

November Hymn of the Month: “Soon and Very Soon” by Andrae Crouch (1942 – 2015)

“Soon and Very Soon” was written in 1978 by one of the most important composers of American gospel music, Andrae Crouch. The influence of this popular hymn is evident in the 28 hymnals in which it has appeared since its creation.

Born with a twin sister Sandra in Los Angles, Andrae Crouch grew up in a church founded by his father who was in the cleaning business as he pastored a Church of God congregation. It was here that Andrae began to sing and formed his first singing group. In 1965, he founded the Disciples singing group and, upon the advice of Christian composer Ralph Carmichael, began to record his compositions in 1969. From 1965 – 1985, Andrae Crouch and the Disciples performed in numerous venues including the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall and toured more than seventy countries.

Andrae served with his sister Sandra as pastors at the New Christian Memorial Church of God in Christ in Pacoima, California starting in 2002 until his death. The demands of his pastoral position, however, did not interfere with his continuing career as a performer and composer.

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of Andrae Crouch in the gospel music field during the past 50 years. Few have had such a sustained level of accomplishment and recognition – seven Grammys, six Dove awards, an Oscar nomination, induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1998 and much more. He was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2004.

Andrae Crouch’s career extended beyond the gospel music field. He received an Academy Award nomination for his compositions and arrangements for the film “The Color Purple” in 1985. He was the arranger and choral conductor for “The Lion King” in 1994. He worked with artists such as Diana Ross and Ringo Starr. He sang background with Madonna and Elvis Presley, Paul Simon, and Madonna recorded his songs.

“Soon and Very Soon” is an appropriate song by which to remember Andrae Crouch. It is based on Revelation 21: 3-4: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ (KJV)

(Information taken from and an article by C. Michael Hawn – Discipleship Ministries – The United Methodist Church.)

