

2021 Good Friday Musical Meditations to Inspire & Uplift

INTRODUCTION: *Behold the Lamb* was written by Keith & Kristyn Getty as they were searching for a meaningful song to prepare us for the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross. We are here to remember & celebrate Christ's death through the eating of the bread and drinking of the wine; the expression of being one in Christ; and the proclamation of Christ's return.

BEHOLD THE LAMB

Keith and Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith
We rise to respond: and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King

INTRODUCTION: Spirituals stand as a powerful and poignant testimony to the essence of The Crucifixion. Enslaved African Americans found great solace in this 19th century piece. It is music that allows you to feel ‘deep in your bones’ the sacrifice that Christ made for each and every one of us. Let it sink in deep by meditating on this compelling message.

WERE YOU THERE?

Traditional Spiritual

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Musical Interlude

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Scripture Readings: Matt. 27:55-56; Luke 23:55; Romans 6:2-7

Matthew ⁵⁵ Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph,^[a] and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

Luke ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it.

Romans ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

INTRODUCTION: Here we have a wonderful Handbell version of 2 beautiful spirituals – *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* and *We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace*.

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley is traced back to the struggle of African Americans in the Appalachian region of the southeastern United States during the mid-1800's. It is described as a journey song dealing with loss of life and love. Earlier versions did not include Jesus in the lyrics, but the current hymn joins the original text of the African American with other journey songs that imply that Jesus, on the way to the cross, is the model for those who suffer. Jesus stood alone before Pilate on trial, so we also face our trials, which could be worldly or the judgment beyond this world, by ourselves. (from the History of Hymns by C. Michael Hawn)

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace is based on Psalm 23:4 KJV “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” For many people in our world who are in mortal peril, “the shadow of death” is literal. For most of us though it is abstract. In the New Testament “death” means a power that insinuates itself into our living of days, robbing us of the fullness of life that God wants for us. Psalm 23 tells us we can walk through the valley of the shadow of death without fear only because God goes with us.

WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY *Bill Ingram*

JESUS WALKED THIS LONESOME VALLEY

1 Jesus walked this lonesome valley; He had to walk it by himself. Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; He had to walk it by himself.

2 We must walk this lovesome valley; We have to walk it by ourselves. Oh, nobody else can walk it for us; We have to walk it by ourselves.

3 You must go and stand your trial; You have to stand it by yourself. Oh, nobody else can stand it for you; You have to stand it by yourself.

WE SHALL WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY IN PEACE

1 We shall walk through the valley in peace; we shall walk through the valley in peace.

Refrain: If Jesus himself shall be our leader, we shall walk through the valley in peace.

2 There will be no sorrow there; there will be no sorrow there. | Refrain

3 There will be no dying there; there will be no dying there. | Refrain

Prayer:

We live in a time of mortal peril, O God. Help us walk through the valley unafraid, with Jesus as our Leader. Amen. (taken from a devotion on Psalm 23:4 by Richard L Floyd)

INTRODUCTION: Today and tomorrow, we can hold onto the hope that Christ is the chief cornerstone and the foundation of our beliefs and His church. Whatever each day may bring, He has already given us that sure foundation. *Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'* *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*" (Acts 4:11-12)

CORNERSTONE MEDLEY *Lari Goss*

Jesus is the cornerstone,
Came for sinner to atone;
Tho' rejected by His Own
He became the Cornerstone
Jesus is the Cornerstone.

When I am by sin oppressed,
On the Stone I am at rest;
When the seeds of truth are sown
He remains the Cornerstone,
Jesus is the Cornerstone.

Rock of Ages, cleft for thee, let me hide myself in Thee
Rock of Ages so secure for all time it shall endure;
'Til His children reach their home, He remains the Cornerstone.

'Til the breaking of the dawn, 'til all footsteps cease to roam;
Ever let this truth be known, that Jesus is the Cornerstone,
Jesus is the Cornerstone.

ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME

Words: Augustus M Toplady

Music: Thomas Hastings

Scripture Readings: Acts 4:11; Exodus 33:13-14

Acts ¹¹ Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Exodus ¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."