

Dedicated to Dr. James C. Howell by his church family for 11 years of ministry  
as Senior Pastor of Myers Park United Methodist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina.

# The Work of Christmas

For SATB Choir, a cappella\*

Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

DAN FORREST  
(ASCAP)

Slowly, simply, with great freedom ♩ = ca. 76-80

SOPRANO

*p* (some Altos may join)

When the song of the an-gels is stilled,

Oh (Mm) — Oh (Mm) —

Oh (Mm)

Slowly, simply, with great freedom ♩ = ca. 76-80

*p* for rehearsal only

1 2 3 4 5

— when the star in the sky — is gone, — When the

When the

Oh (Mm) — When the

6 7 8 9 10

\* Where feasible, this piece may be sung "in the round", with the choir surrounding the congregation/audience.

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from *A Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*. Friends United Press ([www.fum.org/shop](http://www.fum.org/shop)), 1985

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

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

T  
kings and prin-ces are home,—— when the shep-herds are back with their

BASS *P*  
kings and prin-ces are home,—— when the shep-herds are back with their

*poco rit.*

And prin-ces are home,—— when the shep-herds are back with their

*poco rit.*

11 12 13 14 15 16

*atemp.*

*pp slowly*  
flock,—— The work of Christ-mas be - gins:—— To find the

*pp slowly*  
flock,—— The work of Christ-mas be - gins:—— To find the

*pp slowly*  
flock,—— of Christ-mas be - gins:—— To find the

*pp slowly*  
flock,—— Christ-mas be - gins:—— To find the

*Poco più mosso*

*pp slowly*

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

*Poco più mosso*

lost, To heal — the bro-ken, To feed the hun-gry, To re-lease — the  
 lost, To heal the bro-ken, To feed the hun-gry, To re-lease — the  
 lost, — To heal the bro-ken, To feed the hun-gry, To re-lease the  
 lost, To heal the bro-ken, To feed the hun-gry, To re-lease the

24 25 26 27 28 29

pris-'ner, To re - build the na-tions; To bring peace a -  
 pris-'ner, To re - build — the na-tions; To bring peace a -  
 pris-'ner, To re - build the na-tions; To bring peace a -  
 pris-'ner, To re - build the — na-tions; To bring peace a -

*f* *sub. mp slower*

30 31 32 33 34 35

*rit.* *mf* *mf* *SOP II*

mong brothers, To make mu - sic, — mu - sic, —

*rit.* *mf*

mong brothers, To make mu - sic, — make mu -

*rit.* *mf*

mong brothers, To make mu - sic, — mu -

*rit.* *mf*

mong — brothers, To make mu - sic, — mu -

*rit.* *mf*

36 37 38 39 40 41

*rit.* *f* *mp* *slower* *debits*

— make mu - sic from the heart. —

*f* *mp* *slower*

sic, make mu - sic from the heart. —

*f* *mp* *slower*

sic, — make mu - sic from the heart. —

*f* *slower*

sic, make mu - sic.

*f* *mp* *slower*

42 43 44 45 46 47 48

Like the beginning

*p* (some Altos may join)

Catherine

When the song of the an-gels is stilled,

*p*

Oh (*Mm*)

*p*

Oh (*Mm*)

Like the beginning

*p*

49 50 51 52 53

*mp*

when the star in the sky— is gone, when the kings and

when the kings and

Oh (*Mm*) when the kings and

*pp*

Oh (*Mm*) when the kings and

54 55 56 57 58 59



*poco rit.* 7

prin-ces are home, when the shep-herds are back with their flock,

*poco rit.*

prin-ces are home, when the shep-herds are back with their flock,

*poco rit.*

prin-ces are home, when the shep-herds are back with their flock,

*poco rit.*

prin-ces are home, when the shep-herds are back with their flock,

*poco rit.*

60 61 62 63 64 65

*pp slowly* *rit.*

the work of Christ - mas be - gins.

*pp slowly* *rit.*

the work of Christ - mas be - gins.

*pp slowly* *rit.*

work of Christ - mas be - gins.

*pp slowly* *rit.*

work of Christ - mas be - gins.

*pp slowly* *rit.*

66 67 68 69 70 71