

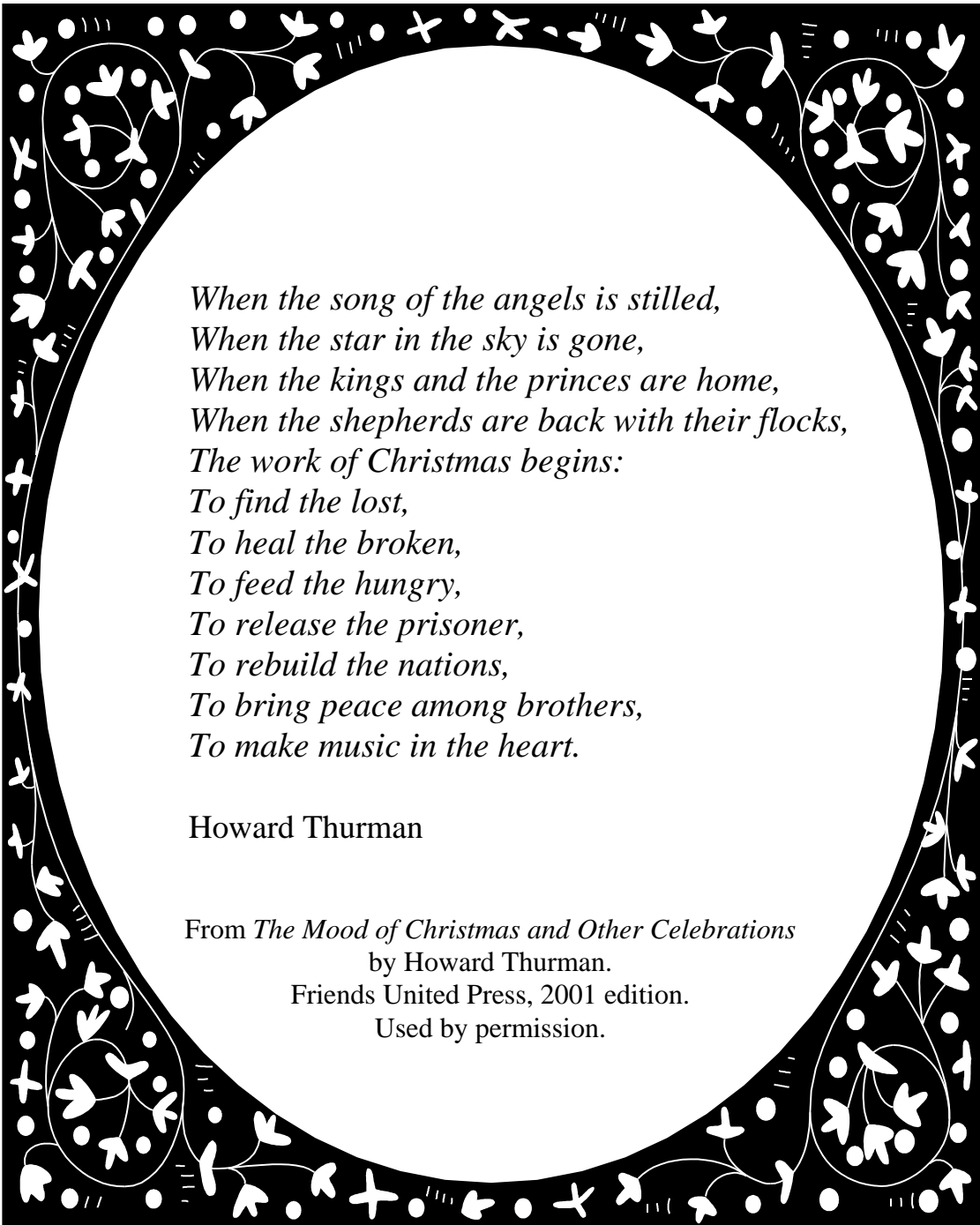
When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled

Howard Thurman

SSAA 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

From The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations
by Howard Thurman.
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When the Song of the Angels is Stilled

Howard Thurman

Elizabeth Alexander

(h = 63-69) *p* (mf 2nd time)

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

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

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

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

4

S 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

S 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

A 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

A 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

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

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

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

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

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

9

S 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

S 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

A I
 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

A II
 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

S 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

S 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

A 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

A 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

14

S I
hea - vens is gone, Oh, the work of Christ - mas, the
back with their flocks, mp (f 2nd time) sfz mp (both times)

S II
hea - vens is gone, Oh, the work of Christ - mas, the
back with their flocks, mp (f 2nd time) sfz mp (both times)

A I
hea - vens is gone, Oh, the work of Christ - mas, the
back with their flocks, mp (f 2nd time) sfz mp (both times)

A II
hea - vens is gone, Oh, the work, the work of
back with their flocks, mp (f 2nd time) sfz mp (both times)

18

S I work of Christ - mas, the work of Christ - mas, be -

S II work of Christ - mas, the work of Christ - mas, be -

A I work of Christ - mas, of Christ - mas, of Christ - mas, be -

A II Christ - mas the work of Christ - mas, of Christ - mas be -

22 *with precision and rhythmic energy*

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

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

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

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

Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshia Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King Sigismund III, religious reformer ◦ Steven Stucky, composer/teacher ◦ Rabindranath Tagore, poet ◦ Howard Thurman, civil rights leader/writer ◦ John Greenleaf Whittier, poet ◦ Theodore S. Tokering Williams, poet ◦ Daniel Winter, pianist/teacher ◦ Nancy Wood, poet ◦ Yehudi Wyner, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Adams, technical advisor ◦ Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshia Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King Sigismund III, religious reformer ◦ Steven Stucky, composer/teacher ◦ Rabindranath Tagore, poet ◦ Howard Thurman, civil rights leader/writer ◦ John Greenleaf Whittier, poet ◦ Theodore S. Tokering Williams, poet ◦ Daniel Winter, pianist/teacher ◦ Nancy Wood, poet ◦ Yehudi Wyner, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Adams, technical advisor ◦ Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshia Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King

A LOT OF HARD WORK & CREATIVITY WENT INTO BRINGING THIS MUSIC TO YOU...



...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.

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(YOU KNOW WHY.)

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33

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

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

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

A II
mu - - - sic, to make mu - - - sic, to make

37

S I
mu - - - - - sic, when the

S II
mu - - - - - sic, when the

A I
mu - - - - - sic, when the

A II
mu - - - - - sic, when the

41

1. (f) mf

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

S II star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of

A I star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled, the work of

A II star is gone, when the song is stilled, the work of

45

mp

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

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

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

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

49 **2.** (f)

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

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

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

A II shep - herds are back, when the kings are home, when the

53 **poco rit.** mp

S I star is gone, when the song is stilled,

S II **poco rit.** mp star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled,

A I **poco rit.** mp star in the hea - vens is gone, when the song of the an - gels is stilled,

A II **poco rit.** mp star is gone, when the song is stilled,

57 **meno mosso**
pp

S I the work of Christ - mas, the

meno mosso
pp

S II the work of Christ - mas, the

meno mosso
pp

A I the work of Christ - mas, the

meno mosso
pp

A II the work of Christ - mas, the

61 **poco rit.**

S I work be - gins.

poco rit.

S II work be - - gins, be - - gins.

poco rit.

A I work be - - gins.

poco rit.

A II work be - gins, it be - gins.

poco rit.

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.