While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Nahum Tate, 1700
George Frederick Handel, 1728

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone a-round.
2. "Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind. "Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and all mankind.
3. "To you, in David's town, this day Is born of David's line A Savior, who 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 swathing bands, And in a manger laid."
5. Thus spake the seraph and forth with appeared a shining peace; Good will henceforth from Heav'n to men Begin and never cease!
6. "All glory be to God on high, And to the Earth be played, All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid."

Public Domain
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™