



## GLORY TO GOD IN THE LOWEST

Created by Steve Moore • Rob Howard • David Guthrie

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*Running Time: 38:00*

*(music begins to "Life in the Hills")*

SONG: "LIFE IN THE HILLS"

### **verse 1**

Most nights it's quiet just outside the streets of Bethlehem  
Most nights we try and get some sleep just to get up again  
And fill our days with nothing but sheep

### **chorus**

We live in the hills, we sleep under the stars at night  
We're shepherds with a flock of sheep we will be alright  
This is life in the hills, it's the kind of life we wanna lead  
We have everything we'll ever need, this is the life for me  
This is life in the hills

### **verse 2**

Most of us were born here, in the little town of Bethlehem  
Most of us would volunteer to spend our nights among the hills  
And fill our days with nothing but sheep

### **chorus**

We live in the hills, we sleep under the stars at night  
We're shepherds with a flock of sheep we will be alright  
This is life in the hills, it's the kind of life we wanna lead  
We have everything we'll ever need, this is the life for me  
This is life in the hills

### **bridge**

People say shepherds keep their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Yes, this is life in the hills

### **chorus**

We live in the hills, we sleep under the stars at night  
We're shepherds with a flock of sheep we will be alright  
This is life in the hills, it's the kind of life we wanna lead  
We have everything we'll ever need, this is the life for me



This is life in the hills  
We love life in the hills  
This is life in the hills

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## SCENE 1

*(After “Life in the Hills,” the characters disperse. Ezra, Skippy, and Abigail remain, reclining on the ground, watching over their flock by night. Shepherds are carrying staffs with crooks. Abigail is on her hands and knees, staring straight into the eyes of a stuffed sheep. She is motionless and silent.)*

EZRA: **Abigail. What are you doing?**

ABIGAIL: **Shhhh! Staring contest.**

EZRA: **It’s not real.**

ABIGAIL: **You’re telling me, Ezra! Three hours and it still hasn’t blinked!**

EZRA: **No, I mean the sheep is fake. It’s our decoy for wolves.**

ABIGAIL: *(stands up)* **I knew that.**

*(Abigail turns and looks back at the sheep, gives the “two-fingers to the eyes, I’m watching you” gesture to the sheep. Jethro enters from one side of the stage.)*

ALL: *(ad lib. hellos to Jethro)*

EZRA: **Hey Jethro!**


JETHRO: **Hey Ezra ... Abigail, Skippy.**

SKIPPY: **Where are you off to?**

JETHRO: **Just cutting through. Gotta check on a sheep over on the other hill. Looks like it may be giving birth soon.**

EZRA: **Yeah? Just like us. We have one due any day.**



- SKIPPY: **What's the news from town?**
- JETHRO: **Oh, you know ... same as it's been for days. Town is packed with the census of the entire Roman world. Gotta count everyone.**
- SKIPPY: **Good. Maybe the world is finally coming to its census.**
- EZRA: **Glad to be out here where we've finally got some peace and quiet!**
- JETHRO: **Better be on my way.**
- SKIPPY: **What's it like on the other side, Jethro?**
- JETHRO: **Well, the grass is greener.**
- SKIPPY: **That's what I thought!**
- JETHRO: **See ya later.**
- ALL: *(ad lib goodbye)*  
*(Jethro leaves as Shiloh and Tabbie walk into the field from the opposite side of the stage.)*
- ABIGAIL: **Boy, all those people ... it sure sounds exciting.**
- SHILOH: **Town is exciting because stuff happens there. *Nothing* happens in the fields.**
- ABIGAIL: *(announcing)* **Ladies and gentlemen, "Delilah Downer."**
- SKIPPY: **Evening, Shiloh.**
- SHILOH: **But it's the truth! Nothing more boring than being a shepherd. *And*, sheep are probably the dumbest animals on the planet.**
-  *SOUNDFX: "Sheep Baa 1"*
- SKIPPY: **But they *do* seem to understand everything we say.**
- SHILOH: **Everyone, I'd like to introduce the newest member of our team, Tabitha. She just entered her first year at the Shepherd**



**Academy up in Jerusalem. She's here to learn a little bit about how real shepherds do it.**

TABBIE: **My friends call me Tabbie.**

SHILOH: **Tabbie, this is Ezra, Abigail, and Skippy.**

ALL: *(exchange hellos)*

ABIGAIL: *(very Barney Fife)* **Tabitha, in front of you is one of the most elite groups of shepherds you're ever likely to meet. The "tip of the sword," or as we like to say, the "curve of the crook."**

TABBIE: **I can't wait to learn from all of you!**

*(Jethro runs in yelling, holding a small stuffed sheep. All the shepherds jump to their feet.)*

JETHRO: **Gangway! Coming through! Lady with a baby!**

EZRA: **Is that the sheep from the other hill?**

JETHRO: **No, it's yours! I never made it over there!**

*(Jethro, Shiloh, and Ezra kneel and urgently attend to the sheep as Tabbie and Abigail watch.)*

TABBIE: **What's going on?**

EZRA: **One of the sheep just had a lamb!**

SHILOH: **He's here!**

*(Shiloh stands up, cradling the lamb in her arms. All the other shepherds crowd around, admiring the lamb.)*

ABIGAIL: **He's beautiful.**

TABBIE: *(to Shiloh)* **This is so amazing. You have to love being a shepherd.**

SHILOH: *(suddenly irritated)* **I have to?**

*(Shiloh walks a few feet away to be alone. Jethro exits carrying the baby lamb.)*



- TABBIE: **What did I say?**
- EZRA: *(rolls his eyes)* **Here we go ...**
- SHILOH: *(reengaging the conversation)* **My dad owns the flock. The youngest kid in the family has to be the shepherd for the family flock. I'm the youngest, so I'm stuck with it!**
- SKIPPY: **Aw, c'mon, Shiloh!**
- SHILOH: **Think about the most significant job you could have. *(pause)* You're about as far from that as you can imagine. Me, I'm made for something better.**
- TABBIE: **What could be better than this?**
- SHILOH: **Anything! Someday, I'm going to be in the center of it all ... in on what everyone's talking about ... not stuck out here staring at stars and smelling like sheep.**
- TABBIE: **How?**
- ABIGAIL: **Here we go ...**
- SHILOH: **By doing something *big!***
- TABBIE: **Like what?**
- EZRA: **Her next "big idea." Sooner or later, she's convinced she's gonna be rolling in fame and glory and all that.**
- (music begins to "What's the Big Idea?")*
- ABIGAIL: **What is it *this* time, Shiloh?**

SONG: "What's the Big Idea?"

**chorus 1**

Hey, what's the big idea?  
There's gotta be something in the works, we know you  
Say, what's the big idea?  
You've always been looking for your big break through  
Even though it seems our dreams are slowly passing us by  
Why, we like to pack less, travel light, no stress, we love the simple life  
But hey, what's the big idea?  
What's the big idea?



*(dialog at meas. 25)*

- TABBIE: **What's one of your big ideas, Shiloh?**
- SHILOH: **When predators show up, sheep need to come down the hill to us in a hurry, right?**
- TABBIE: **Right.**
- SHILOH: **So, I invented something genius to do that!**
- ABIGAIL: **Genius? It was a disaster. She put the sheep on roller skates way up on the hill!**
- SHILOH: **It was just a beta test.**
- TABBIE: **What's "beta test"?**
- SKIPPY: **I think it has to do with how fast a sheep can go on roller skates.**

**chorus 2**

Hey, what's the big idea?  
There's gotta be something in the works, we know you  
Say, what's the big idea?  
You've always been looking for your big break through  
Even though we don't rub shoulders with high society  
We've got the sunset, shade tree, mindset, living life carefree  
But hey, what's the big idea?  
What's the big idea?

*(dialog at meas. 63)*

- TABBIE: **What's another one of your big ideas, Shiloh?**
- (All the other shepherds sigh and roll their eyes. They've heard this a million times. Abigail and Ezra stand in a line, each with their staffs. Each staff's crook is turned to the right. Shiloh stands next to them, and her crook is turned to the left.)*
- SHILOH: **Well, one of my favorites was the left-handed shepherd's staff. *(gestures toward her staff)* The crook bends to the left, not to the right. Why nobody thought of it before me is a mystery.**



EZRA: **And it cost twice as much as a normal staff.**

*(Abigail and Ezra simultaneously twist their staffs to the left.)*

ABIGAIL: **Look! Now we've *all* got left-handed staffs!**

*(Shepherds laugh.)*

SHILOH: *(upset)* **Those are knock-offs! You just turned yours the other way!**

*(song finishes)*

### **chorus tag**

Even though some days we're facing the teeth of a wild beast  
We're mostly fearless, semi-heroic  
In case you didn't hear us  
We're gallant and stoic rescuers of sheep  
But hey, what's the big idea?  
What's the big idea?

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## **SCENE 2**

*(All shepherds are reclining on the hillside.)*

TABBIE: **So, Shiloh, don't keep us in suspense! What's your new idea?**

SHILOH: *(suddenly energized)* **Okay, this can't miss. Look at what's going on in Bethlehem ... hundreds of people are here for the census, but there are not enough rooms for everyone to have a place to stay.**

SKIPPY: **Okay?**

*(Shiloh reveals a miniature prop of the building, and all crowd around to watch.)*

SHILOH: **Check this out everyone, a high-rise inn!**

ABIGAIL: **Doesn't look very big to me.**


SHILOH: **It's just a model, Abigail.**



- EZRA: **What's a high rise?**
- SHILOH: **It's genius! Every building in town has a ground floor and a roof patio, right? But my inn is going to have *five floors* and a roof patio!**
- ABIGAIL: **That's like five houses on top of each other! That'll scrape the sky!**
- SHILOH: **There'll be room for dozens of guests. We'll have two floors of stables, plus a water feature.**
- EZRA: **That's not a water feature, it's the town well!**
- SHILOH: **Potato, potahto. The property features a counting room for Caesar's upcoming censuses. And, when there isn't a census, people can come to the inn for holidays!**
- SKIPPY: **Hey, you could call it Holiday ... Hotel!**
- ALL: *(All express excitement for Shiloh's idea.)*
- TABBIE: **I've got a question.**
- ABIGAIL: **What is it, Tabbie? We're here for you ... learning at the highest level ... sheep experts ... ask us whatever you want!**
- TABBIE: **Skippy? Is that your real name?**
- ABIGAIL: *That's your question?*
- SKIPPY: **Just a nickname.**
- TABBIE: **Why? What's your real name?**
- SKIPPY: **It's ... unusual.**
- TABBIE: **It can't be that bad.**
- SKIPPY: **Well, it's Otto Von Heinrich.**
- TABBIE: *(trying to pronounce his name)* **Otto Von ...**
- SKIPPY: **Von Heinrich. My dad was ... a German shepherd.**





 SOUNDFX: “*Sheep Baa 2*”

*(Preschoolers dressed as sheep are paraded on stage by one of the shepherds as Skippy counts. When he falls asleep they walk off stage.)*

SHILOH: **Skippy, you’d better get busy taking inventory of the flock.**

EZRA: **Oh no, Shiloh ...**

SKIPPY: *(jumping in)* **I’m on it! Counting sheep ... what I do best!**

SHILOH: **Yeah, and you’ve got a long night ahead of you.**

SKIPPY: **Let’s see.** *(looking over the sheep)* **One ... two ...** *(yawns)* **... three ...**

*(At “three” Skippy falls asleep on his feet, snores loudly, then sinks to the ground and curls up in the grass. All the other shepherds laugh hysterically.)*

ABIGAIL: **Gonna be a long night, indeed.**

SHILOH: *(looking again at her model)* **Maybe one day this high rise could put us on the map!**

ABIGAIL: **Ever since King David became our claim to fame, our attention has kind of gone downhill.**

EZRA: **But *some* day ... Messiah will come, and the Scripture says He will come from Bethlehem. Now *that* will put us on the map!**

SHILOH: ***Someday?* We’re all living for some day that will probably never come!**

EZRA: **Oh, it’ll come all right! If God put it in His Word, then He will see that it comes to pass.**

*(Jethro returns, this time carrying a bag of supplies over his shoulder.)*

TABBIE: **Hey, Jethro!**

JETHRO: **Evening, everyone. Just thought I’d head back up this way and bring you all some supplies for that perfect little lamb.**



- SHILOH: **Thanks, Jethro.** *(takes the supplies from him)*
- JETHRO: **You guys wouldn't believe the talk in Bethlehem!**
- ABIGAIL: **What is it?**
- JETHRO: **The census brought all types to town ... it's packed, you know. There's even a young couple from Nazareth, about to have a baby, and they have *no* place to stay!**
- TABBIE: **Yes! We need your high-rise inn, Shiloh!**  
*(Skippy snores loudly and rolls over again.)*
- JETHRO: *(whispering)* **Oh! Is Skippy counting sheep again?**
- ABIGAL: **Don't worry, he can sleep through anything.**
- JETHRO: **So this couple ends up spending the night in a stable! Imagine having a baby in a stable and not having anywhere to lay the child. Talk about your lows ...**
- SHILOH: **From where I sit ... high on this hill ... I'd trade it just to be in on the action in lowly Bethlehem.**  
*(music begins to "O Little Town")*
- EZRA: **Don't knock it, Shiloh. I'm telling you, someday, the Messiah is coming to Bethlehem. God said it and He keeps His Word!**

SONG: "O Little Town"

**chorus**

O little town of Bethlehem  
As the prophets have foretold  
From you shall come the ruler we've been waiting for  
O little town of Bethlehem  
We look to you alone  
For the Promised One that we've been waiting for  
O little town

**verse**

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;



**chorus**

O little town of Bethlehem  
As the prophets have foretold  
From you shall come the ruler we've been waiting for  
O little town of Bethlehem  
We look to you alone  
For the Promised One that we've been waiting for  
O little town

**bridge**

Oh, we look for the Child to be born  
We wait for the Son to be given  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

**chorus**

O little town of Bethlehem  
As the prophets have foretold  
From you shall come the ruler we've been waiting for  
O little town of Bethlehem  
We look to you alone  
For the Promised One that we've been waiting for  
O little town, O little town

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**SCENE 3**

*(All shepherds are reclining in the grass. Skippy is still asleep.)*

TABBIE: **Are you sure the high-rise inn will work, Shiloh?**

ABIGAIL: **None of her other ideas worked!**

SHILOH: **Oh yeah, I invented GPS! The Goat Positioning System ... lets you know where they are at all times!**


TABBIE: **Wow!**

ABIGAIL: *(deadpan)* **She put a bell around their neck.**

 **SOUNDFX: "Bell"**



SHILOH: *(covers her eyes with her hand, and points to the direction of the bell sound)* **Without even looking ... there is a goat right there.**

 *SOUNDFX: "Sheep Baa 3"*

SKIPPY: *(jolts awake)* **What?! Where's the trouble?**

EZRA: **Rise and shine, sleepy head.**

SKIPPY: **I think I must have fallen asleep. I'll get back to my counting.**

ABIGAIL: **Count slower this time!**

*(As the dialog continues, Skippy walks over a way to count sheep. He slowly crumples to the ground as he falls asleep again.)*

SHILOH: *(frustrated)* **Uhhh, this hill, these sheep, it feels like 400 years of silence in one night! I'm tired of silent nights.**

TABBIE: **400 years?**

EZRA: **She's talking about how long it's been since we've heard anything from God.**

ABIGAIL: **If I hadn't said anything for 400 years, you'd better believe that when I finally had something to say, everybody would hear it!**

SHILOH: **If God decided He would say something after 400 years, I promise ... stuck out here in the middle of the night, we'd be the *last* to hear it!**

TABBIE: **What do you mean, Shiloh?**

SHILOH: **News flash, Tabbie ... you've made the small time. We're shepherds ... the *lowest* of the *low*.**

EZRA: **I don't know, Shiloh. God has a lot to say about sheep. I've always felt He had a bit of a soft spot for us.**

TABBIE: **That's right! We're learning a lot about this at the Academy. We spend a lot of time in Isaiah 53 ... "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way."**



- EZRA: **And there's a lot of talk about sheep in the Psalms. "Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." Psalm 100:3.**
- TABBIE: **"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul." That's from Psalm 23.**
- EZRA: **That's right! King David wrote that.**
- ABIGAIL: **And King David got his start as a shepherd boy, right here in this town!**
- SHILOH: **I don't know, maybe Skippy had the best idea out of all of us. (she rolls over to sleep and yawns) I'm going to sleep. (music begins to "For unto You") Wake me up if anything happens.**
- (Shiloh pops awake when the angel appears. Skippy wakes too and hurries to the shepherds, who huddle in fear.)*
- ANGEL: **"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." (Luke 2:10)**

SONG: "For unto You"

**chorus**

For unto you is born this day  
In the city of David, a Savior  
For unto you is born this day  
A Baby laid in a manger  
Glory to God in the highest  
Peace has come to earth  
For unto you is born this day  
Christ the Lord

**verse**

Out of the darkness of night  
Angels in flight  
A blinding light  
To the shepherds huddled in fear  
The message is clear  
Messiah is here  
So, come and behold Him (all in)  
Born the king of angels



**chorus**

For unto you is born this day  
In the city of David, a Savior  
For unto you is born this day  
A Baby laid in a manger  
Glory to God in the highest  
Peace has come to earth  
For unto you is born this day  
Christ the Lord

*(dialog at meas. 58)*

ANGEL: **“And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”** *(Luke 2:12)*

*(song finishes)*

**bridge**

O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

**chorus**

For unto you is born this day  
In the city of David, a Savior  
For unto you is born this day  
A Baby laid in a manger  
Glory to God in the highest  
Peace has come to earth  
For unto you is born this day  
Christ the Lord  
Glory to God in the highest  
Peace has come to earth  
For unto you is born this day  
Christ the Lord  
Christ the Lord

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**SCENE 4**

TABBIE: *Angels!*



- ABIGAIL: **Must have been thousands of them.**
- TABBIE: **I was terrified.**
- SKIPPY: ***You were terrified! We all were terrified!***
- EZRA: **Can you believe? “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”**
- ABIGAIL: **“Good news that will cause great joy for *all* the people!” That includes us!**
- SHILOH: ***(stunned)* “Today!” they said. “A Savior has been born to you, and he is the Messiah!”**
- TABBIE: **Does this kind of stuff happen *every* night?**
- ABIGAIL: **You are *so* new.**
- EZRA: **Lowest of the low, huh, Shiloh?!**
- SHILOH: **I need to see the Baby.**
- SKIPPY: **Then we need to go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about!**
- EZRA: **I’ll go get Jethro to come and watch the flock for a little while. If we’re gonna go, we better leave fast. The crowds are gonna be huge.**
- ABIGAIL: **Crowds?**
- SHILOH: **Abigail, if they told *us*, can you imagine how many others they told first?**
- (music begins to “Let’s Go to Bethlehem”)*
- ABIGAIL: **You’re right! It’s probably stop-and-go donkeys for stadia!**
- EZRA: **Come on, you guys, let’s go!**

SONG: “Let’s Go to Bethlehem”

**chorus**

Let’s go, let’s go to Bethlehem  
And see, see the Baby born tonight



You know, we've been praying  
For this moment all our lives  
And now our Savior has arrived  
Let's go, let's go, let's go to Bethlehem

**verse**

When the angels had come and gone  
And they were left with the echo of the angels' song  
The shepherds had a wonderful thought  
Let's go find the Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths

**chorus**

Let's go, let's go to Bethlehem  
And see, see the Baby born tonight  
You know, we've been praying  
For this moment all our lives  
And now our Savior has arrived  
Let's go, let's go, let's go to Bethlehem

**bridge**

Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant Light.

**chorus**

Let's go, let's go to Bethlehem  
And see, see the Baby born tonight  
You know, we've been praying  
For this moment all our lives  
And now our Savior has arrived  
Let's go, let's go, let's go to Bethlehem

**chorus**

Let's go, let's go to Bethlehem  
And see, see the Baby born tonight  
You know, we've been praying  
For this moment all our lives  
And now our Savior has arrived  
Let's stop singin' and find the Child  
Let's go, let's go, let's go to Bethlehem

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## SCENE 5

*(During “Let’s Go to Bethlehem,” small changes should be made to the set to suggest Bethlehem’s stable and a manger. Mary and Joseph enter later in the scene. As the song ends, Shiloh and Ezra are alone on stage, sitting down, obviously frustrated. After several seconds, Abigail and Tabbie arrive.)*

ABIGAIL: *(excitedly)* **There you are! Did you find the Messiah?**

SHILOH: **We haven’t found Him! You guys find anything?**

TABBIE: **Nothing. We went to the synagogue and even knocked on the door of the Chief Priest.**

SHILOH: **And?**

TABBIE: **He said something about “smelly shepherds” and slammed the door.**

*(Skippy arrives out of breath.)*

EZRA: **What did you find, Skippy?**

SKIPPY: **Nothing. I checked several important houses ...**

ABIGAIL: **And?**

SKIPPY: **Said something about “smelly shepherds” and slammed the door.**

ALL: *(ad lib groans)*

*(The Census Taker arrives with her abacus.)*

CENSUS TAKER: **I thought I heard some people. Let’s see ... one, two, three ... four, five.**

ABIGAIL: **You’re counting in the middle of the night?**

CENSUS TAKER: **I’m a census taker. I never stop counting. My only fear is losing count!**

ABIGAIL: **That would mean you would “lose your census.” Am I right?**



**CENSUS TAKER: I count until I fall asleep, wake up the next day and count again!**

**SKIPPY: I may have missed my calling!**

**CENSUS TAKER: What brings you shepherds into town this late at night?**

**SHILOH: You haven't heard?**

**CENSUS TAKER: Heard what? I've heard nothing for hours. This town is fast asleep.**

**SHILOH: We heard that a baby has been born tonight ...**

**SKIPPY: ... a special baby ...**

**CENSUS TAKER: Baby ... hmm ... well, if you find a new addition to this town, let me know so I can count them too! Good night.**


**ALL: *(ad lib good night)***

*(Census Taker walks off stage. Mary and Joseph enter with the manger and take their place in the stable.)*

**SKIPPY: Maybe we're in the wrong town.**

**SHILOH: We can't be. The angel said, "City of David." Bethlehem is David's town.**

**ABIGAIL: We've searched all over. Maybe we should call it a night.**

 **SOUNDFX: "Baby's Cry"**

**ALL: *(ad lib gasp)***

*(They turn around to the stable. The shepherds move to the manger and kneel in reverence. All speak in a whisper.)*

**SHILOH: He's here!**

**ABIGAIL: He's beautiful.**

*(music begins to "The Birthday of a King Medley")*

**SHILOH: "Glory to God in the highest."**



SONG: "The Birthday of a King Medley"

*(During the song, some of your preschool sheep can re-enter fill out the Nativity scene.)*

**"The Birthday of a King"**

Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!  
And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'Twas the birthday of a King.

*(dialog at meas. 11)*

SCRIPTURE READER: **"So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger." Luke 2:16**

**"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Angels winging, Praises singing, Noels ringing, Tidings bringing;  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

*(dialog at meas. 35)*

SCRIPTURE READER: **"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about the child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:17-19**

**"The First Noel"**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

The first Noel the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.  
Born is the King of Israel.

*(dialog at meas. 91)*

SCRIPTURE READER: **"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising**



**God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” Luke 2:20**

*(song finishes)*

**“The Birthday of a King”**

Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!  
And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'Twas the birthday of a King.  
Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!  
And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'Twas the birthday of a King.

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**SCENE 6**

*(At the conclusion of the song, Mary and Joseph exit with the Baby. The shepherds leave the stable. They are overwhelmed with what they just saw.)*

TABBIE: *(still in awe)* **I don't know what to say!**

ABIGAIL: **It was glorious!**

SHILOH: **I still can't believe that we were the first to see the newborn Savior ...**

EZRA: **... He is Christ, the Lord!**

SHILOH: **Well, I've been wanting something big. This ... was ... big.**

TABBIE: **And you guys said that nothing ever happens out in these fields at night!**

SHILOH: **Angels, announcing “Glory to God in the highest,” to us lowly shepherds.**

EZRA: **But not only for us, Shiloh. The angel said, “I bring you good news of great joy, which shall be for all the people.”**

*(Shiloh begins to disassemble her miniature model of the high-rise inn, looking for something.)*

ABIGAIL: **What are you doing, Shiloh? Don't tear up your high-rise model, it's your big dream!**



SHILOH: **I don't need this anymore, Abigail.** *(She pulls a little manger out of the model.)* **In fact, all I need is this manger.**

TABBIE: **Why do you want that?**

SHILOH: **It's what I'm going to use to help me tell the story of all we heard and saw tonight.**

*(music begins to "All Glory to God")*

EZRA: **Exactly, Shiloh. The Savior has come, and we have seen Him with our own eyes. This is the greatest news and we need to tell everybody!**

SONG: "All Glory to God"

**chorus**

Glory to God in the highest  
Our God has come to earth  
Glory to God in the lowest  
Rejoice in His humble birth  
This good news, this great joy  
Is for all the world to hear  
Glory to God in the highest  
Glory to God in the lowest  
All glory to God  
All glory to God

**verse**

For the lost, the broken and needy  
Jesus, our Savior has come  
For those in humility seeking  
He has mercy, grace, and love  
Look at all our God has done  
He who was rich for our sake became poor  
Look at the gift He gave to us  
When the humble Christ was born

**chorus**

Glory to God in the highest  
Our God has come to earth  
Glory to God in the lowest  
Rejoice in His humble birth  
This good news, this great joy  
Is for all the world to hear  
Glory to God in the highest



Glory to God in the lowest  
All glory to God  
All glory to God

**bridge**

See Him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria, sing gloria.

**chorus**

Glory to God in the highest  
Our God has come to earth  
Glory to God in the lowest  
Rejoice in His humble birth  
This good news, this great joy  
Is for all the world to hear  
Glory to God in the highest  
Glory to God in the lowest  
All glory to God  
All glory to God

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**SCENE 7**

*(The stable is changed back into the hills of Bethlehem, the same field as Scene 1, but 35 years later. The shepherds enter, led by Tabbie, the now very-experienced shepherd.)*

**LUCAS: Hey boss, is this really the field where the angels appeared?**

**TABBIE: Yes, Lucas, it happened right here.**

**LUCAS: On your very first day as a shepherd?**

**TABBIE: Yes, it was thirty-five years ago. On my very first day.**

*(Hannah and Leah arrive. Hannah is a brand-new student-shepherd. This is her first night. She is excited, but a little intimidated.)*



- LEAH: **Everyone, I'd like to introduce the newest member of our team, Hannah. She just entered her first year at the Shepherd Academy up in Jerusalem. She's here to learn a little bit about how real shepherds do it.**
- HANNAH: **Hi everyone! I've heard so much about you!**
- LUCAS: *(very Barney Fife)* **Hannah, in front of you is one of the most elite groups of shepherds you're ever going to meet. The "tip of the sword," or as we like to say, the "curve of the crook."**
- TABBIE: **I was just going to tell about the night the angels appeared.**
- HANNAH: **Please, tell us! I've heard so much about that night.**
- TABBIE: **I was right here with the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flock that night. Out of nowhere, an angel of the Lord appeared to us, and the glory of the Lord shone all around us!**
- LEAH: **I would have been terrified!**
- TABBIE: **We were!**
- HANNAH: **Were you a shepherd at that time, Skippy?**
- SKIPPY: **Oh yeah, been counting sheep on this hill for decades!**
- LEAH: **So after the angels, what did you do?**
- TABBIE: **We went and found the Baby the angels told us about, and we were changed forever!**
- LEAH: **What do you mean?**
- TABBIE: **Well, at first we told everyone about what we'd seen and heard. Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus stayed around Bethlehem for a while, but we lost track of them for several years. Then we started to hear about this amazing teacher ... it was Jesus! Shiloh and Ezra went to follow Him and would report back from time to time.**
- LUCAS: **Is that when you took over the flock?**
- TABBIE: **It is. Shiloh left me in charge as she and Ezra committed to follow Him.**



*(Shiloh and Ezra appear down front, on either side of the stage. They speak to the audience, and don't acknowledge the other shepherds.)*

**SHILOH:** The angel said to us that night, “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**EZRA:** Then one day years later, we were with John the Baptist as Jesus approached. John confirmed what we had reasoned that night when he said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.”

**SHILOH:** We followed Jesus and His disciples for several years. Even to the very end, when Jesus was tried for crimes He did not commit and put to death on a criminal's cross. In His death, He became the once-and-for-all sacrifice for our sins.

**EZRA:** From Isaiah 53, “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities.”

**SHILOH:** “The punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

**EZRA:** Three days later He rose from the tomb, appeared to His disciples and many others, before ascending into heaven.

**SHILOH:** I finally found what I'd been longing for ... something better, significant ... something worth my life! Jesus, the Messiah ... the Lamb of God and the Good Shepherd. He is worth your life too. And by believing, you may have life in His name.

*(Shiloh and Ezra exit the stage. Tabbie stands and speaks to the shepherds as preschoolers dressed as sheep are paraded on stage by one of the shepherds. When Skippy falls asleep they walk off stage, or stay for the Curtain Calls.)*

**TABBIE:** Alright shepherds, time to take inventory of our flock.


**SKIPPY:** I'll count! One ... two ... three ... *(yawn)* ... four ... *(he crumples to the ground at “four”)*

**LUCAS:** Hey! It's a new record!

*(The shepherds laugh.)*





 SOUNDFX: “*Sheep Baa 4*”

TABBIE: **I should’ve seen that coming!**

*(music begins to “Glory to God in the Lowest Curtain Calls”)*

SONG: “Glory to God in the Lowest Curtain Calls”

*(dialog at meas. 18)*

ANGEL: **“And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”** *(Luke 2:12)*

*(song finishes)*

**“For unto You”**

**bridge**

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord

**chorus**

For unto you is born this day

In the city of David, a Savior

For unto you is born this day

A Baby laid in a manger

Glory to God in the highest

Peace has come to earth

For unto you is born this day

Christ the Lord

Glory to God in the highest

Peace has come to earth

For unto you is born this day

Christ the Lord

Christ the Lord

**“All Glory to God”**

**chorus**

Glory to God in the highest

Our God has come to earth

Glory to God in the lowest

Rejoice in His humble birth

This good news, this great joy

Is for all the world to hear



Glory to God in the highest  
Glory to God in the lowest  
All glory to God  
All glory to God

**bridge**

See Him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria, sing gloria.

**chorus**

Glory to God in the highest  
Our God has come to earth  
Glory to God in the lowest  
Rejoice in His humble birth  
This good news, this great joy  
Is for all the world to hear  
Glory to God in the highest  
Glory to God in the lowest  
All glory to God  
All glory to God

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