

# While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

Tate / CHRISTMAS

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around;  
and glory shone around.
2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind;  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind;  
to you and all mankind."
3. "To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,  
and this shall be the sign;  
and this shall be the sign:"
4. "The heav'nly child you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands  
and in a manger laid;  
and in a manger laid."
5. Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song;  
addressed their joyful song:
6. "All glory be God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
goodwill henceforth from heav'n to all  
begin and never cease;  
begin and never cease!"

Inspiration: Luke 2: 8-14.

Lyrics: 86.86; Nahum Tate, 1659 - ca. 1726, in a supplement to Tate and Nicholas Brady's "New Version of the Psalms", 1700.