

While shepherds watched their flocks by night

New Version of Tate and Brady (1696)

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

Luke II verses 8-14

[♩=60]

Soprano [Air]

1. While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, While
 2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread, Fear
 3. "For un-to you in Da-vid's town, For
 4. "The heav'n-ly babe you there shall find, The

Alto

1. While shep-herds
 2. "Fear not," said
 3. "For un-to
 4. "The heav'n-ly

Tenor

1. While shep-herds watched their
 2. "Fear not," said he, for
 3. "For un-to you in
 4. "The heav'n-ly babe you

Bass

1. While shep-herds watched their flocks by
 2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread,
 3. "For un-to you in Da-vid's town,
 4. "The heav'n-ly babe you there shall

5

S

shep-herds watched their flocks by night, All seat-ed
 not," said he, for mighty dread Had seized their
 un-to you in Da-vid's town Is born of
 heav'n-ly babe you there shall find To hu-man

A

watched their flocks by night,
 he, for mighty dread,
 you in Da-vid's town,
 babe you there shall find,

T

flocks by night, they watched their flocks by night,
 mighty dread, said he, for mighty dread
 Da-vid's town, is born in Da-vid's town
 there shall find, the babe you there shall find
 V.6 be to God on high

B

night, While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, All
 dread, "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread, Had
 town, "For un-to you in Da-vid's town, Is
 find, "The heav'n-ly babe you there shall find, To

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.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night

10

S
on the ground, All seat - ed on the ground;
trou - bled minds, Had seized their trou - bled minds,
Da - vid's line, Is born of Da - vid's line
view dis - played, To hu - man view dis - played

A
All seat - ed, All seat - ed on the ground;
Had seized, Had seized their trou - bled minds,
Is born, Is born of Da - vid's line,
To hu - man, To hu - man view dis - played,

T
All seat - ed on the ground, All seat - ed on the ground;
Had seized their trou - bled minds, Had seized their trou - bled minds,
A born of Da - vid's line, Is born of Da - vid's line,
To hu - man view dis - played, To hu - man view dis - played,

B
seat - ed on the ground, All seat - ed on the ground;
seized their trou - bled minds, Had seized their trou - bled minds,
born of Da - vid's line, Is born of Da - vid's line,
hu - man view dis - played, To hu - man view dis - played,

16

S
The an - gel of the Lord came down,
"Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring
A Sa - viour who is Christ the Lord,
All mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands,

A
The an - gel of the Lord came down,
"Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring
A Sa - viour who is Christ the Lord,
All mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands,

T
The an - gel of the Lord came down,
"Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring
A Sa - viour who is Christ the Lord,
All mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands,

B
The an - gel of the Lord came down, And
"Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring To
A Sa - viour who is Christ the Lord, And
All mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, And

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

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

While shepherds watched their flocks by night

21

S
 And glo - ry shone a - round,
 To you and all man - kind,
 And this shall be the sign,
 And in a man - ger laid,

A
 And glo - ry shone a - round,
 To you and all man - kind,
 And this shall be the sign,
 And in a man - ger laid,

T
 And glo - ry shone a -
 To you and all man -
 And this shall be the
 And in a man - ger

B
 glo - ry shone a - round,
 you and all man - kind,
 this shall be the sign,
 in a man - ger laid,

25

S
 And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.
 To you and all man - kind, To you and all man - kind."
 And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign."
 And in a man - ger laid, And in a man - ger laid."

A
 And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.
 To you and all man - kind, To you and all man - kind."
 And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign."
 And in a man - ger laid, And in a man - ger laid."

T
 round, And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.
 kind, To you and all man - kind, To you and all man - kind."
 sign, And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign."
 laid, And in a man - ger laid, And in a man - ger laid."

B
 And glo - ry shone a - round, And glo - ry shone a - round.
 To you and all man - kind, To you and all man - kind."
 And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign."
 And in a man - ger laid, And in a man - ger laid."

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.