



The Hum: Call and Response in African American Preaching (Abingdon Preacher's Library)

By Evans Crawford

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In *The Hum: Call and Response in African Preaching*, Evans E. Crawford, with Thomas H. Troeger, relates his analysis of African American folk preaching by relying upon an indigenous scheme for evaluation. The call/response tension in black preaching (derived from a West African tradition) is what drives the musicality of speech in black churches. Crawford refers to this musicality as "hum thoughts" and one can imagine the choir responding with a low rumbling hum to the musical intonations of a motivated preacher.

Key features: a new volume in the Abingdon Preacher's Library, edited by Thomas H. Troeger; a different approach to preaching, firmly rooted in the black experience; leads the reader to understand preaching as an oral event; uses the term "homiletical musicality" to describe the musical understanding of the way sermons are heard and the oral response they awaken in the listener; and, coins new phrases for describing the preaching event.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Interim Dean, Howard University School of Divinity

Professor Thomas H. Troeger has written 20 books in the fields of preaching, poetry, hymnody and worship; is a frequent contributor to journals dedicated to these topics; and is a monthly columnist for *Lectionary Homiletics* and *The American Organist*. His most recent books include *Wonder Reborn: preaching on hymns, music and poetry*; *God, You Made All Things for Singing: Hymn texts, anthems, and poems for a new millennium*; *So that All Might Know: Preaching that Engages the Whole Congregation* (with Edward Everding); *Preaching While the Church Is Under Reconstruction*; *Above the Moon Earth Rises: Hymn Texts, Anthems and Poems for a New Creation*.

He is also a flutist and a poet whose work appears in the hymnals of most denominations and is frequently set as choral anthems. Professor Troeger has a B.A. Yale University; B.D. Colgate Rochester Divinity School; S.T.D. Dickinson College; Virginia Theological Seminary. He is ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church and as a minister in the Presbyterian Church.

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