

Prayer Letter, January 2017

Howard Thurman was a twentieth-century African-American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and [civil rights](#) advocate. He preached and taught a theology of radical nonviolence and strongly influenced U.S. civil rights movement leaders such as the Reverend Doctor [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

Thurman's meditation on the work of Christmas speaks to those of us in DIAKONIA who have committed ourselves to the Church's *diakonia*. May we be blessed as we continue our Christmas work.

A Happy New Year to all.

Laura Lazar, January 2017

Now the Work of Christmas Begins

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and 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 the people,
to make music in the heart.*

(From [The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations](#) by Howard Thurman)