



"Let the Glitter Sparkle"
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Let the Glitter Still Sparkle

It's the last day of the Christmas Season and I was packing away the remainder of the angel costumes. I was reminded of these words that Anne Perry pulled out of her files when we were planning last month's Candlelight service. The poetry was in her Mom's handwriting with no author's name mentioned:

*When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star of 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 nations,
to bring peace among sisters and brothers,
and to make music in the heart.*



We thought Anne Perry's Mom had written down the words to Methodist Jim Strathdee's 1967 hymn, *I am the Light of the World* (Voices United #87). But we discovered the wording was slightly different. So who inspired Strathdee? Of course, it was a mystery for "Google." Turns out the words were originally penned by Dr. Howard Thurman (1899-1981). He was an early leader in the Civil Rights movement in the United States and a mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr. King was strongly influenced by Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited* (1949).

You can learn a lot about people by who their heroes are and in this case, who one of her mother's heroes was. Reminded me that in our doing the Spiritual Gift inventory a few months ago, a top gift among folks in our congregation is "Justice." You believe God calls us to world where everyone is equal and has rights and opportunities.

So as I pack away the glitter of angel costumes, I remember that the sparkle of Light remains with us. It is God incarnate. God with us. God in each one of you. That Light never leaves us. It's simply up to us to choose to remember the Light is with us, to grab onto it, to celebrate it, to act and speak out of the beauty of the Light we know.