



27th HOWARD THURMAN CONVOCATION

79th Church Anniversary

October 15, 2023 - 3:00 PM

Distinguished Musicians



Pope Flyne



William Underwood, III



Dr. Carl Blake

Keynote Speakers



Aaron Peskin, President, SF Board of Supervisors



M. Pilar LaValley, SF Planning Department



Matthew Fox Theologian & Author

October 15, 2023

Landmarking the Past: Preparing the Future

Dear Members and Friends of Fellowship Church:

Welcome to the 79th Anniversary Celebration and the 27th Annual Howard Thurman Convocation.

This year we celebrate the landmarking of our building at 2041 Larkin Street as a Historic Landmark by the City and County of San Francisco. Speakers include Dr. Matthew Fox, Theologian and Author; Aaron Peskin, President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and M. Pilar LaValley, Senior Preservation Planner, San Francisco Planning Department. Distinguished Musicians Dr. Carl Blake, Pope Flyne, and William Underwood, III, will provide a profound musical experience.

The Church for the Fellowship was inaugurated in 1944 by Drs. Howard Thurman and Alfred Fisk as the nation's first avowedly interracial, interfaith community.

What we are committed to here (Fellowship Church), and what many other people in other places are committed to, is very simple – that it is possible to develop a religious fellowship that is creative in character and so convincing in quality that it inspires the mind to multiply experiences of unity – which experiences of unity become over and over and over again more compelling than the concepts, the ways of life, the seeds and the creeds that separate men. We believe that in the presence of God with His dream of order there is neither male nor female, white nor black, Gentile nor Jew, Protestant nor Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist, nor Moslem, but a human spirit stripped to the literal substance of itself.”

(Howard Thurman, The Creative Encounter, p.151)

Trusting Life!

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Lloyd Benton, Co-Minister
Rev. Dr. Dorsey Odell Blake, Presiding Minister

BIOGRAPHIES

DR. CARL BLAKE (piano) holds three degrees in piano performance: Bachelor of Music (magna cum laude) from Boston University, Master of Arts from San Jose State University, and Doctor of Musical Arts from Cornell University. Currently, he serves as Director of Music of The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco and teaches piano in his private studio in Oakland. Mr. Blake is a member of the Board of Directors of Noontime Concerts San Francisco.

MATTHEW FOX (theologian) is an Episcopal priest and an activist for gender justice and eco-justice. He has written 37 books that have been translated into other languages over 70 times. Among them are *Original Blessing*, *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, *A Spirituality Named Compassion*, *The Reinvention of Work*, *The Hidden Spirituality of Men*, *Christian Mystics* and *The Pope's War*. He has contributed much to the rediscovery of Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart and Thomas Aquinas as pre-modern mystics and prophets. Fox holds a doctorate in the history and theology of spirituality from the Institut Catholique de Paris. The founder of the University of Creation Spirituality in California, he conducts dozens of workshops each year and is a visiting scholar at the Academy for the Love of Learning.

In joining the Episcopal church over 20 years ago, Fox has been working with young people to reinvent forms of worship by bringing elements of rave such as dance, dj, vj and more into the Western Liturgy. The Cosmic Mass has been celebrated over 100 times and in dozens of cities in North America.

POPE FLYNE (Ghanaian master drummer) is a performer, composer and educator. He was once known as lead vocalist for the legendary Sweet Talks band of Ghana, where he helped bring the art of highlife music to new heights. When not on stage, he shares his joyful spirit and vast knowledge of African folk music, dancing and percussion with his legions of American students. Pope is also a recording artist publishing under Akwaaba Records and Spiraling Music.

M. Pilar LaValley (Senior Preservation Planner) is LEED AP, Senior Planner Survey & Designation | Current Planning for the San Francisco Planning Department.

Aaron Peskin (President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors) represents District 3. He has lived in District 3 for over 30 years. The district is comprised of these neighborhoods: North Beach, Chinatown, Fisherman's Wharf, Polk Gulch, Union Square, Financial District, Russian Hill, Telegraph Hill and Nob Hill.

WILLIAM UNERWOOD III (flute) is a recent transplant to the Bay Area from Detroit. He holds two degrees in flute performance: Bachelor of Science in Music from Florida A&M University and Master of Music from Wayne State University. Mr. Underwood performs in traditional, avant-garde, social, and sacred arenas as a solo, collaborative, and recording artist.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude		Dr. Carl Blake
Processional		Ministers
Call to Assembly		Pope Flyne
Opening Music	(Page 5) <i>Now Let Us Sing</i>	Congregation
Invocation		Dr. Kathryn Benton
Welcome		Bryan Caston
Music	<i>Summerland</i> by William Grant Still	William Underwood/Carl Blake
Introduction of Dr. Matthew Fox		Dr. Dorsey O. Blake/Dr. Kathryn Benton
Music	<i>Aria</i> by Ernst Dohnanyi	William Underwood/Carl Blake
Address		Dr. Matthew Fox
Music	<i>Hypnosis</i> by Ian Clarke	William Underwood/Carl Blake
The Journey to Landmarking		M. Pilar LaValley
Acknowledgments:		Peter Fitzsimmons/Carol Verburg
	San Francisco Planning Department	
	San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission	
	San Francisco Board of Supervisors	
Historic Landmark Designation		Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Presentation to M. Pilar LaValley		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Music	<i>Amen</i>	Congregation
Offering		Clara Allen/Congregation
Offertory Music	(Page 6) <i>We've Come This Far by Faith</i>	Traditional Gospel
Remarks		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Sending Forth Music	(Page 6) <i>We Are Building Up A New World</i>	Congregation
Benediction		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Postlude		Carl Blake

Reception in Thurman Fellowship Hall (downstairs)

Now Let Us Sing

368

$\text{♩} = 116$

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: '1. Sing to the power of the Now let us sing, sing, faith with-in. Sing to the power of the sing, sing. Now let us sing, sing, faith with-in. Lift up your voice, be not a - sing, sing. Lift up your voice, be not a - be not a-fraid; sing to the power of the faith with-in. afraid; now let us'.

- 2. Sing to the power of the hope within. . . .
- 3. Sing to the power of the love within. . . .
- 4. Sing to the power of the joy within. . . .

Words & music: Anonymous

ROBESON
Irregular

SONGS

We Are Building Up a New World

We are building up a new world,
We are building up a new world,
We are building up a new world,
BUILDERS MUST BE STRONG.

Courage sisters don't get weary,
Courage brothers don't get weary,
Courage people don't get weary,
THOUGH THE WAY BE LONG.

Rise, shine, give God glory,
Rise, shine, give God glory,
Rise, shine, give God glory,
CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT.

Words courtesy of Vincent Harding

Note: This song is sung to the tune of *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*.

We've Come This Far by Faith

Chorus:

We've come this far by faith
Leaning on the Lord;
Trusting in His Holy Word,
He's never failed me yet.

Oh, Oh, Oh, Can't turn around,
We've come this far by faith.

THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE

It is a simple story, simply told. One day, a man walked into an antique shop and asked permission to look around. It was a rather exclusive shop frequented only by those who could afford to purchase articles made rare by their scarcity and age. The visitor seemed strangely out of place because he was poorly dressed, though clean; indeed it was clear from his appearance that he was a laborer whose face had been etched by sun and rain and whose hands were rough and worn. After more than a half hour, he left.

In about ten days he returned. This time he found a very beautiful piece of old glass and asked if he could make a deposit on it. Each week he made a payment, until at last the article was his. With much curiosity, the owner of the shop engaged him in conversation to determine, if he could, the use to which such a man would put his new purchase.

"I bought it for my little room. It isn't much, but I bring to it, from time to time, through the years, only the very best and most beautiful things. You see, that is where I *Live*!"

To bring to the place where you live only the best and most beautiful—what a plan for one's life! This is well within the reach of everyone. Think of using one's memory in that way. As one lives from day to day, there are all sorts of experiences, good, bad, beautiful, ugly, that become a part of one's past. To develop the ability to screen one's memory so that only the excellent is retained for one's own room! All kinds of ideas pass through one's mind, about oneself, about the world, about people. Which do you keep for your own room? Think it over now; which ideas do you keep for the place where you live?

It is well within the mark to say that the oft-quoted words of Jesus, about laying up for yourself treasures in heaven, deal with this same basic idea. The place where you live is where your treasures are. Where your treasures are is where your heart is. Where your heart is, is where your God is.

THE CHURCH FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALL PEOPLES

Upcoming Events

Date

- 10/22/2023 **10:30 AM - Engaged Spirituality Discussion Group via Zoom**
Book: *Walking with God: The Sermon Series of Howard Thurman Vol. 2 The Way of the Mystics*
Edited by: Peter Eisenstadt & Walter Fluker
- This discussion will cover the Editors' Introduction (Pages: xiii - xxii) and Howard Thurman's Introduction, Pages 1 - 9.
- 11/11/2023 **11 AM - Commemorating Armistice Day**
Ringing the church bell.
- 11/19/2023 **11 AM - Service**
Transgender Day of Remembrance Service
Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.
- 11/26/2023 **10:30 AM - Engaged Spirituality Discussion Group via Zoom**
~~Book: "Mysticism and the Experience of Love" by Howard Thurman~~
The discussion will focus of pages 19 through 23, and any other thoughts people have on the entire pamphlet.
- 12/3/2023 **11 AM - Service**
Annual Christmas Program - The Mood of Christmas
A Special Christmas Service
The Mood of Christmas - Dr. Carl Blake, Director of Music.
- 1/14/2024 **11 AM - Service**
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in conjunction with the Northern California Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Foundation
Guest Speaker: To be determined.

The Commitment

I affirm my need for a growing understanding of all peoples as children of God, and I seek after a vital experience of God as revealed in Jesus of Nazareth and other great religious spirits whose fellowship with God was the foundation of their fellowship with all people.

I desire to share in the spiritual growth and ethical awareness of people of varied national, cultural, racial, and creedal heritage united in a religious fellowship.

I desire the strength of corporate worship through membership in The Church for The Fellowship of All Peoples, with the imperative of personal dedication to the working out of God's purposes here and in all places.

Rev. Dr. Dorsey O. Blake
Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Kathryn L. Benton
Co-Minister

Rev. Martin Todd Allen
Rev. Elizabeth Olson
Rev. Suzi Spangenberg
Rev. Elena Rose Vera

Associate Ministers

Dr. Carl Blake
Director of Music

Founding Ministers

Dr. Howard Thurman
Dr. Alfred Fisk



Board of Trustees

Clara Allen

Courtney Brown

Michael Brown, Vice-Chair

Bryan Caston, Chair

Stephen Leeds, Treasurer

Brenda Reinertson

Rev. Elena Rose Vera

Carol Verburg

**Thank you to everyone
who assisted in making
this year's celebration a
wonderful success.**