

## Readings for Sunday, January 9, 2022

“When the Song of the Angels is Stilled”

Howard Thurman in *The Mood of Christmas*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas *begins*:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.

“New Day’s Lyric”

Amanda Gorman

May this be the day  
We come together.  
Mourning, we come to mend,  
Withered, we come to weather,  
Torn, we come to tend,  
Battered, we come to better.  
Tethered by this year of yearning,  
We are learning  
That though we weren’t ready for this,  
We have been readied by it.  
We steadily vow that no matter  
How we are weighed down,  
We must always pave a way forward.

This hope is our door, our portal.  
Even if we never get back to normal,  
Someday we can venture beyond it,  
To leave the known and take the first steps.  
So let us not return to what was normal,  
But reach toward what is next.

What was cursed, we will cure.  
What was plagued, we will prove pure.  
Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,  
Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we foresee,  
Where we weren’t aware, we’re now awake;

Those moments we missed  
Are now these moments we make,  
The moments we meet,  
And our hearts, once all together beaten,  
Now all together beat.

Come, look up with kindness yet,  
For even solace can be sourced from sorrow.  
We remember, not just for the sake of yesterday,  
But to take on tomorrow.

We heed this old spirit,  
In a new day’s lyric,  
In our hearts, we hear it:  
For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne.  
Be bold, sang Time this year,  
Be bold, sang Time,  
For when you honor yesterday,  
Tomorrow ye will find.  
Know what we’ve fought  
Need not be forgot nor for none.  
It defines us, binds us as one,  
Come over, join this day just begun.  
For wherever we come together,  
We will forever overcome.