
Good Friday Blues

Jazz Lament



Until I die my burthen be;
How Calvary in Palestine,
Extending down to me and mine,
Was but the first leaf in a line
Of trees on which a Man should swing
World without end, in suffering
For all men's healing, let me sing.

from "The Black Christ"
by Countee Cullen

Good Friday Blues: Jazz Lament

Resistance

GATHERING MUSIC

Blues

John Coltrane

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Rev. Maggie Gann and Rev. David Denoon

INVOCATION

Prayer

Keith Jarrett

Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

Sung by soloists, then spoken by the People

In the midst of all chaos I offer a prayer,
As the world turns around me in pain and despair,
I remember your promise that flows everywhere.

In the twilight and darkness when day turns to night,
In each moment of sadness, you offer me sight.
I remember your promise and enter your light.

In the touch of another I sense you are near,
Sharing moments of blessing there's nothing to fear.
I remember your promise, and my way seems clear.

Fill my heart with your Spirit and enter this space,
Bringing hope to a story that fear can't erase.
Bless our journey together and grant me your grace.



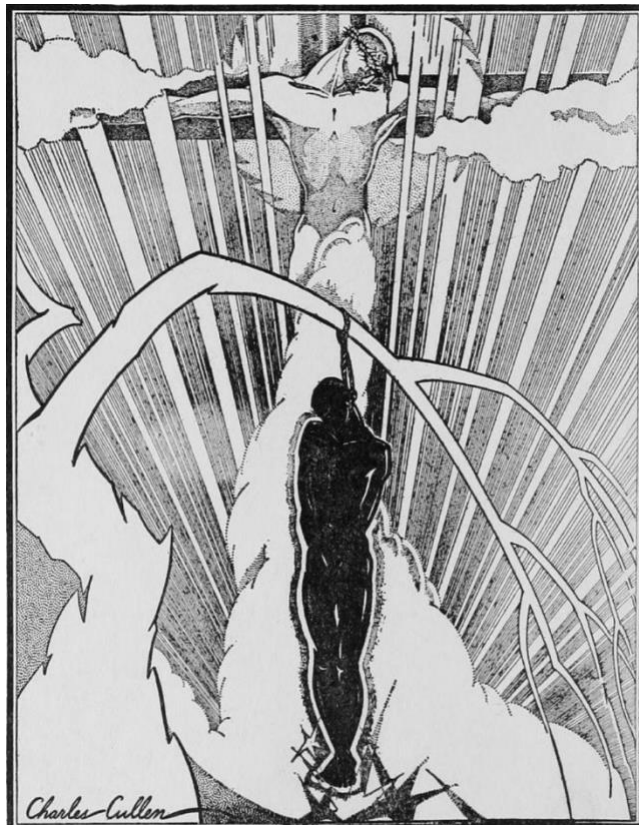
PART ONE

Conquering the World

Luke 23:33-35, 39, 44-45

Strange Fruit

Abel Meeropol



Southern trees bear a strange fruit
Blood on the leaves
and blood at the root
Black bodies swinging
in the southern breeze
Strange fruit hanging
from the poplar trees

Pastoral scene of the gallant South
The bulging eyes
and the twisted mouth
Scent of magnolias,
sweet and fresh
Then the sudden smell
of burning flesh.

Here is fruit for the crows to pluck
For the rain to gather,
for the wind to suck
For the sun to rot,
for the trees to drop
Here is a strange
and bitter crop

PART TWO

Resisting Giving Up Early

Luke 4:1-4

Nature Boy

Eden Ahbez

There was a boy, a very strange, enchanted boy
They say he wandered very far, very far, over land and sea
A little shy and sad of eye, but very wise was he
And then one day, one magic day he passed my way
And while we spoke of many things, fools and kings, this he said to me,
“The greatest thing you’ll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return.”

PART THREE *Resisting Doing Good for the Wrong Reason*

Luke 4:5-8

Chameleon

Music by Herbie Hancock / Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

Get it, get it, get it out of my mind – I can’t imagine. No way!
Keep it, keep it, keep it out of my heart – it’s so horrific. I say:
O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?
What is the answer? Your answer.
O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?
What is the answer? Your answer.
O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

Look at, look at, look at the news – it’s disturbing. Painful!
Watch out, watch out, watch out for the lies – thrown at brothers and sisters!
O Lord, please Lord...

Stop it, stop it, stop it right now – don’t want to hear it. No more!
Help me, help me, help me, show me the way – to action. I ask:
O Lord, please Lord...

PART FOUR *Resisting an Unrealistic Portrayal of God*

Luke 4:9-13

Everybody’s Crying Mercy

Mose Alison

I don’t believe the things I’m seeing,
I’ve been wondering about some things I’ve heard,
Everybody’s crying mercy – when they don’t know the
meaning of the word.

It’s a bad enough situation,
Sure enough is getting worse,
Everybody’s crying justice –
just as soon as there’s business first.

Toe to toe, touch and go,
Give a cheer, and get your own souvenir.
There are people running around in circles,
They don’t know what they’re headed for,
Everybody’s crying peace on earth –
just as soon as we win this war.

Straight ahead. Knock ’em dead,
Pack your kit, and choose your own hypocrite.

You don’t have to go Off-Broadway,
To see something that’s plain absurd,
Everybody’s crying mercy –
when they don’t know the meaning of the word.



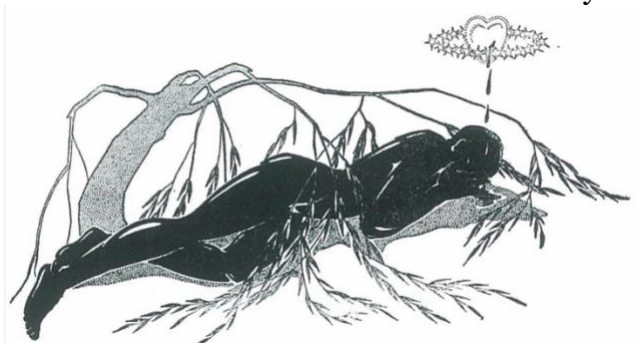
PART FIVE

Resisting Missing the Point

Luke 13:1-5, 31-35

Moanin'

Bobby Timmons



Every morning find me moanin'
'Cause of all the trouble I've seen.
Life's a losing gamble to me.
Cares and woes have got me moanin'.

Every evenin' finds me moanin'
I'm alone and crying the blues.
I'm so tired of paying these dues.
Everybody knows I'm moanin'.

Lord, I spend plenty of days and nights alone with my grief.
But I pray, really and truly pray, somebody will come and bring me relief.

PART SIX

Resisting Entitlement

Luke 15

Throw It Away

Abbey Lincoln

I think about the life I live – a figure made of clay
And think about the things I lost – the things I gave away
And when I'm in a certain mood, I search the house and look
One night I found these magic words in a magic book

Throw it away, throw it away
Give your love, live your life, each and every day
And keep your hand wide open. Let the sun shine through
'Cause you can never lose a thing, if it belongs to you.

There's a natural obligation to what we hold and claim
Professing and belonging, acknowledging a name
And the hands unclenched, unopened, all the joy that they bring
So leave your hands wide open if you need anything

PART SEVEN

Being Present

John 12:1-8

Dreams and Visions (Dedicated to Coretta Scott King)

Music by Chris Bakriges

Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

Dream. Dream a world that's just and fair.
Free from hatred and fear.
Safe without want or care.
Love will be our guide – overcoming greed and pride.
Unity – dreams and visions set us free.

Dare. Dare to lift your voices high.
Speaking truth from your heart.
Now is the time to start.
Hope points to the way – visions of a brand new day.
Unity – dreams and visions set us free.

Ah... visions and dreams.
Ah... visions and dreams.
Start now! Right now!
Start now! Right now!

Sing. Sing a song to change the world.
Sing it out in the night.
Sing 'til you get it right.
Grace abides in you – ready to transform, make new.
Unity – dreams and visions set us free.

CONCLUSION AND BENEDICTION

Dave and Maggie

Save the Country Laura Nyro

Come on, people! Come on, children!
Come on down to the glory river
Gonna wash you up and wash you down
Gonna lay the devil down, gonna lay that devil down

Come on, people! Come on, children!
There's a king at the glory river
And the precious king, he loved the people to sing
Babes in the blinkin' sun sang, "We shall overcome"

And I got fury in my soul
Fury's gonna take me to the glory goal
In my mind I can't study war no more
Save the people! Save the children!
Save the country, save the country now!

Come on, people! Come on, children!
Come on down to the glory river
Gonna wash you up and wash you down
Gonna lay the devil down, gonna lay that devil down

Come on, people! Sons and mothers!
Keep the dream of the two young brothers
Gonna take that dream and ride that dove
We can build the dream with love, I know
We could build the dream with love.
We could build the dream with love, I know
We could build the dream with love.

And I got fury in my soul
Fury's gonna take me to the glory goal
In my mind I can't study war no more
Save the people! Save the children!
Save the country!
Save the people! Save the children!
Save the country!

*Illustrations by Charles Cullen,
from The Black Christ and Other Poems
by Countee Cullen*

New York: Harper & Bros, 1929

*(The poet and the illustrator were not related,
except in spirit.)*



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Good Friday Blues: Jazz Lament is a project of the Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA) of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ – Rev. Cliff Aerie, director. Tonight's program, *Resistance*, was conceived by Cliff Aerie and Rev. David Denoon with inspiration from Glen Smith.

Tonight, the **Oïkos Ensemble** includes Kim Fuller and Arianna Aerie, vocals; Carolbeth True, piano; Glen Smith, bass; David True, percussion; Tim Osiek, trumpet; and Cliff Aerie, saxophone.

The **Logos Readers** tonight include, in order of appearance, Ashley Merideth, Mallory Rusch, Karen Diehl, and Nick Suber; with direction by Dave Denoon.

CLERGY & CONGREGATIONS

Rev. Maggie Gann, pastor of Sts. Clare & Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion, invites you to worship with her community, most Saturday nights at 5pm. Tomorrow night, instead of worship at 5:00, the **Great Vigil of Easter begins with a bonfire at 7:00pm** in the Jubilee Garden (south garden on the east side of the church) and transitions to Sample Chapel for an evening of story, song, and sacrament. A light reception and champagne toast will follow the service. All are welcome!

Rev. David Denoon, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ, invites you to his church's celebrations, this weekend also. Tomorrow morning at 10am, an **Easter Egg Hunt** will take place, rain or shine (It's indoors.). On Sunday, April 20, First Church's **Festival of the Resurrection** will take place in the sanctuary with a Festival Brass Concert starting at 9:45am.

HOW TO DONATE TO MICA

Offering baskets in the narthex of the church are prepared to receive your gifts to benefit future MICA projects. Additionally, please feel free to donate to MICA by visiting firstchurchwg.org/donate. Select "Give to MICA (31016)" from the dropdown menu.
Thank you!

Sts. Clare & Francis

Distinct. Inclusive. Catholic.

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pro LGBT+
pro women
pro science
pro choice
pro community
yes, really

Mass: 5pm, Saturdays

10 W Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves, MO 63119



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