

*To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman



It was time to make the transition between the unique spiritual outpost given to us by the month of December and the exciting challenges we find in nature and society as we move into the coming months. So I was staring at a blank computer screen in the process known as “preparatory mystical insight” or “I don’t have a clue about what to write” when a friend sent a quote from someone I have not thought about for a very long time.

Howard Thurman (1899–1981) was one of the most important religious leaders of the mid-Twentieth Century. An African-American born in the segregated south, he became the first non-white Dean of Chapel at Boston University. An advocate for Gandhi's teaching of nonviolence, he was the spiritual advisor of Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, A.J. Muste and many others in the struggle for civil rights. He was also an inspiring guide for people of many religious traditions. OK, here is the quote, which is also the bridge between where you and I have been and where we are going:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
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.

Well, those are the tasks we take away as we walk out of Christmastide and into the great world of ordinary time. Nothing left to say — here we go!

Brother Toby

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