

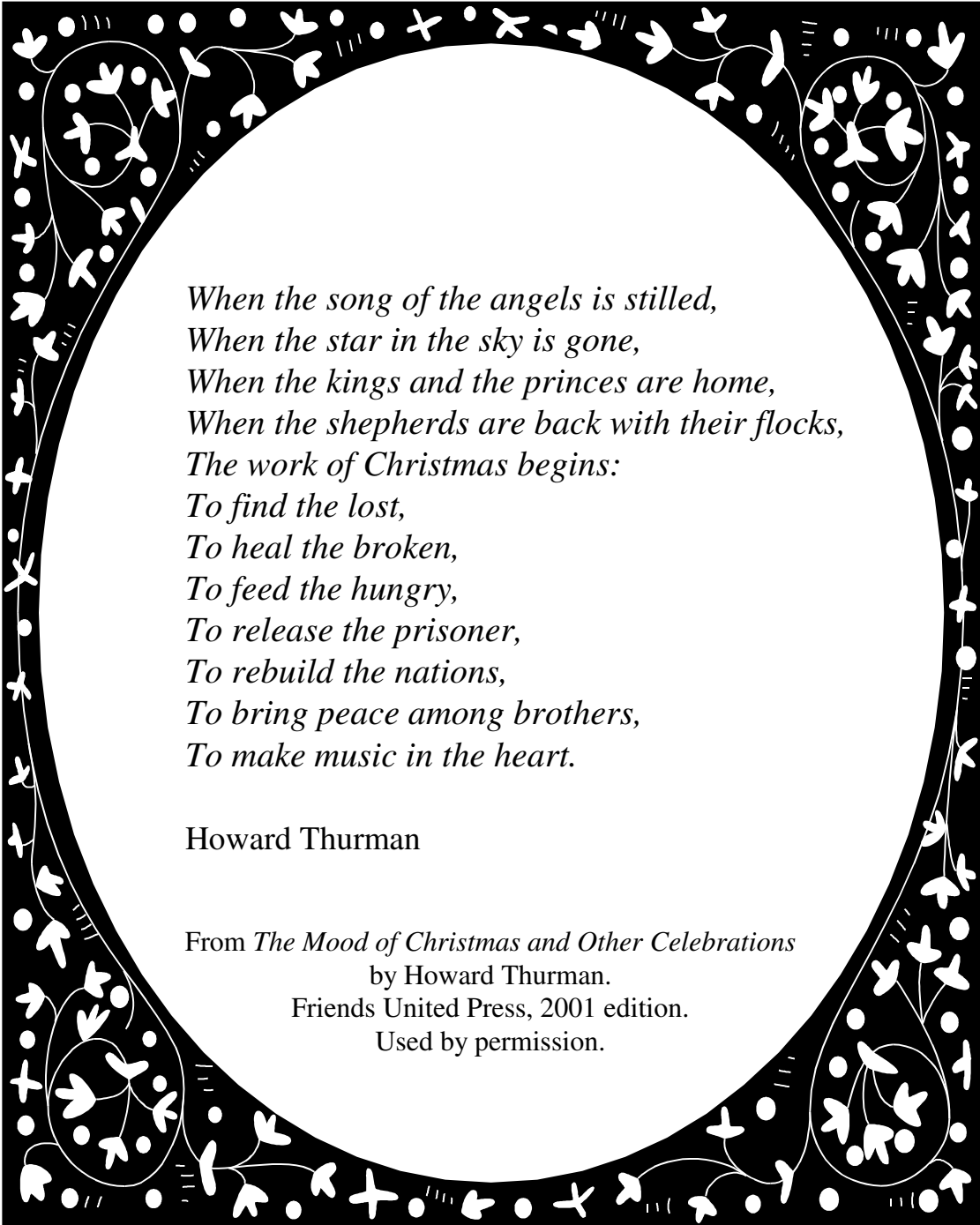
When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled

Howard Thurman

TTBB a cappella



Elizabeth Alexander



*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman

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When the Song of the Angels is Stilled

Howard Thurman

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 64)

Arranged for men's voices by

Willi Zwozdesky & Elizabeth Alexander

p *(mf 2nd time)*

Tenor I
When the song of the an - gels is stilled, when the
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the

Tenor II
When the song of the an - gels is stilled, when the
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the

Baritone
When the song of the an - gels is stilled, when the
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the

Bass
When the song of the an - gels is stilled, when the
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the

for rehearsal only

4

Ten I
song of the an - gels is stilled, when the song of the
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the kings and the

Ten II
song of the an - gels is stilled, when the song of the
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the kings and the

Bar
song of the an - gels is stilled, when the song of the
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the kings and the

Bass
song of the an - gels is stilled, when the song of the
kings and the prin - ces are home, when the kings and the

6 *mp* (*f* 2nd time) *p* (*mf* 2nd time)

Ten I
 an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -
 prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

Ten II
 an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -
 prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

Bar
 an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -
 prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

Bass
 an - gels is stilled, the work of Christ - mas be -
 prin - ces are home, the work of Christ - mas be -

9

Ten I
 gins, When the star in the hea - vens* is gone, when the
 gins, When the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the

Ten II
 gins, When the star in the hea - vens* is gone, when the
 gins, When the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the

Bar
 gins, When the star in the hea - vens* is gone, when the
 gins, When the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the

Bass
 gins, Oh, when the star in the hea - vens* is gone, when the
 gins, Oh, when the shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the

* Original poem by Howard Thurman reads: "When the star in the sky is gone."

12

Ten I
star in the hea - vens is gone, when the star in the
shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are

Ten II
star in the hea - vens is gone, when the star in the
shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are

Bar
star in the hea - vens is gone, when the star in the
shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are

Bass
star in the hea - vens is gone, when the star in the
shep - herds are back with their flocks, when the shep - herds are

14 *mp (f 2nd time)* *sfz* *mp (both times)*

Ten I
hea - vens is gone, Oh, the work of Christ - mas, the
back with their flocks,

Ten II
hea - vens is gone, Oh, the work of Christ - mas, the
back with their flocks,

Bar
hea - vens is gone, Oh, the work of Christ - mas, the
back with their flocks,

Bass
hea - vens is gone, Oh, the work, the work of
back with their flocks,

18 (mp)

Ten I
work of Christ - mas, the work, it be - gins, be -

Ten II
work of Christ - mas, the work, it be - gins, be -

Bar
work of Christ - mas, the work of Christ - mas be -

Bass
Christ - mas the work, the work of Christ - mas be -

22 *with precision and rhythmic energy*

Ten I
gins, be - gins: To find the lost, to heal the bro -

Ten II
gins: To find the lost, to heal the bro -

Bar
gins: To find the lost, to heal the bro -

Bass
gins, it be - gins: To find the lost, to heal the bro -

33

Ten I
mu - sic in the heart, — to make mu - sic in the heart, — to make

Ten II
mu - sic in the heart, — to make mu - sic in the heart, — to make

Bar
mu - sic in the heart, — to make mu - sic in the heart, — to make

Bass
mu - - - sic, to make mu - - - sic, to make

37 *f*

Ten I
mu - - - - - sic, when the

Ten II
mu - - - - - sic, when the

Bar
mu - - - - - sic, when the

Bass
mu - - - - - sic, when the

41

1.

(f) *mf*

Ten I
star is gone, when the song is stilled, the work of

Ten II
(f) *mf*
star in the hea-vens is gone, when the song of the an-gels is stilled, the work of

Bar
(f) *mf*
star in the hea-vens is gone, when the song of the an-gels is stilled, the work of

Bass
(f) *mf*
star is gone, when the song is stilled, the work of

45

mp

Ten I
Christ - mas, — the work be - gins, it be - gins when the

Ten II
mp
Christ - mas, — the work be - gins, it be - gins when the

Bar
mp
Christ - mas, — the work be - gins, it be - gins when the

Bass
mp
Christ - mas, — the work be - gins, — when the

49 ^{2.} (*f*)

Ten I
shep - herds are back, when the kings are home, when the

Ten II
shep-herds are back with their flocks, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, when the

Bar
shep-herds are back with their flocks, when the kings and the prin - ces are home, when the

Bass
shep - herds are back, when the kings are home, when the

53 *poco rit.* *mp*

Ten I
star is gone, when the song is stilled, _____

Ten II
star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song is stilled, _____

Bar
star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, _____

Bass
star is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, _____

poco rit. *mp*

57

pp

Ten I the work of Christ - mas,

pp

Ten II the work of Christ - mas,

pp

Bar the work of Christ - mas,

pp

Bass the work of Christ - mas,

60 * A few light voices:
(*pp*)

poco rit.

Ten I the work be - gins.

the work be - gins, be - gins.

Ten II the work be - gins.

Bar the work be - gins, it be - gins.

Bass the work be - gins.

poco rit.

* No, you're not imagining things. Previous printings of this song had a different chord in the last half of measure 60.

Howard Thurman (1900-1981) spent most of his life engaged in the work of Christmas. In his early professional life, he was professor of religion and director of religious life at Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, and later was dean of Howard University. In 1944 he moved to San Francisco to co-found the first integrated, multi-cultural church in the United States, The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples. In 1936 Thurman led the first black delegation to Southern Asia, where he was profoundly affected by his meeting with Mohandas Gandhi. His 1949 book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, inspired nonviolent civil rights movements in the United States and throughout the world.