

While shepherds kept their vigil

John Seely Stone (1795-1882)

Edwin Augustus Sydenham (1847-1891)

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1. While the shep-herds kept their vi - gil, And the world in dark - ness lay,
2. Thus they sang the first sweet ca - rol, "Glo - ry be to God on high,
3. Ful - ler, far - ther, o'er the wide world, Year by year that mu - sic swells;
4. Loud - er o - ver hill an val - ley Let the towers and steep - les ring!
5. Hear thy child-ren, bless - ed Je - sus, Once for us on earth a Child;

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1. Came the ho - ly Ad - vent - an - gel, Shone the sud - den glo - ry - ray;
2. And on earth be peace and bless - ing To the na - tions far and nigh!"
3. Year by year to some new peo - ple Christ - mas - tide the sto - ry tells,
4. In the ham - let and the ci - ty Sweet - er ca - rols let us sing --
5. Keep us in thy great com - pas - sion Ho - ly, harm - less, un - de - filed.

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1. Then, ten thou - sand times ten thou - sand, Ra - diant he - ralds of the day.
2. So our God made good his pro - mise, And the old pro - phe - tic cry.
3. With the chan - ting of the child - ren, And the peal - ing of the bells.
4. Blest through thee by God the Spi - rit, To the Fa - ther re - con-ciled
5. We who sing thy first great Ad - vent, Know thy se - cond is not far.

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.