

Amazing Grace

The American Spiritual

Program Notes - “How Much Longer”

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Standing on the auction block, I asked, “How much longer?”

Crying as my children were tore from my hands, I asked, “How much longer?”

Toiling in the cotton fields, I asked, “How much longer?”

Following the promises of Abraham Lincoln, I asked, “How much longer?”

Hearing the cannons of the Union army, I asked, “How much longer?”

As the Black bodies of my brothers and sisters swung from the trees, I asked, “How much longer?”

Watching Black Wall Street burn down to the ground, I asked, “How much longer?”

Staring at a sign labeled “Whites Only”, I asked, “How much longer?”

Sitting at the front of the bus, I asked, “How much longer?”

Marching to Selma, I asked, “How much longer?”

Viewing the bodies of Emmett Til and Dr. King, I asked, “How much longer?”

Seeing Black bodies herded into prisons, I asked, “How much longer?”

After the murder of Tamir Rice, I asked, “How much longer?”

While watching the public execution of George Floyd, I asked, “How much longer?”

Shouting, “Black Lives Matter” in the streets, I asked, “How much longer?”

America, how much longer?