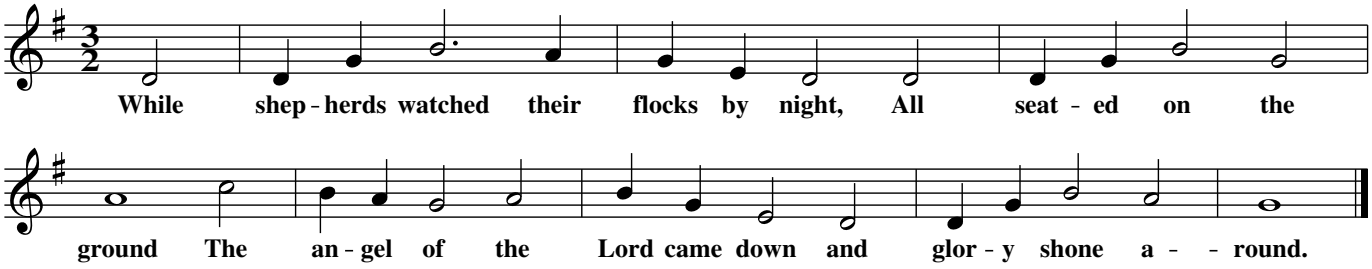
While Shepherds Watched



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

"To you in David's house this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign."

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

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

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

Source: Charley Williams, Bream, Forest of Dean. Collected by Bob Patten and Andrew Taylor, 19 November 1977.

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