

# SUNDAY MORNING NOTE



## “THE FORD MEN IN EARLY 21ST CENTURY”

---

The Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral  
at the University of Pennsylvania

PRESENTS

*“SINGING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN  
SPIRITUALS WITH INTEGRITY”*

---

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NUIyMJ88UM>

## Of the True Meaning of Negro Spirituals

Rev. Dr. Chaz Howard  
Chaplain at Univ. of Penn.

~ Luke 10:25-37

Ford Brothers:

This is my **Thanksgiving message** to each of you.... And my Gift... what W.E.B. Du Bois called the “Gift of Black Folk.”

When I was a college student, I was moved by Dr. Du Bois’ “The Souls of Black Folk,” especially his rendition of the “Sorrow Songs,” the meaning of the Negro Spirituals to the struggle and strivings of African Americans, and his writing on Fisk University’s Jubilee Singers.

“They that walked in darkness,” wrote Dr. Du Bois, “sang songs in the olden days-- Sorrow Songs—for they were weary at heart.”<sup>1</sup>

—————

Please click on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NUIyMJ88UM>

Rev. Dr. Chaz Howard, Chaplain at the Univ. of Penn, and Assistant Priest in the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral presides.

**THESE SONGS ARE ABSOLUTE JEWELS!**

\* Song # 1: **“Wade in the Water”** performed by Dr. Lynnell Joy Jenkins

\* Song # 2: **“Lord, I have Seen thy Salvation”** by Dr. Jay Fluellen.

\* Song # 3: **“King Jesus is A-Listening”** by Dr. Vergola Nix and Choir.

---

<sup>1</sup> W. E. B. Du Bois, “The Souls of Black Folk,” *Writings* (New York, N.Y.: The Library of America, 1986), p. 536.

\* Song # 4: **"Make a Joyful Noise"** by Dr. Vergola Nix and Choir.

-----

\* Also, listen to Dr. Lynnell Joy Jenkin's brief commemoration of

I. Dr. Howard Thurman's *From the Negro Spirituals Speaks of Life and Death* (1947).

\* Also, listen to Rev. Dr. Chaz Howard

I. Prayer of W. E. B. Du Bois-- "Prayers for Dark People"

II. Psalms 137: 1-4

-- "How shall we Sing God's Song in a Strange Land?"

-- Black Alumni Graduation at U. of Penn.

-- The Struggle of Black Students.... They have a 'Song to Sing.'

-- The first recorded black person at U. of Penn. Was a black man named "Caesar," a janitor. Maybe Caesar sang those Negro Spirituals.

-- These Negro Spirituals were not sung for entertainment, they were sung from the soul.... The Slave sang them, and their children, and their grandchildren.... Du Bois, Howard Thurman, Paul Robeson, Mahalia Jackson, the Fisk jubilee singers... All Sang These Songs....

**-- We have to Sing these Songs!**

**-- These songs are NOT just about the hope of reaching Heaven in the hereafter... but these songs about HEAVEN right here and now... We sing these songs NOW.**

**-- These songs tell a story of resistance to injustice... and a refusal to be silent... to sing out about it!**

**-- "It takes courage to let sound come out of your chest, and name what is wrong in the world, and to refuse to be silent in the face of hate...."**

**ENJOY BROTHERS!**

**~ Rev. Rod Ford**