



YouSpeak Radio Episode 1 – “Your Transness Is Your Fuel” with Rev. Valerie Spencer

Audio Transcript

YouSpeak Introduction:

This is YouSpeak Radio with generous support from the Dwight Stuart Youth Fund. A project by ONE Anglican Foundation on Tongva Land.

[MUSIC]

Gree Northcott (0:14):

My name is Gree Northcott, and I use they/them pronouns. I am an incoming freshman at the University of California, Davis, passionate about environmental and queer activism. Today, I had the amazing opportunity to speak with Reverend Valerie Spencer. Her storytelling of what life was like growing up as a black trans woman in the eighties is her experience in HIV advocacy was incredible.

Reverend Valerie Spencer (0:34):

I want to tell and I said, “I hear you every Sunday talk about homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, lesbian, gay.” Do you not like us transsexuals?”

Archbishop Carl Bean, then Reverend Bean said to me, “We’ve had a few girls come through here. But none of them stayed long enough to make us change. God sent you here to make us change.” And that makes Sunday homosexual, heterosexual, bisexual, lesbian, gay, transsexual! And he said it with thrust!

Gree (1:00):

Her story was truly inspiring and made me, as a queer youth, feel so grateful for those who have blazed the path before me.

[MUSIC FADES OUT]

Gree (1:18):

This episode contains mentions of verbal and physical abuse and derogatory terms against queer and trans people. Please take care while listening.

Gree (1:28):

My birth name is Greco, so I just took the C out, so it's Gree.

Rev. Spencer (1:32):

I love that. How creative is that, right? I personally am fascinated with the names of my genderqueer, gender non-conforming family. I love the name Gree. I love how you spell it. I love all of the names. I find it to be such an immediate receipt of how badass my people are.

My people are that shit. Baby, I'm sorry, my people are the shit.