

The first Christmas Night

Walter Hay Sangster (1835 - 1899)

Brightly SOPRANOS ONLY

I should like to have heard the An-gels sing, On that first great Christ-mas morn, To have

6 *rall.*

knelt and listen-ed to mu-sic so sweet, O'er the Babe in Beth-le-hem born.

10 CHORUS *f*

But I may sing of that Babe to-day, Oh, so ten-der, so kind, so fair. And the

Org.

15 *D.S.*

An-gels still glad-den our Christ-mas morn, And sing in our mid - night air.

2.

But I should like to have watched the great stars shine,
As they did that Christmas night;
Till my heart was bright with a heavenly flame,
And my soul was bathed in light.

CHORUS. But the stars are there in heaven above,
And as sweetly still they shine;
And the lapse of years and the wear of time
Make no change in that heaven of mine.

3.

I should like to have been a shepherd there,
To have watched my flock by night,
To have seen the wonderful glory shine,
Till the hills were paved with light.

CHORUS. But I need no Bethel hill to climb
Nor a shepherd my calling be,
For I'm but a sheep, and no shepherd I,
That Jesus must be to me.

4.

I should like to have seen that manger crib,
To have knelt before that shrine,
To have laid my gift at those tender feet,
And have worshipped the Babe divine.

CHORUS. But I may worship that Babe to-day,
And as truly my Christmas see,
For His presence is now my Bethlehem,
And His love shall my carol be.