In the field with their flocks abiding

John Farmer (1836 - 1901)

Moderate. Unison.

1. In the field with their flocks abiding, They lay on the dewy ground; And
glimmering under the starlight, The sheep lay white around, When the

light of the Lord stream'd over them, And lo! from the heaven above, An

angel leaned from the glory And sang his song of love: He

(Chorus in Unison)
sang, that first sweet Christmas, The song that shall never cease,

"Glory to God in the highest, On earth good will and peace."

2. "To you in the City of David,
   A Saviour is born to-day!"
   And sudden a host of heavenly ones
   Flash'd forth to join the lay!
   O never hath sweet message
   Thrill'd home to the souls of men,
   And the Heav'n's themselves had never heard
   A gladder choir till then. –
   For they sang that Christmas Carol,
   That never on earth shall cease, etc.

3. And the shepherds came to the Manger,
   And gazed on the Holy Child;
   And calmly o'er that rude cradle
   The Virgin Mother smil'd;
   And the sky, in star-lit silence,
   Seem'd full of the angel lay;
   "To you in the City of David
   A Saviour is born to-day;"
   Oh they sang – and I ween that never
   The carol on earth shall cease, etc.

(Source: Carols old and carols new, Boston, 1916)