

Originally from Lawrence Ding' Collection, 1786
Minor version first found in this form in
Robert Gale of Edinburgh's 'Psalms and Hymn Tunes', pub. 1820

Tate & Brady

Treble

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all sea - ted
2 'Fear not' said he, for migh-ty dread had seized their

Alto

Tenor
Air

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all sea - ted
2 'Fear not' said he, for migh-ty dread had seized their

Bass

5

Tr.

on the ground, The an - gel of the
troub - led mind, 'Glad tid - ings of great

A.

T.

on the ground, The an - gel of the
troub - led mind, 'Glad tid - ings of great

B.

9

Tr.

Lord came down, and glo - ry
joy I bring, to you and

A.

T.

Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round, and glo - ry
joy I bring, to you and all man - kind, to you and

B.

13

Tr. *shone a - round, and glo - ry shone a - round.
all man - kind, to you and all man - kind.*

A.

T. *shone a - round, and glo - ry shone a - round.
all man - kind, to you and all man - kind.*

B.

3 'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's Line
A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign'.

4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find,
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid'.

5 Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, and
Thus addressed their song.

6 'All Glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace,
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

'Bethlehem' in three parts first appeared in G major in Laurence Ding's 'The Scholars Assistant'. Ed.2. Edinburgh: 1786, without text. In his next publication: 'The Beauties of Psalmody', Edinburgh: 1792, the three part tune had been altered to A minor, and set to While Shepherds Watched. Thereafter the minor tune enjoyed much more popularity than the major version.

James Stevens of Glasgow added a fourth part to the minor version c. 1805.

According to the Hymn Tune Index both versions of the tune were published exclusively in Scotland up to 1820.

This version is taken from a copy of Alexander Hume's 'British Psalmody', Edinburgh: 1844, now in our possession, and most resembles that in Robert Gale of Edinburgh's 'Psalms and Hymn Tunes', pub. 1820. The composer is unattributed. HTI 4701d.

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