While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 296

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

TEXT: Nahum Tate (1702), alt.

TUNE: Arr. from George Frideric Handel (1728)

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