

**THE CHURCH FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALL PEOPLES**

on its

**68th Anniversary**

Presents the

**17th Annual Howard Thurman Convocation**

**THE NEGRO SPIRITUALS**

Jacqueline Hairston  
The New Jacqueline Hairston Ensemble  
Helen Dilworth, soprano  
Autris Paige, baritone  
Othello Jefferson, tenor/organist  
Noah Griffin, baritone  
Carl Blake, pianist  
Lawrence Sumpter, organist  
Felix Justice, narrator

**2012 Howard Thurman Award Recipient**

Friends of Negro Spirituals:  
Sam Edwards and Lyvonne Chrisman  
Co-founders

October 21, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

2041 LARKIN STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

Phone: (415) 776-4910 Email: [info@fellowshipsf.org](mailto:info@fellowshipsf.org)

[www.fellowshipsf.org](http://www.fellowshipsf.org)

Dear Members of Friends of “The Fellowship:”

How wonderful it is to have this opportunity to greet you and express our appreciation for your attendance at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard Thurman Convocation. This convocation also celebrates the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our uniquely powerful congregation. Born in 1944 as the nation’s first avowedly interracial, interfaith congregation, Fellowship Church continues to be a place for exploring the common ground of our existence and embracing people from all walks and corners of life. “The fellowship” prophetically challenges individuals and the nation to become “The Beloved Community” of justice, compassion, and authentic community where none need be afraid or alone. Through the convocation, we renew and re-commit ourselves to this tremendous vision that impelled Dr. Alfred Fisk, Dr. Howard Thurman, the founding members and subsequent ministers and congregants to generously and creatively give of their resources to sustain the church as a rallying place for all who seek to transcend oppressive barriers that divide the human family.

The focus of this year’s convocation is the Negro Spirituals. The spirituals were a tremendous source of strength for Dr. Thurman. They anchored him and companioned his soul, connecting him to the majesty and faithfulness of creation. Dr. Thurman wrote two books on the spirituals: *Deep River* and *The Negro Spiritual Speaks of Life and Death*. Excerpts from *Deep River* will be part of today’s service.

Friends of Negro Spirituals will receive this year’s Howard Thurman Award. Founded in 1998 by Sam Edwards and Lyvonne Chrisman, Friends of Negro Spirituals is a 501 (c) (3) Bay Area educational organization that has been diligent and persistent in providing forums to educate the public regarding the heritage, diversity, inspiration, and preservation of these great testaments to the movement of the All Pervading Presence within oppression. Through the spirituals, according to Thurman, the slaves “made a worthless life worth living.”

What a stellar cast of performing artists we have today: Jacqueline Hairston and the New Jacqueline Ensemble; Helen Dilworth, soprano; Autris Paige, baritone; Othello Jefferson, tenor/organist; Noah Griffin, baritone; Lawrence Sumpter, organist; Carl Blake, pianist; and Felix Justice, narrator. We would like to thank Dr. Carl Blake for orchestrating today’s service.

If you are not aware, let us inform you! We’re here every Sunday at 11:00 AM. Please join us for worship. With your help, we may be able to change the world with our love and high resolve.

Trusting in Life,

Dr. Dorsey Odell Blake  
Presiding Minister

Dr. Kathryn Lloyd Benton  
Co-Minister

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Sam Edwards** - An African-American, Sam Edwards, Jr., was born on 6/4/1943 in or near the small, very rural, and racially segregated community of Powhatan, Louisiana. He was born on a white man's plantation to a very poor share-cropping family. He and his now deceased brother, Leon, were raised by his most loving aunt, Virginia Edwards, and a most loving uncle, James (Manny) Edwards. Sam's father moved to San Francisco around the time Sam was born and worked many years in Hunters Point's Naval Ship Yard.

Sam graduated from Allen High School in Allen, Louisiana in 1961. He then joined his father in S. F. to get an education. He earned an AA degree from San Francisco Community College in 1963; a BA degree in Social Work from San Francisco State College in 1967, the MSW degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1969 and a two-year Post Masters psychiatric certificate from SF's Mount Zion Hospital and Medical Center's Psychiatry Department in 1971.

He is a Licensed Clinical Social Workers. He has practiced psychotherapy in his offices in San Francisco and Palo, Alto, CA since 1971. He has been working as a part-time therapist in Psychological Service of San Francisco Community College since 1969. From 1971 until October 2010, the time of his retirement, he worked as therapist in the Counseling and Psychological Services of Stanford University.

He is a two-term past president, former First Vice President and chairperson of the membership committee of Bay Area Association of Black Social Workers. He founded the now defunct *Black Community Central Committee* at Stanford University in the 1970s and co-founded *Friends of Negro Spirituals* in November, 1998 with Lyvonne Chrisman.

He has authored a chapter in a psychiatric based book and a professional article in a college journal.

**Lyvonne Chrisman** - Lyvonne is the vice president and co-founder of *Friends of Negro Spirituals*, as well as the office manager, volunteer business manager of the organization.

She brings over thirty years of business management experience to the group. Chrisman has served with the City of Oakland's Second Start Literacy Program, Board of Directors of the African American Library Coalition working with the Oral History Project, twelve-years as a Volunteer Audio/Media Operator and as a member of various cultural enrichment organizations in the Bay Area.

She is a graduate of the University of Phoenix, earning a BS in Business Administration and a certificate of Training and Human Development from the University of California Extension; she has taken many management courses in Computer Operations. Lyvonne is also a member of the Oral History Association.

# NEGRO SPIRITUALS, sample listing

A Little Talk With Jesus Makes it Right  
All God's Children Got Winds  
Balm in Gilead  
By and By  
Come Here, Lord!  
Deep River  
Do, Lord, Remember Me  
Done Made My Vow to the Lord  
Ev'ry Time I Fell the Spirit  
Father Abraham  
Go Down Moses  
Go Tell It on the Mountain  
Hard Times  
Heaven! Heaven! (Going to Shout All Over God's Heaven)  
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands  
I Couldn't Hear Nobod Pray  
I Don't Fell No Ways Tired  
I Got Shoes  
I Want to be Ready  
I Want to Die Easy When I Die  
I'm A Rolling  
I'm A Trav'ling to the Grave  
In That Great Getting Up Morning  
It's Me, O Lord (Standing in the Need of Prayer)  
I've Been in the Storm So Long  
Jacob's Ladder  
Jesus on the Water-Side  
Joshua Fought the Battle of Jerico  
Let Us Praise God Together On Our Knees  
Listen to the Lambs  
My Lord Delivered Daniel  
My Lord, What a Morning  
My Soul has been Anchored in the Lord  
My Way's Cloudy  
No More Auction Block for Me  
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen  
Oh Freedom  
Oh Mary, Don't You Weep, Don't You Moan  
Oh, Peter, Go Ring Dem Bells  
Rise Up Shepard and Follow  
Roll, Jordan, Roll  
Same Train  
Sinner, Please Don't Let This Harvest Past  
Somebody's Knockin' at Yo' Do'

Sometimes I Fell Like a Motherless Child  
Soon I Will be Done With the Troubles of the World  
Stay in the Field  
Steal Away  
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot  
The Blind Man Stood on the Road and Cried  
The Gospel Train (Get on Board, Little Children)  
The Lonesome Valley  
This Little Light of Mine  
Up on the Mountain  
Wade in the Water  
Wait a Little While  
Wait 'Til I Put on My Crown (Oh, Yes! Oh, Yes!)  
Walk in Jerusalem Just Like John  
Walk Together Children  
Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?  
When I Get to Heaven  
Who Will be a Witness for My Lord  
Wrestle on, Jacob

**On the Occasion  
of the  
68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of our Beloved Community**

**We remember our  
father and grandfather**

**James S. Benton**

**With love and gratitude,**

**Dr. Kathryn L. Benton  
Frederick R. Joelli**

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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Prelude Lawrence Sumpter, organist  
Invocation Dr. Kathryn Benton  
Welcome & Acknowledgements Michael Brown

Music *Don' You Let Nobody Turn You 'Roun'* (Donna Thompson, soloist) Arr. Jacqueline Hairston  
*Fix Me, Jesus* (Lewis Sellars, soloist) Arr. Jacqueline Hairston  
The New Jacqueline Hairston Ensemble  
Jacqueline Hairston, director

## ***Deep River: Interpretation of Five Spirituals by Dr. Howard Thurman***

Introduction: *Go Down, Moses*

Noah Griffin, baritone

I. *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Autris Paige, baritone and Congregation

Dorsey Blake, narrator

II. *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Autris Paige, baritone and Kathryn Benton, narrator

III. *De Blin' Man Stood on De Road an' Cried*

Helen Dilworth, soprano and Felix Justice, narrator

# ORDER OF SERVICE (continued)

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## IV. *Deep River*

Othello Jefferson, tenor and Kathryn Benton, narrator

## V. *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*

Noah Griffin, baritone and Congregation

Felix Justice and Dorsey Blake, narrators

Conclusion: *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

Othello Jefferson, organ

Offertory      *Who Is Dat-A-Yonder?* (Geraldine Whitmore, soloist)      Arr. Jacqueline Hairston  
The New Jacqueline Hairston Ensemble

Recognition of Howard Thurman Award Recipients:      Sam Edwards and Lyvonne Chrisman

Remarks      Dr. Dorsey Blake

Sending Forth Music      *Spiritual Medley*      Arr. Jacqueline Hairston

Benediction      Dr. Dorsey Blake

Postlude      Lawrence Sumpter, organist

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"My own life has been so deeply influenced by the genius of the spirituals that the meaning as distilled into my experience in my early years spills over in much that I have come to think in my maturity."

Dr. Howard Thurman

## *Deep River: Interpretation of Five Spirituals by Dr. Howard Thurman*

### LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

1. Let us break bread together on our knees. (repeat)

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees. (repeat)

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

3. Let us praise God together on our knees. (repeat)

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

### WE ARE CLIMBING JACOB'S LADDER

1. We are climbing Jacob's Ladder (3 times)      Soldier of the cross.
2. Ev'ry round goes higher, higher (3 times)      Soldier of the cross.
3. Sinner, do you love my Jesus      (3 times)      Soldier of the cross.
4. If you love Him, why not serve Him. (3 times)      Soldier of the cross.
5. We are climbing higher, higher (3 times)      Soldier of the cross.

### SPIRITUALS MEDLEY by Jacqueline Hairston

First Spiritual: Glory, glory, Hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down. (repeat)

Second Spiritual: Do, Lord, O do Lord, do remember me. (repeat 3 times)      Away, beyond the blue.

Third Spiritual: Woke up this mornin' with my mind stayed on freedom. (repeat 3 times)

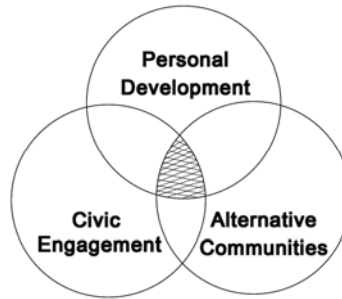
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah!

## Social Transformation Using the Three-Fold Path

Saturday, January 19, 2013, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend

The Gandhi-King Holistic Three-Fold Path



Efforts in each of these three areas reinforce the others. The stronger we are as individuals, the more we contribute to our communities and effective civic engagement. Strong communities nurture strong individuals and provide a foundation for effective civic engagement. Effective civic engagement enhances personal strength and builds social infrastructure.

### Do you, or might you, want to:

- Work on your personal development.
- Engage in civic affairs to impact public policy.
- Help grow supportive communities that indicate the kind of new society you seek?

If so, you are invited to bring your insights and questions to this workshop where you can find resources and explore how those who practice the three-fold path can improve their efforts.

### Who should attend?

- People seeking a more meaningful engagement with public life.
- Group leaders and members seeking to improve effectiveness.
- Youth community members seeking reconciliation and conflict resolution

**When:** Saturday, January 19, 2013, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. We ask all participants to arrive on time.

**Where:** San Francisco, CA. We will send you details after you register.

**Cost:** Free. A voluntary sliding-scale donation will be requested to cover expenses. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. However, if you're able to give, please bring cash or a check.

**Registration:** To register, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G2DKMRP>.

Meetup: 4PM – 7PM Drop-in open house with take-away materials.

Co-sponsored by: The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, and Occupy Be the Change Caucus

For more information, call (415) 722-5852



## **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.

## **The Membership**

The membership of the Church is open to any person who is willing to accept its commitment, to participate in its programs, and to share in its responsibilities.

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**Rev. Dr. Dorsey O. Blake**

**Presiding Minister**

**Rev. Dr. Kathryn L.  
Benton**

**Co-Minister**

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**Founding Ministers**

Dr. Howard Thurman

Dr. Alfred Fisk



**Board of Trustees**

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**The Ministers and Board of Trustees thank you for your support over the years and for your support of our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard Thurman Convocation.**

## AfroSolo Theatre Company



**AfroSolo** congratulates Sam Edwards on Lyvonne Chrisman on the occasion of The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples' 17th annual Convocation, honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Howard Thurman.

We cherish your steadfast service towards the memory, legacy and reverence of Negro Spirituals through the *Friend of Negro Spirituals*.

We thank you for your dedication, perseverance and enthusiastic labor towards honoring and preserving our culture and legacy.

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### UPCOMING AFROSOLO ARTS FESTIVAL 19 EVENTS!

#### *FIERCE LOVE/remix by Pomo Afro Homos*

Directed by Brian Freeman

October 17th through October 28, 2012

NCTC, 25 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

\$25 - \$38 (*AfroSolo Special - \$10 off any ticket-write afrosolo in the apply discount code box*)

(October 17 and 18, pay what you wish!)

Visit: [www.nctcsf.org/press\\_room/fierce\\_love.htm](http://www.nctcsf.org/press_room/fierce_love.htm)

BOX OFFICE: 415.861.8972



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#### *Gala Fundraiser for AfroSolo Arts Festival 20 & Universal Birthday Party*

Tuesday, October 23, 2012; 8 - 10 pm

African American Art and Culture Complex

762 Fulton Street, SF, CA

Call: 415/771-2376

Sliding Scale: \$10 - \$50 - No one turned away for the lack of funds

Event will include Performances, Food, Fun, Raffles and Prizes!



762 Fulton Street, Suite 303, San Francisco, CA 94102 - 415/771-2376 - info@afrosolo.org

**“And death shall have no dominion!”**

**We remember:**

**Mrs. Hazel Roberson Blake  
Rev. Dr. William L. Blake, Sr.  
Mae Frances Blake Scullark  
William L. Blake, Jr.  
Edgar Neal Blake  
Alfred Blake**

**With thanksgiving,**

**Dr. Dorsey O. Blake  
Dr. Carl Blake**

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THE CHURCH FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALL PEOPLES  
ON ITS 68<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
AND  
17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOWARD THURMAN CONVOCATION  
IN MEMORY OF  
JOHNNY LAND,  
BILL WADE,  
AND  
KEVIN MC GOWN**



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Teresa Mejía, Executive Director

<http://www.womensbuilding.org/twb/>



The African American Historical & Cultural Society congratulates and supports the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard Thurman Convocation and extends special congratulations to the 2012 Howard Thurman Award recipients, Friends of Negro Spirituals; its co-founders, Sam Edwards and Lyvonne Chrisman.

The African American Historical & Cultural Society is a membership driven organization whose mission is to educate African Americans and the public at large about the history, culture and contributions of San Francisco's African American community. Membership in the Society is open to all who support this mission.