While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Music: Michael Beesly (1700–ca.1758)  
Text: Nahum Tate, 1700

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
   All seated on the ground, 
   The angel of the Lord came down,  
   And joy I bring,  
   Lord came down,  
   To you and all mankind.

2. “Fear not,” said he—  
   For mighty dread had seized their troubled minds—  
   All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
   And in a manger laid.”

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:

4. “The Heav’nly Babe you there shall find  
   To human view displayed,  
   All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
   And in a manger laid.”

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

6. “All glory be to God on high,  
   And to the earth be peace:  
   Good will henceforth, from Heav’n to men,  
   Begin and never cease!”

Music: OTFORD (Beesly)  
Text: 8 6. 8 6. w/ repeat