

# While the shepherds kept

Rev. F. S. Stone

Christmas traditional

1. While the shep-herds kept their vi - gil, And the world in dark - ness lay,

6  
Came the ho - ly Ad - vent An - gel; Shone the sud - den glo - ry ray;

11  
Then, ten thou - sand times ten thou - sand, Ra - diant her - alds of the day.

2. Thus they sang the first sweet carol,  
"Glory be to God on high,  
And on earth be peace and blessing  
To the nations far and nigh!"  
So our God made good His promise,  
And the old prophetic cry.

3. Fuller, farther, o'er the wide world,  
Year by year the music swells;  
Year by year to some new people  
Christmas tide the story tells,  
With the chanting of the children,  
And the pealing of the bells.

6. Still we wait for Thine appearing,  
O Thou bright and Morning Star!  
Still we look to hear the rolling  
Of Thy great triumphal car;  
We, who sing Thy first glad advent,  
Know Thy second is not far.

4. Louder over hill and valley  
Let the towers and steeples ring!  
In the hamlet and the city  
Sweeter carols let us sing  
Louder peals of holy pleasure  
Sweeter carols to our King!

5. Hear Thy children, blessed Jesus,  
Once for us on earth a child;  
Keep us in Thy great compassion  
Holy, harmless, undefiled;  
Blest through Thee by God the Spirit,  
To the Father reconciled.