

Christmas Season Devotionals

Week Three – Day 13

While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks

"The carol, *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night*, was written by an Irishman, Nahum Tate. He was born and studied in Trinity College at Dublin. He became the Poet Laureate for Britain. He had a special interest in the Psalms, and actually published two volumes of *The Complete Psalms*, the 150 Psalms for singing: one in 1696 and another some six years later in 1702. *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*, because it really is a paraphrase of this Luke 2 section that we read together this morning. And it reflected something of Nahum Tate's philosophy about singing, and about praise in the worship service, and that they should be as biblical as possible." (By Derek Thomas, First Pres Church, Jackson Mississippi, fpcjackson.org)

Craft Idea – <https://www.redtedart.com/30-cute-lamb-sheep-crafts/>

Video by brentwoodbensson.com: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFkze7wV5rl>

While shepherd watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.

'Fear not' said he (for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind); 'Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.'

To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed, All meanly
wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.

'All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heaven to
men Begin and never cease.'

Questions/statements for individuals or families to respond to:

- Read Luke 2:8-15. Who would you go to first to share the about Jesus' birth?
- Why do you think God chose the outcasts of the community to first share this news?
- The shepherds were pretty fearful when the angels showed up. How would you feel if a 100 angels just showed up in your bedroom to give you great news?
- This may be challenging, but have a brief discussion on baby Jesus being, "Christ the Lord." (v.11)

Digging Deeper

1. Read Matthew 9:10-17; John 8:1-11; Mark 1:40-45. These are examples of Jesus caring for the unloved. Write down a person, in your circles of influence, whom you believe needs a helping hand, an encouraging word, the Good New of Jesus Christ. Begin by praying for that person, asking the lord to give you the courage to reach out to that person and the wisdom to know what to do. Then take action.
2. Pull out a concordance or use the index in the back of your Bible to find as many references as you can when God said, "Don't Be Afraid." Reflect on the significance of the circumstances surrounding those words.
3. "Christ the Lord." *Christ* means *Anointed One* (Gk.) or *Messiah* (Heb.), and the word, *Lord*, is only attributed to Jesus because He alone is the *sovereign* God of Heaven and earth. What do these powerful descriptions of baby Jesus mean to you personally? (Read Luke 2:8-15)