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Soft the Evening Shadows Fall
SATB Choir, Descant, Keyboard, Guitar,
Violin, Assembly

Ephrem Feeley/Timothy Dudley-Smith



Soft the Evening Shadows Fall

Music by
Ephrem Feeley

Text by
Timothy Dudley-Smith

Soft the Evening Shadows Fall

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Ephrem Feeley

INTRO *Reflectively, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 66)

Keyboard

Em/G C/E Em Am/E A7sus4 Am7/D D7

mp *rit.*

VERSES

Descant

5. Oo

(a tempo)

Soprano
Alto

1. Soft the eve - ning sha - dows fall, still jour - ney on;
 2. Shep - herds, has - ten from the fold; this God has done.
 3. Kings who from the east a - far still jour - ney on,
 4. Lord of all, en - throned a - bove, God sent his Son.
 5. So the Christ - mas sto - ry tell, still jour - ney on.

Tenor
Bass

(a tempo)

G C/E G Em/G Am/C C°7 G/B

(a tempo)

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5. oo

1. dark - ness soon be o - ver all, still jour - ney on.
 2. Here in hu - man form be - hold, this God has done.
 3. seek - ing Christ be - neath a star, still jour - ney on.
 4. Gift of ev - er - last - ing love, God sent his Son.
 5. At the last shall all be well; still jour - ney on.

Am7 C/G F#°7 B7 Em

5. Love be ours, one with Christ,

1. Wea - ry now, and trav - el - worn, night must come be - fore the morn:
 2. Christ the Lord of Da - vid's line, born a Sa - vior and a sign,
 3. For his wor - ship in - cense bring, gold to crown an in - fant King,
 4. He him - self a ran - som gave, bowed him - self to cross and grave,
 5. Love be ours, and joy and praise. One with Christ to walk his ways,

C D7/C G/B G F#7 Bm G7

rit.

Soft the Evening Shadows Fall

1-4
a tempo

1. Where will Ma - ry's Son be born? Still _____ jour - ney
2. King im - mor - tal, child di - vine, this _____ God has
3. myrrh to mark his suf - fer - ing, still _____ jour - ney
4. came him - self to seek and save, God _____ sent his

a tempo

1-4
a tempo

Cmaj7 C Em7/B Am9 D9

a tempo

1. on.
2. done.
3. on.
4. Son.

G Am7/E G/D Am7/C G Am7/C G

G Am7/E G/D Am7/C G Am7/C G

Final
a tempo *molto rit.*

5. all our days, _____ jour - ney on. _____

Final
a tempo *molto rit.*

5. in his ser - vice all our days, — still — jour - ney on. _____

a tempo *molto rit.*

Final
Cmaj7 C Em7/B A9 Cmaj7/D D7(b9) C/G G

a tempo *molto rit.*

Composer Notes

This pretty carol, with its wonderful text by Timothy Dudley-Smith—on whose 93rd birthday I finished this setting—takes us on a journey through each of the five verses: with Mary and Joseph as they made their way to Bethlehem, to the shepherds and the kings who together sought Christ, to the Cross, grave, and redemption, and finally to Christian discipleship. It is fitting that there is a recurring line, “still journey on,” found in the text. All human beings are on this spiritual quest: Christmas is one of those key moments in the year to either begin or renew this quest.

Because of the strophic form of this hymn, I would suggest splitting the verses between sections of the choir—even giving a soloist one of the verses. The final two verses are best done with full choir singing the harmonization. The violin part should not be played in every verse: Aim for a sense of escalation throughout. It is essential that there be a sense of rubato in the piece. Play around with the elasticity of tempo in rehearsal (or in planning beforehand) until you find what is right.

—Ephrem Feeley

Soft the Evening Shadows Fall

(Guitar/Vocal)

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Ephrem Feeley

INTRO *Reflectively, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 66)

Em/G C/E Em Am/E A7sus4 Am7/D D7

(Kbd)

VERSES

(a tempo)

1. Soft the eve - ning sha - dows fall, still — jour - ney on; dark - ness soon be
2. Shep - herds, has - ten from the fold; this — God has done. Here in hu - man
3. Kings who from the east a - far still — jour - ney on, seek - ing Christ be -
4. Lord of all, en - throned a - bove, God — sent his Son. Gift of ev - er -
5. So the Christ - mas sto - ry tell, still — jour - ney on. At the last shall

C/G F#°7 B7 Em C D7/C G/B G

1. o - ver all, still — jour - ney on. Wea - ry now, and trav - el - worn,
2. form be - hold, this — God has done. Christ the Lord of Da - vid's line,
3. neath a star, still — jour - ney on. For his wor - ship in - cense bring,
4. last - ing love, God — sent his Son. He him - self a ran - som gave,
5. all be well; still — jour - ney on. Love be ours, and joy and praise.

1-4
Cmaj7 C Em7/B
a tempo

1. night must come be - fore the morn: — Where will Ma - ry's Son be born?
2. born a Sa - vior and a sign, — King im - mor - tal, child di - vine,
3. gold to crown an in - fant King, — myrrh to mark his suf - fer - ing,
4. bowed him - self to cross and grave, — came him - self to seek and save,
5. One with Christ to walk his ways, —

1. Still — jour - ney on.
2. this — God has done.
3. still — jour - ney on.
4. God — sent his Son.

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Final
a tempo Cmaj7 C Em7/B A9 Cmaj7/D D7(b9) C/G G
molto rit.

5. in his ser - vice all our days, still jour - ney on.

Soft the Evening Shadows Fall

VIOLIN

Ephrem Feeley

INTRO *Reflectively, with rubato* (♩ = ca. 66)

mp *rit.*

VERSES 1-5
(*a tempo*)

rit.

1-4
a tempo

Final
a tempo *molto rit.*

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Assembly Edition

SOFT THE EVENING SHADOWS FALL

Ephrem Feeley



1. Soft the eve - ning sha - dows fall, still jour - ney on;
2. Shep - herds, has - ten from the fold; this God has done.
3. Kings who from the east a - far still jour - ney on,
4. Lord of all, en - throned a - bove, God sent his Son.
5. So the Christ - mas sto - ry tell, still jour - ney on.



1. dark - ness soon be o - ver all, still jour - ney on.
2. Here in hu - man form be - hold, this God has done.
3. seek - ing Christ be - neath a star, still jour - ney on.
4. Gift of ev - er - last - ing love, God sent his Son.
5. At the last shall all be well; still jour - ney on.



1. Wea - ry now, and trav - el - worn, night must come be - fore the morn:
2. Christ the Lord of Da - vid's line, born a Sa - vior and a sign,
3. For his wor - ship in - cense bring, gold to crown an in - fant King,
4. He him - self a ran - som gave, bowed him - self to cross and grave,
5. Love be ours, and joy and praise. One with Christ to walk his ways,



1. Where will Ma - ry's Son be born? Still jour - ney on.
2. King im - mor - tal, child di - vine, this God has done.
3. myrrh to mark his suf - fer - ing, still jour - ney on.
4. came him - self to seek and save, God sent his Son.
5. in his ser - vice all our days, still jour - ney on.

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