

WADE IN THE WATER

The Wisdom of the Spirituals

Revised Edition

ARTHUR C. JONES

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbis-books.com.

Copyright © 1993, 2023 by Arthur C. Jones

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

The publisher gratefully acknowledges permission to reprint the following material: “Raining Revolution” by Todd Thomas, © 1992 EMI Blackwood Music Inc. and Arrested Development. All Rights Controlled and Administered by EMI Blackwood Music Inc. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by Permission.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Jones, Arthur C., author.

Title: Wade in the water : the wisdom of the spirituals / Arthur C. Jones.

Description: Revised edition. Maryknoll : Orbis Books, 2023. | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: “A study of African American spirituals, which emerged out of slavery and reflect a blend of spirituality and yearning for liberation” — Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022059642 (print) | LCCN 2022059643 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626985049 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9781608339662 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Spirituals (Songs)—History and criticism. | African Americans—Music—History and criticism.

Classification: LCC ML3556 .J72 2023 (print) | LCC ML3556 (ebook) | DDC 782.25/3—dc23/eng/20221219

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022059642>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022059643>

CONTENTS

<i>Foreword by Vincent Harding</i>	ix
<i>Preface to the Revised Edition</i>	xiii
<i>Preface</i>	xvii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xxiii
1 “Over My Head I Hear Music in the Air”	1
<i>African Beginnings</i>	
2 “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child”	24
<i>Suffering and Transformation</i>	
3 “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”	50
<i>Struggle and Resistance</i>	
4 “City Called Heaven”	78
<i>A Working, Everyday Spirituality</i>	
5 “Scandalize’ My Name”	120
<i>Accountability</i>	
6 “There Is a Balm in Gilead”	141
<i>Hope and Healing</i>	
<i>Epilogue</i>	163
<i>Coda</i>	181
<i>Appendix: African American Spirituals:</i> <i>Selected Resources for Further Exploration</i>	183
<i>References</i>	197
<i>Index of Spirituals</i>	207
<i>Index of Names</i>	217