



Rise Up, Shepherd

Luke A Powery

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Valuable not only for their sublime musical expression, the African American spirituals give us profound insights into the human condition and the Christian life. Many focus on an essential scene of the Christian drama: the coming of God as the child in Bethlehem and as the hope of the world and the liberator of God's oppressed people.

In these devotions for the season of Advent, Luke Powery leads the reader through the spirituals as they confront the mystery of incarnation and redemption. In *Rise Up, Shepherd!* each devotion features the lyrics of the spiritual, a reflection on the spiritual's meaning, a Scripture verse, and a brief prayer.

Rise Up, Shepherd Details

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Author : Luke A Powery

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From Reader Review Rise Up, Shepherd for online ebook

Robert D. Cornwall says

I had the opportunity to hear Luke Powery preach. He is a powerful preacher. He is thoughtful and thought-provoking, He brings those qualities to this set of Advent reflections. This set of reflections/devotions is somewhat unique in that Powery uses spirituals as his starting point. Powery writes that the spirituals are apropos for this time of division within our society. That is because spirituals are "songs sung by weary throats, created in a brutal historical setting of slavery by the enslaved, yet resonating with hope through all the sinister splinters of social sin" (p. ix).

Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of the Christ. Living this side of Easter and Pentecost, that hoped for coming is a second coming. The spirituals have a sense of hope and expectation for a future coming that will bring justice and peace. The turn to the spirituals during Advent also serves to be build a bridge between the cultural literature of the black church with "high liturgical sensibility of the church calendar" (p. x).

The book is set up with four weeks of daily devotions. Scriptures are assigned for each day -- a reading from the Psalms, a reading from the Old Testament, and a reading from the New Testament. Then the words of a spiritual are presented, followed by a devotional reading by Powery. This is followed by an excerpt from one of the scripture readings, and then a prayer. Some of the choices will be very familiar to all readers, songs like "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," and "Go Tell It on the Mountain." Others will be less well-known. Many of them look forward to being carried off into a new world, but as we know even those songs can be subversive.

If you are looking for a unique way of approaching the season of Advent, this is a devotional for you.

Sharon says

It reads like African styled song lyrics with corresponding explanation and Biblical verse to go with it. Nice.
this was a goodreads giveaway

Vnunez-Ms_luv2read says

This book is a blessing. It brings together scripture, a devotional and a spiritual song. I love spirituals so I was very happy to receive this book and it did not disappoint. I will be purchasing this book for people that love spirituals as I do. I will be looking to read more from this author. Thanks to NetGalley, the author and the publisher for the ARC of this wonderfully blessed book in return for my honest review.

Deborah says

My favourite Christian guide for Advent to Christmas this year.

The book has several short readings from scripture, usually a portion from the old testament, the new testament, a psalm and a gospel each day. This is followed by an American Nero Spiritual. These lead into the thought for that day.

This is an especially good read to have on a Kindle as it is possible to find a choir singing the spiritual to enhance your experience.

I highly recommend this reader as a guide to the season.

I was given this book by NetGalley and the publisher. This is my voluntary review.

Leah Wyckoff says

This book of daily devotions centered on Scripture and Spirituals was very helpful during my 2017 Advent journey. The short (2-3 page) reflections both challenged and inspired me, and I enjoyed listening to recordings of the Spirituals on YouTube, especially the less familiar ones. I also had fruitful weekly group discussions on the book with a Sunday School class and a neighborhood ministry. Many thanks to Luke Powery and Westminster John Knox for this book!
