

TUVAYHUN

BEATITUDES FOR A WOUNDED WORLD



MARCH 10, 2024
5pm
ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL

Trinity Church Wall Street Music Staff

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The Rev. Michael A. Bird, *Vicar*

TUVAYHUN

BEATITUDES FOR A WOUNDED WORLD

Trinity Youth Chorus

The Choir of Trinity Wall Street

Featured Soloists:

Pamela Terry, *alto*

Christopher Dylan Herbert, *tenor*

NOVUS NY

Melissa Attebury, conductor

PROGRAM

Tuvayhun—Beatitudes for a Wounded World

Kim André Arnesen

The Poor in Spirit

(b. 1980)

I Am Poor

The Merciful

Forty Days and Forty Nights

The Peacemakers

What is Peace?

The Meek

Rachel's Song

The Pure in Heart

The Face of God

I Hope

Those Who Mourn

Song for a Lily

Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Song for Justice

Those Who are Persecuted for Righteousness Sake

Hold My Hand

You are the Light

PROGRAM NOTES

by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Our world is wounded. All around us we see the cracks: the effects of environmental crisis, mass migrations, global pandemic, political polarization, growing income inequality, the rise of authoritarian regimes, unprecedented social change, and reticence or resignation on the part of many to do anything about any of it. And yet, our world is also a place of wondrous beauty, a beauty that surrounds us if we have eyes to see it. More than ever we need messages of hope and unity, messages that remind us of what we already know—that the world is beautiful, that people are beautiful, and if we come together, respect one another, bless one another, and open our hearts to be blessed in return, we might heal the despair, and repair the fractures that are threatening our fragile world.

In *TUVAYHUN—Beatitudes for a Wounded World* we seek to address this fragility and the part we are called to play in healing it. “TUVAYHUN” in Aramaic is the first word in each of the Beatitudes, “Blessed...” In the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus likely spoke this exact word as he pointed out those who were especially blessed in the eyes of God. but his was not a predictable list. He did not say, “Blessed are the big donors” or “Blessed are the Church leadership” or “Blessed are those who pray the loudest.” Instead, he shocked his listeners by blessing not those who have joy, but those who mourn; not the righteous, but those who are poor in spirit; not the powerful, but the peacemakers and the meek. He blessed the sinners, the broken, the marginalized.

TUVAYHUN responds to each of Jesus’s blessings as if to say, “Yes, and...” These new texts illustrate how that blessing applies in the real world. It seems as though Jesus’s words two millennia ago still resonate, and the types of people he sought to comfort with his blessings are still in need of that blessing, and the societal shortcomings he drew attention to then are still challenging us today.

The music of *TUVAYHUN* takes us on a journey through deep emotions and deeply human situations. The music moves in and out, occupying the liminal space between ancient and modern, sacred and profane. We move from semi-liturgical chant to lively folk dance, from rich orchestral layers to stark solos, from the familiar to the exotic, and back again. The music illuminates the many different peoples and experiences the texts evoke and serves in sonic form as a reminder of the universal and enduring message of the Beatitudes. One might think that each of the eight verses in the Beatitudes concerns a different group of people: the poor in spirit, the meek, the peacemakers, the merciful. However, these are not eight different groups of people, but instead are eight moral qualities that all of us can possess. We are all in need of these blessings, and we are all called to act as agents of blessing.

TUVAYHUN was born from a desire to shine new light on those whom Jesus blessed so long ago, for they are still with us. The alternating text and music styles evoke the timelessness of this message of hope and the need for blessing. The liturgical context of blessing is present in the solemnity of chimes and gongs, in the chanted Aramaic text, and in patterns of repetition. The response movements transport us from the ancient to the contemporary world. We visit with refugees. We hear a mother’s lullaby. We hear the voice of a child who has died. We pass from a folk dance to an anthem of universal human needs and dignity interspersed with messages of hope and blessings. The work ends with an exhortation for all of us to let our light shine and be a blessing to others. Our goal was to bring together images and music from different cultures, to encourage us to see ourselves in the other, to reach out our hands in blessing; for by blessing others, we ourselves are blessed.

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

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The Poor in Spirit

Too-vay-hoon le -mes-ki-ne b'rooch, de - ðeel-hoon-ee mal-koo-tho dash-ma-yo.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

(Matthew 5:3)

I Am Poor

I am poor, yes;

I am poor in spirit.

In despair I weep for the wounded world I see,
A world of poverty, of misery,
Of loneliness profound;
A world of hate, of sad division,
And of shocking cruelty,
Where trolls well-fed and liars bold
Erode our sense of shared humanity,
Setting sister against brother,
Neighbor against neighbor,
Race against race,
Faith against faith,
Nation against nation.

How long must we wait, O Lord? How long?
When will Your promised Kingdom come?
How can one NOT be poor in spirit
When lies become truth,
And Truth lies rejected?
When saints are silenced
And villains grow mighty?
While mumbling leaders dither and look away?

Why must we wait for the coming of the Kingdom,
My sisters and my brothers?
Why must we wait, O Lord?
When one is poor in Spirit,
One is poor indeed.

The Merciful

Too-vay-hoon lam-rach-mo-ne, da-^llay-hoon neh-woon rach-me.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

(Matthew 5:7)

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Forty days and forty nights
The bombs rained down.
School, road, marketplace,
The world we knew
Now only dust and blood.

*Who will tend the orchard, with harvest coming on?
Who will greet the sunrise on the hill?
Will we ever taste again the spices of our home?
Who can know it if we ever will?*

Forty days and forty nights
We fled, frightened;
Desert, mountain, stormy sea...
Silent strangers
Passing by your door.

*Will we be forgotten as we journey far from home?
Will we find a safer place to stay?
Will new neighbors welcome us as brothers and as friends?
Or will they scoff and send us on our way?*

Forty days and forty nights
We've settled now,
Broken, worn out, hopeful.
All was lost,
Except our hope.

Forty days and forty nights
The bombs rained down;
The world we left behind,
the world we knew
Now just a memory.

*May we sit and share with you the story of our journey,
And of our hope, and hardships overcome?
May we help you tend your orchard, when harvest's coming on?
May we share with you the spices of our home?*

The Peacemakers

Too-vay-hoon l'ov-day shlo-mo dav-naw da-lo-ho neth-qe -roon.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
(Matthew 5:9)

What is Peace?

Peace is not a silent state
That comes upon us from within—
Serene, detached, oblivious.

Peace is not a force like rain
That comes, unbidden, from above—
Gentle, enfolding, natural.

Peace is fire! Yes, peace is fire!
And peace is passion!
Peace requires a strength of will,
A certain courage, a heart of iron,
A force abiding to fulfill.

Peace is not a foregone fate;
For peace, like war, must be waged—
Mindfully, deliberately,
With arms ever ready,
And eyes wide open.

The Meek

Too-vay-hoon le mak-ki-khe de - he-noon nir-thoon lar-oh.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
 (Matthew 5:5)

Rachel's Song

Oh Mama, I don't want to go to sleep!
 So many things I want to do,
 So many things I want to see,
 I couldn't ever go to sleep!
 Dear Mama, will you sing to me?

*Go to sleep, my precious child,
 And lay aside your worries.
 Tomorrow is another day
 To grow and learn, and love and play.
 Tomorrow, all the world shall be
 Just as it was today, you'll see.*

Oh Mama, I don't want to go to sleep!
 I want to jump! I want to dance!
 I want to sing the whole night through!
 I couldn't think of sleep at all.
 Dear Mama, May I sing with you?

*Go to sleep, my restless one,
 And still your stirring spirit
 The silent stars shall dance tonight
 And greet the sun in morning light.
 Tomorrow all the world shall leap;
 But only if you go to sleep!*

*(I pray to God who dwells above
 To watch you closely as you sleep,
 And grant you all the joys you seek.
 The world is darker than you know)*

*Tomorrow morning, when you wake,
 The world will be made new again;
 But you will be a little taller,
 And the big, wide world just a little smaller.
 Tomorrow the world is yours to keep;
 But tonight, my darling, precious child,
 Tonight, my sweet one, go to sleep!*

The Pure in Heart

Too-vay-hoon lay-len da ð -khen b'leb-hoon de -he-noon nech-zoon la'lo-ho.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
 (Matthew 5:8)

The Face of God

But I wonder...
 Will the God I see
 Look at all like me?

For we have many names, many faces,
Different mothers, different races.
How can we, who are so many,
Have a God resembling any of us?
I wonder...

And when I smile at the face of God,
Will God be smiling back at me?
Am I worthy of that smile? Are we?
We need not wonder...

For God has many hands—our hands.
And God has many hearts—our hearts.
And when we look upon each other's faces
We see the face of God.

I Hope

Instrumental with narration written and spoken by Trinity Youth Chorus members.

Those Who Mourn

Too-vay-hoon la-vi-le, de -he-noon neth-bay-oon
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
(Matthew 5:4)

Song for a Lily

Leaving you behind
Is the hardest thing I've ever done.
Leaving you behind,
You who were my everything.

Keep the memory of me,
And may my memory be a blessing—
The songs, smiles, and laughter—
Every little thing that made you love me.

Love is powerful
In life as well as death;
For even as I die,
Eternal is my love for you.

Leaving you behind
Only makes our bonding stronger,
Vaster, longer,
Every day, in every way.

Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Too-vay-hoon lay-len de -khaf-ninwaş-henle -khi-noo-tha, de he-non nes-be -foon.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
(Matthew 5:6)

Song for Justice

In all that we are,
It is better by far
To follow our star,
And sing out our truth.

When things can't get worse,
We hunger and thirst
For the last to be first;
And so we sing out our truth.

We sing for the poor.
We sing for the weak.
We sing for the helpless,
The hopeless, the meek.
We sing out the truth
Against hunger and hate.
We sing out for justice
Before it's too late!

And in all that we do
For these, and for you,
The whole dark night through
We're gonna sing out our truth!

Those Who Are Persecuted For Righteousness Sake

Too-vay-hoon lay-len deth-re - ð ef, met-tool ki-noo-tho de - ð il-hoon-ee mal-khu-tho dash-ma-yo.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
(Matthew 5:10)

Hold My Hand

Brothers and sisters, gather round,
And hear the words we say,
For the world can be a better place
If we hold hands today.

Hold my hand and stand with me,
And face the tide together;
And we will change the world today,
Tomorrow, and forever.

Hold my hand against injustice;
Hold my hand and stand with me.
Hold my hand against division;
Just take my hand and see.

Hold my hand to conquer hatred;
Hold my hand and stand with me.
The troubles of the world will melt,
And we will be blessed.

You are the Light

You are the Light of the world;
Let your light will shine before others.
While you have the Light,
believe in the Light,
So that you may become children of Light.
You are the Light of the world;
Your light will shine before others.
I am the Light of the world;
My Light will shine before others.
We are the Light of the world;
Our Light will shine before others.
We are the Light of the world...

(Based on Matthew 5:14, John 12:36, Philippians 2:15)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

TRINITY YOUTH CHORUS



The Trinity Youth Chorus brings together talented youth ages 5 to 18 from the five boroughs of New York City. Choristers receive individual and group training in vocal technique, music theory, sight-reading, and performance skills from a group of dedicated professionals led by Melissa Attebury, Trinity's Director of Music.

The choristers provide musical leadership for Sunday 9am Family services and offer concerts throughout the season, often performing with Trinity's

professional ensembles, including The Choir of Trinity Wall Street. Recent highlights include Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, a fully staged production of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, Ellen Reid's *Winter's Child* at the Prototype Festival, Alberto Ginastera's *Turbæ ad Passionem Gregorianam* and Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 8 at Carnegie Hall, and Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* with the Queens College Choral Society. Recording projects include Philip Glass's Symphony No. 5 and Lisa Bielawa's *My Outstretched Hand* with the San Francisco Girls Chorus and The Knights.

The Trinity Youth Chorus is featured in the films *Love Is Strange* and *Doubt*, as well as Bielawa's made-for-TV opera *Vireo*; has sung backup for Josh Groban, the Rolling Stones, and Bobby McFerrin; and has been heard on Public Radio International and CBS's *The Early Show*.

Special thank you to all of our Music Education Teaching Artists for Trinity Youth Chorus: Lesly Decastro, Anne Damassa Graff, Joel Esher, Emma Hasselbach, and Shanna Whitney.

SENIOR CHORISTERS

Rhys Agalliu	Nayoung Lee
Ozan Baydur	Heaven Martinez
Riley Collins	Semanti Mukherjee
Alex Garofalo	Hannah Parker
Anshicka Jaiswal	Leah Singh
Sophia Kadian	Kaity So
Philippa Katsiris	Alice Sorochan
Gilmore Knowles	Coral Torres-Hara
Christoffer Lamtan	Carolyn Ye
Shepherd Lamtan	

SCHOLA CHORISTERS

Sofia Aguirre*	Peter Martin*
David Ash	Will Petretta
Maia Blake*	Logan Roussey*
Theo Chan	Samuel Roussey
Alana Conley	Knox Roy*
David Conrado	Haruki Schror*
Cass Corso*	Kaeley Simon
Zina DeVoe	Kaileen So
Quadiar Dunn	Ebony Spicer
Jack Elliott	Faline Torres-Hara
Edward Kang	Nadia Verzhbalovich
Constantin Lafourcade*	
Julia Leopando	*indicates soloist

THE CHOIR OF TRINITY WALL STREET



Peerless interpreters of both early and new music, The Choir of Trinity Wall Street has redefined the realm of 21st-century vocal music, breaking new ground with artistry described as “blazing with vigour...a choir from heaven” (*The Times*, London). Critics have praised the

choir’s performances as “thrilling” (*The New Yorker*), “musically top-notch” (*The Wall Street Journal*), and “simply superb” (*The New York Times*).

Recent performance highlights include the PROTOTYPE Festival’s production of Huang Ruo’s *Angel Island, Broken Chord* at BAM (created by Gregory Maqoma and Thuthuka Sibisi), Trinity’s production of *Considering Matthew Shepard*, George Frideric Handel’s *Theodora* at Caramoor, annual performances of *Messiah*, Julia Wolfe’s *Anthracite Fields* at Carnegie Hall, Tyshawn Sorey’s *Monochromatic Light (Afterlife)* at the Park Ave Armory, Notes from Ukraine at Carnegie Hall, J. S. Bach cantatas at Salle Bourgie in Montreal, and collaborations with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s and the American Modern Opera Company. The choir has also collaborated on and recorded several Pulitzer Prize-winning works including Du Yun’s *Angel’s Bone*, Ellen Reid’s *p r i s m*, and Wolfe’s *Anthracite Fields*.

SOPRANO

Elizabeth Bates
Aine Hakamatsuka
Elena Williamson
Meg Dudley

ALTO

Heather Jones
Catherine Hedberg
Jonathan May
Elisa Sikula
Pamela Terry

TENOR

Lesly Decastro
Timothy Hodges
Nickolas Karageorgiou
Scott Mello
Stephen Sands
David Vanderwal

BASS

Steven Hrycelak
Brian Mextorf
Neil Netherly

MELISSA ATTEBURY, CONDUCTOR



Melissa Attebury was appointed Director of Music at Trinity Church Wall Street in December of 2023, as the first woman in this role in Trinity’s long history. Previously, she served as Director of Music Education and Outreach, a program she built upon since 2011, serving over 750 school-age children

in the public schools, as well as training many young singers in the Trinity community as director of the Trinity Youth Chorus. During her next chapter at Trinity, she will continue her work in music education, creating educational offerings with Trinity’s collaborative partners and fostering the next generation of young musicians. She is an advocate of lesser-known composers and giving voice to their works and will revitalize a culture of congregational singing within the Trinity community. Attebury will

serve as principal conductor of The Choir of Trinity Wall Street, NOVUS NY, and the Trinity Baroque Orchestra.

Attebury originally trained as a pianist and classical singer, adding conducting later in her career. Praised by the *New York Times* as a “rich-toned alto who brought a measure of depth to her performance,” Attebury appears regularly as soloist in concert and oratorio across the country. She is in particular demand for her skill in music of the Baroque and is a regular soloist in *Messiah*, Bach Passions, and other choral masterworks. Attebury is a featured soloist on the Grammy-nominated *Israel in Egypt* with The Choir of Trinity Wall Street, Ralf Yusuf Gawlick’s *Missa Gentis Humanae* for 8 voices, and *The Choral Works of Trevor Weston*. A skilled ensemble musician, she is heard on two Pulitzer Prize-winning works, Julia Wolfe’s *Anthracite Fields* and Ellen Reid’s *p r i s m*, as well as Trinity’s Bach Motets. She has conducted performances at the Perelman Performing Arts Center, the Herbst Theater in San Francisco, with *Bang on a Can* and the Long Play Festival, and regularly for many events and services at Trinity Church Wall Street.

NOVUS NY



Trinity Church Wall Street's new music orchestra, NOVUS NY, is a key player on the contemporary music scene. These "expert and versatile musicians" (*The New Yorker*) perform new music from all corners of the repertoire, meeting "every challenge with an impressive combination of discipline and imagination" (*New York Classical Review*). The orchestra's Carnegie Hall debut, made with a formidable pairing of Ives and Ginastera, prompted *The New York Times* to declare that "adventure and ambition go hand in hand at Trinity Wall Street."

With its annual appearances at the Prototype Festival, New York's premier celebration of contemporary opera, NOVUS NY and Trinity Church Wall Street have partnered in the development of several major new works. These include Emma O'Halloran's newest opera pairing, *Trade* and *Mary Motorhead*; Du Yun's *Angel's*

Bone, winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Music; and Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek's *Breaking the Waves*, named "Best New Opera for 2016" by the Music Critics Association of North America.

NOVUS NY recorded and performed in the East Coast premiere of Ellen Reid and librettist Roxie Perkins's *p r i s m*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2019. Additional Prototype highlights include the ensemble's East Coast premiere of Reid's *Dreams of the New World* and the world premiere of David T. Little's revised version of *Am I Born*, which was recorded with NOVUS NY and The Choir of Trinity Wall Street.

NOVUS NY has forged strong links with many of today's leading composers, collaborating with Paola Prestini, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Daniel Felsenfeld, and Jonathan Newman on Trinity's "Mass Reimaginings" commissioning project and giving world premiere performances of Laura Schwendinger's opera *Artemisia* and Prestini's interdisciplinary *The Hubble Cantata*, which drew an open-air audience of thousands to Brooklyn's Prospect Park.

The ensemble's recent recordings include the GRAMMY-nominated *LUNA PEARL WOOLF: Fire and Flood*; Prestini's *The Hubble Cantata*; Du Yun's *Angel's Bone*; Trevor Weston's *Choral Works*; *Elena Ruehr's Averno*; Edward Thomas's new opera *Anna Christie*; Reid's *p r i s m*; and Glass's *Symphony No. 5*.

VIOLIN I

Katie Hyun, concertmaster
Alex Fortes
Siwoo Kim
Monica Davis
George Meyer

VIOLIN II

Dominic Salerni, pr
Ben Russell
Doori Na
Kobi Malkin

VIOLA

Kyle Miller, pr
Mario Gotoh
Edwin Kaplan

CELLO

Michael Katz, pr
Jules Biber
Felix Umansky

BASS

Nathaniel Chase

FLUTE

Melissa Baker

HARP

Ashley Jackson

CIMBALOM

Matěj Číp

PERCUSSION

Jared Soldiviero
John Ostrowski



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