While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Vigorously  \( \text{d} = 63–76 \)

1. While shep-herds watch’d their flocks by night, All seat-ed on the ground,
2. "To you, in Da-vid’s town this day, Is born of Da-vid’s line
3. Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth-with Ap-peared a shin-ing throng

The an-gel of the Lord came down, And glo-ry shone a-round.
The Sav-i or who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign:
Of an-gels praising God, who thus Ad-dressed their joy-ful song:

"Fear not," said he, for might-y dread Had seized their trou-bled mind;
The heav’n-ly Babe you there shall find To hu-man view dis-played,
"All glo-ry be to God on high And on the earth be peace.

"Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring To you and all man-kind.”
All mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands, And in a man-ger laid.”
Good - will hence-forth from heav’n to men Be - gin and nev-er cease.”

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652–1715; based on Luke 2:8–14
Music: Yorkshire carol, ca. 1800

Luke 2:8–14