrying a large spade.

He has been digging in the riverbed.

He is covered from head to foot in thick mud.

He says, "All the mud in your life I will take upon MYSELF, so that your river can run clear."

"But," you might say, "there's so much, I despair that my river will ever run clear."

### **FOUR [7'05]**

"Take heart and trust ME," He says, "little by little I will clear it for you, and one day it will be clean."

He opens His hands, and in His palm are two pebbles. One is greyish with a flaw across the middle; the other is pure and shining white. He stands gazing with delight at these for a few moments, then he turns and walks away from the river, and heavy rain begins to wash the mud off him.

Who is this, who takes all my mud on himself?

### **FIVE [4'00]**

Now your scene changes a bit. The sun comes out and, in the distance, you can see a waterfall falling over a cliff and into your river – a beautiful, clean, sparkling waterfall.

Your river water begins to move and flow more easily.

All that gunge is floating off downstream.

### **SIX [2'26]**

Suddenly you realise you can see the stones on the bottom near the edges – not in the middle yet – but it's beginning to clear at the sides.

There IS hope. What did He say?

"Trust me... little by little I WILL clear it for you, and take all your mud upon MYSELF – "For where [my] river flows everything will live... and bear fruit." [Ezekiel 47:9]

Some scripture references: Eph 2:10; Phil 2:13; John 17:22; Rev 2:17b