
DEMOCRACY AND THE SOUL OF AMERICA

Howard Thurman

Edited by

Peter Eisenstadt and Walter Earl Fluker



ORBIS BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York


ORBIS BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

 Fathers and Brothers
MARYKNOLL™

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.orbisbooks.com

Texts by Howard Thurman copyright © 2022 by Anton H. Wong for the Thurman Family.

Introduction and commentary copyright © 2022 by Peter Eisenstadt and Walter Earl Fluker

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

All rights reserved.

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: Thurman, Howard, 1900-1981, author. | Eisenstadt, Peter R., 1954- editor. | Fluker, Walter E., 1951- editor.

Title: Democracy and the soul of America / Howard Thurman ; edited by Peter Eisenstadt and Walter Earl Fluker.

Description: Maryknoll, NY : Orbis, [2022] | Series: Walking with God ; 3 | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: "Sermons on democracy and the spirit of America by Howard Thurman"— Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022019680 (print) | LCCN 2022019681 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626984981 (print) | ISBN 9781608339600 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Christianity and politics—United States—Sermons. | Democracy—Religious aspects—Christianity—Sermons. |

Loyalty—Religious aspects—Christianity—Sermons. | Liberty—Religious aspects—Christianity—Sermons. | United States—Religion—Sermons.

Classification: LCC BR516 .T575 2022 (print) | LCC BR516 (ebook) | DDC 322/.10973—dc23/eng/20220725

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022019680>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022019681>

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments and Editorial Note	vii
Abbreviations	ix
Introduction: Life, Liberty, and Loyalty	xi
Religious Faith and Revolution July 1, 1950, Fellowship Church	1
The Meaning of Loyalty I May 6, 1951, Fellowship Church	10
The Meaning of Loyalty II May 13, 1951, Fellowship Church	17
The Meaning of Loyalty III: The State May 20, 1951, Fellowship Church	25
The Declaration of Independence I: Created Equal July 29, 1951, Fellowship Church	33
The Declaration of Independence II: Life—An Inalienable Right August 12, 1951, Fellowship Church	43
The Declaration of Independence III: Liberty August 19, 1951, Fellowship Church	54
The Declaration of Independence IV: The Pursuit of Happiness August 26, 1951, Fellowship Church	64

A Faith to Live By: Democracy and the Individual I October 19, 1952, Fellowship Church	74
A Faith to Live By: Democracy and the Individual II October 26, 1952, Fellowship Church	83
Human Freedom and the Emancipation Proclamation <i>Pulpit Digest</i> 43 (December 1962): 46–50	93
Black Pentecost: Footprints of the Disinherited May 31, 1972, Eliot Congregational Church Roxbury, Massachusetts	102
America in Search of a Soul January 20, 1976, University of Redlands Redlands, California	114
Appendix I: Meditation on the Rosenbergs June 21, 1953, Fellowship Church	125
Appendix II: Howard Thurman's FBI Files, 1942–1968	128
Index of Names	133