Shine
By Morgan Thompson

When they brought us in chains,
Shipped us like a package
Robbed us of our freedom
Beat us like a savage
It was their time to shine.

When they put us to work
Hung us like clothes
Gave us no choice
Then passed on the load
It was their time to shine.

When we ran for our life
And they chased us like dogs
When we tried to be clean
They kept us dirty like hogs
It was their time to shine.

When we marched in the streets
But got sprayed with a hose
When they kept in the stories
That nobody knows
It was their time to shine.

Now, 400 years later
From that first boat ride,
We march in the street
With honor and pride
All of the people love to ask why.
But it is because it’s our time to shine.