

While shepherds watched their flocks by night

New Version of Tate and Brady (1696)

Luke II vv. 8-14

A hymn for Christmas Day,
anon., from the Colby MSS IOM
Edited by Francis Roads

[♩]=60

Soprano: While shep-herds watched their

Alto: While shep-herds

Tenor [Air]: While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, While

Bass: While shep-herds watched their flocks by

Keyboard: Accompanying keyboard part.

5

S: flocks by night, [they] watched their flocks by night,
Verse 4: *the babe you there shall find*
Verse 6: *be to God on high,*

A: watched their flocks by night,

T: shep-herds watched their flocks by night, All seated

B: night, While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, All

Kbd.: Accompanying keyboard part.

This anonymous setting was used by singing master William Shepherd in churches in the Isle of Man for both the present text and Psalm 133. It occurs in no known printed collection, and may be by Shepherd himself.

Circled numbers correspond with lines of text;
|: and :| show the repeat in the music from bar 16;
underlined text is to be repeated by soprano in bars 6-7 and alto in bars 11-13.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night

10

S All seat - ed on the ground, All seat - ed on the ground;

A All seat - [ed,] All seat - ed on the ground;

T on the ground, All seat - ed on the ground;

B seat - ed on the ground, All seat - ed on the ground;

Kbd.

16

S The an - gel of the Lord came down,

A The an - gel of the Lord came down,

T The an - gel of the Lord came down,

B The an - gel of the Lord came down, And

Kbd.

4. "The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
|: All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid." :|

2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds,
|: "Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind." :|

5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
|: Of angels, praising God who thus
Addressed their joyful song; :|

3. "For unto you in David's town
Is born of David's line
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord,
|: And this shall be the sign." :|

6. "All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace,
|: Goodwill henceforth to men on earth :|
Begin and never cease."

While shepherds watched their flocks by night

21

S
A
T
B
Kbd.

And glo - ry shone a -
And glo - ry shone a - round,
glo - ry shone a - round,
And glo - ry shone a -

25

S
A
T
B
Kbd.

round, And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.
And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.
And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.
And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.