

The Song of the Shepherds

A Christmas medley, with a Narrative Poem of Varied Voices

(male voice) I see the stars this winter night,
So near, so clear, so pure, so bright,
And think of shepherds— long to know
The song they heard so long ago.

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plain,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains,
Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

[Verse 1 from "Angels We Have Heard on High"]

(child's voice) What are the words the shepherds sing,
The angel song— as, hurrying—
They leave their sheep to hasten down
Into a dark and slumbering town?

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

[Verse 1 of "O Little Town of Bethlehem"]

(female voice) They reach the stable, see inside
A Jewish man, his joyous bride
And God— the Son of Man— between!
They bow before the sacred scene.

Round you virgin mother and child. Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our
song shall rise to Thee; Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! tho' the darkness hide Thee, Tho' the eye of sinful
man thy glory may not see; Only Thou art holy! there is none
beside Thee Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

[part of Verse 1 from "Silent Night"]

[Verses 1 and 3 of "Holy, Holy, Holy"]

This Arrangement and the Narrative Poem are Copyrighted 2002 by Stanley K. Brubaker
The selections of old favorite hymns are all believed to be in the public domain.

The Song of the Shepherds (cont.)

(male voice) The day now dawns as oft before,
But shepherd hearts forevermore
Will marvel at Salvation's birth
And sing His tidings through the earth.

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.
The light shone in the heavens, To cover all the earth
It was a sign to tell men About our Savior's birth.
Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ was born.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, Forevermore adored,
The Wonderful, the Counsellor, The great and mighty Lord!
The Wonderful, the Counsellor, The great and mighty Lord!

[Verse 2 of "Go Tell It on the Mountain"]

[Verse 2 of "To Us a Child of Hope is Born"]

(unison: a boy's and a girl's voices)

In shepherd hearts were carried long
The joy, the hope, the angel song;
But now to us the task is flown
To make the Lord of Glory known.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, And heav'n and nature sing... etc.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy...etc.

[Verses 1 and 2 of "Joy to the World"]

This Arrangement and the Narrative Poem are Copyrighted 2002 by Stanley K. Brubaker
The selections of old favorite hymns are all believed to be in the public domain.