

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

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

Alto

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

Tenor [Air]

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

Bass

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

5

S

flocks by night, they watched their flocks by night,
migh - ty dread, said he, for migh - ty 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

A

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

T

shep - herds watched their flocks by night, All seat - ed
not," said he, for migh - ty 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

B

night, While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, All
dread, "Fear not," said he, for migh - ty 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
 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,

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
 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

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
A
T
B

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

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

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

25

S
A
T
B

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."

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."

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.