Choir Members

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Soprano:  Louise Adams  Spring Davidson  Sarah Degnitz  Cheryl Engler  Jacki Hunt  Kathy Jones  Fa Lane  Kris Landvater  Lisa Ann Miller  Alice Rauch  Rhonda Rumbaugh  Ashley Weaber  Elspeth Williams | Alto:  Cindy Anthony  Terri Downer  Wendy Hepler  Hannah Landvater  Gloria Moyer  Lucille Shearer  Kay Shulski  Dina Slechta  Cindy Umberger  Nancy Wagner  Kathy Williams  Nancy Wise  Susan Zerbe | Tenor:  Jim Anderson  Larry Miller  Mark Shelly  Jim Yoder  Bass:  Michael Frazier  Mark Holm  John Kelly Poorman  Michael Slechta  Art Williams  Marty Wise  Ron Zug |

Musical Director: Eric Dundore Reader: Tony Fields

Piano for reference tracks: Sarah Myers

Technical Support and Mixing: Julie Holm

Instrumental work by: Joleen Fennell, Gloria Moyer, Alice Rauch, Scott Siciliano, Nancy Wise,

Acknowledgements

My Lord, What A Morning, ©1990 Melva Costen. Used by Permission

Mary Had A Baby ©1970 Augsburg Publishing Company. Used by Permission

Messiah Now Has Come ©1996 NEWorks Publishing.

Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow, Behold the Star, and Jesus, the Light of the World, ©2000 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by Permission

Go, Tell It on the Mountain, ©1992 The Pilgrim Press, Used by Permission.

All Poetry from *The Mood of Christmas*, by Howard Thurman, ©1973 Howard Thurman. Used by permission of Friends United Press.

Cover art is Nativity Black Cliparts #2875117 from <http://clipart-library.com>, accessed 10/27/2020. Permission granted for non-commercial use.

Artwork within the Cantata is sourced from *Art in the Christian Tradition,* Vanderbilt.edu. All is used under Creative Commons Licenses for NonCommercial use, or is in the public domain. Detailed acknowledgements in the credits of the videos.

My Lord, What A Morning



A Cantata of Spirituals, Gospel Hymns

And the Poetry of Howard Thurman

Penn Central Conference Virtual Choir

Advent 2020

Spirituals

Spirituals are the spirit-filled song of the enslaved African in the United States. Filled with drudgery and hope, cries of injustice and the dream of a heavenly future, they fulfilled a multitude of functions in the culture of the enslaved people. They helped one through the drudgery of the long and exhausting day. They taught the biblical story to people for whom actually reading the Bible would be a crime. They communicated the covert hope for freedom, and sometimes led the way to Freedom.

Howard Thurman claimed that these songs came from three sources: the Bible, the natural world, and the day to day experiences of the enslaved Africans.[[1]](#footnote-0) A good subset of these songs deal with the events surrounding the birth of the child Jesus and with the hope that this child brings to the enslaved.

Howard Thurman

Howard Thurman (1899-1981) was an African American Baptist pastor, mystic and theologian. He was prominent in the Civil Rights movement as a result of his book *Jesus and the Disinherited* and as a key mentor, especially to Martin Luther King Jr. He served as dean of Rankin Chapel at Howard University and as the first African American dean of the Marsh Chapel of Boston University, before going on to cofound the Church for the Fellowship of all Peoples in San Francisco, the first major interracial church in the United States, in 1944.

Thurman wrote prolifically, as a poet, a theologian, spiritual meditations, religion and philosophy. He took up subjects from the life of African Americans. Our poetry today is from his book, *The Mood of Christmas,* © 1973, Howard Thurman.

My Lord, What A Morning

My Lord, What A Morning Spiritual, Arr. Melva Costen

*Soloist: Jacki Hunt Instrumental: Amazing Grace, Nancy Wise, Handbells*

*The Growing Edge*

Mary Had A Baby Spiritual, Arr. David N. Johnson

*Soloists: Fa Lane, Alice Rauch, Cindy Umberger, Ron Zug Instrumental:Things up Yonder White as Snow, arr. Reddick. Joleen Fennel, Clarinet*

*Christmas is waiting to be Born*

Messiah Now Has Come Nolan Williams Jr.

*Instrumental:Somebody Talking About Jesus. Gloria Moyer, Hammered Dulcimer*

*I Will Sing A New Song*

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow Spiritual, Arr. Joseph Joubert

*Soloists: Jim Yoder, Kay Shulski, Instrumental: Rise Up Shepherd, Alice Rauch, Oboe*

*I Will Light Candles This Christmas*

Behold the Star Spiritual, Arr. Nolan Williams Jr

*Soloist: Nancy Wise Instrumental: Deep River. Joleen Fennell, clarinet*

*The Sacrament of Christmas*

Jesus, the Light of the World

Elderkin, Wesley, Simpson-Currenton

*Accompanist: Scott Siciliano, piano - Instrumental: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot. Handbells, Nancy Wise*

*The Season of Remembrance*

Go, Tell It on the Mountain Spiritual, Arr. Joyce Fince Johnson

*Accompaniment:Dina Slechta, cello, Instrumental: Go, Tell It on the Mountain. Wendy Hepler, Mountain Dulcimer*

*The Work of Christmas*

*Instrumental: My Lord, What A Morning. Nancy Wise, Handbells.*

*A Note to Pastors and Choir Directors.*

On Permissions:

This Cantata can be downloaded and used in your worship services. All permissions for this use are covered.

You can also download and use it in other events within your own church community. And you can share the YouTube videos with anyone you like. They will be available until May 21,2021.

You cannot download this and repackage it and republish it for any use other than within your community. You cannot stream it as your own content, or provide it for download to someone else.

If you have a OneLicense streaming license, you should report use of these titles. These titles are not available on CCLI.

On Use:

These pieces are being made available to you as a full Cantata or as individual pieces. If you are downloading, please take either the seven individual pieces, or the full Cantata, not both. You may use it as a single unit, or may use it as anthems throughout the Advent and Christmas Season.

If you use these as individual pieces, we recommend the following:

1 Advent, 11/29/2020

*My Lord, What A Morning.* This resonates with the apocalypse of Matthew, and especially Matt 13:24 (NRSV)But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

2 Advent, 12/6/2020

*Go, Tell It On the Mountain* connects with the voice crying out in the Wilderness. *Messiah Now Has Come* also connects with the theme of the coming of the Messiah present in both the Isaiah and Mark passages.

3 Advent, 12/13/2020

*Jesus, the Light of the World* highlights the Johannine theme of Jesus as Light. It also picks up the joy in the Psalm and the passage from Isaiah.

*Mary Had a Baby* might be a better choice if using the Magnificat.

4 Advent 12/20/2020

Depending on what you have used before, either *Messiah Now Has Come* or *Jesus, the Light of the World* should work. If you have not used *Mary Had a Baby* the week before, the attention of the readings to Mary this week should make that a useful track.

Christmas, 12/24-25/2020

*Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* is particularly good for a Christmas Morning Service. If you have not used them, either *Messiah Now Has Come* or *Jesus, the Light of the World are good as well.*

Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, 12/27/2020

If you are splitting the music up, this is an excellent week to use *Go, Tell It on the Mountain.*

Epiphany Sunday, 1/3/2021

*Behold the Star.*

1. Howard Thurman, *Deep River and The Negro Spiritual Speaks of Life and Death,* ©1975 by Howard Thurman. Published by Friends United Press. P.12. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)