

## **“Angels Have We Heard”**

by  
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- What** In this melodic spoken word or Readers Theatre, three shepherds share their tale of a miraculous event.
- Themes:** Christmas, Shepherds, Prophecy, Angel, Faith
- Who** Shepherd 1  
Shepherd 2  
Shepherd 3
- When** Bible times
- Wear (Props)** Modern clothing  
3 black binders for actors’ scripts  
Optional- music stands to hold scripts
- Why** Luke 2:8-20
- How** This play has a very musical, rhythmic quality to it. Play with the rhythms with which things are spoken as well as tempos and pitches.
- Time** Approximately 6 minutes

*At rise we see three **Shepherds** standing at intervals across the stage, facing the audience.*

**Shepherd 2:** Average night.

**Shepherd 1:** Asleep.

**Shepherd 3:** He was snoring.

**Shepherd 1:** Quiet.

**Shepherd 2:** Except snoring.

**Shepherd 3:** Town was crowded.

**Shepherd 1:** Census

**Shepherd 2:** Everyone asleep.

**Shepherd 3:** Well, almost everyone.

**Shepherd 2:** Crickets chirping.

**Shepherd 3:** A few frogs.

**Shepherd 1:** Chirping?

**Shepherd 3:** Ok, fine. Croaking.

**Shepherd 1:** Sheep.

**Shepherd 3:** They were...baaing.

**Shepherd 2:** We're shepherds.

**Shepherd 3:** It's our job

**Shepherd 1:** Anyway

**Shepherd 3:** It was quiet

**Shepherd 2:** Really quiet

**Shepherd 1:** Very

**Shepherd 2:** Quiet night.

**Shepherd 3:** Could almost say

**Shepherd 1:** Silent.

*A short beat.*

Shepherd 2: So peaceful

Shepherd 3: Smell of sheep

Shepherd 2: Not pleasant

Shepherd 1: Stinks

Shepherd 2: Decent job

Shepherd 3: Not good pay

Shepherd 1: Terrible.

Shepherd 3: But, work outdoors

Shepherd 2: *(deadpan)* It rains

Shepherd 3: Sleep under stars

Shepherd 2: Gets cold

Shepherd 3: *(positively)* I like sheep

Shepherd 2: Decent company

Shepherd 1: Freedom.

*A beat as they appreciate to themselves that this is why they like the job.*

Shepherd 2: Frogs, crickets...

Shepherd 3: Baaing of sheep

Shepherd 1: Quiet.

*A long quiet beat, then fast-paced.*

Shepherd 1: Suddenly

Shepherd 3: A bright light

Shepherd 2: Can't see!

Shepherd 1: Blinding!

Shepherd 2: So bright!

Shepherd 3: Bright as day!

Shepherd 1: Brighter!

Shepherd 2: Light EVERYWHERE!

Shepherd 3: Then I hear...

Shepherd 2: Is that?

Shepherd 1: Singing!

Shepherd 3: What is this?!

Shepherd 2: Its beautiful

Shepherd 1: Majestic

Shepherd 2: Never heard...

Shepherd 3: Anything like it

Shepherd 1: Wonderful

Shepherd 3: Then we see

Shepherd 2: Is that?

Shepherd 1: How?

Shepherd 2: Can't be...

Shepherd 3: There's no way

Shepherd 1: Wings

Shepherd 2: and robes

Shepherd 3: And that music

Shepherd 2: Must be...

Shepherd 3: can only be...

Shepherd 1: Angels.

Shepherd 3: On our hillside

Shepherd 1: Singing

Shepherd 2: To us  
Shepherd 1: Shepherds  
Shepherd 3: I don't understand

Shepherd 2: It's glorious  
Shepherd 1: Amazing  
Shepherd 2: Beyond words

Shepherd 3: Then they say

Shepherd 2: Fear not

Shepherd 1: *(still awestruck)* Angels

Shepherd 2: Unto you

Shepherd 3: In this town

Shepherd 1: Bethlehem

Shepherd 2: So silent...

Shepherd 1: Crowded...

Shepherd 2: A child...

Shepherd 3: He is born

Shepherd 1: Messiah.

*A beat as this word impacts, then a cacophonous torrent.*

Shepherd 2: Then multitudes

Shepherd 3: Oh so many.

Shepherd 1: Singing

Shepherd 3: Songs never heard

Shepherd 1: Gloria

Shepherd 3: In exelsis deo

**Shepherd 2:** And all at once, the heavens are opened and the glory of God is shining all around us, enveloping us in the light of majestic wonder

**Shepherd 1:** And our eyes and hearts and lips are opened and as the praises to God are poured out upon us and the hymnsong of angels filling our ears and overwhelming our senses,

**Shepherd 3:** We begin to sing His praises as though we ourselves have written the words. And we shout as though to tell the world the news.

**Shepherd 1:** Glory to God in the highest!!

**Shepherd 2:** Peace on Earth!!

**Shepherd 3:** Goodwill to men!!

**Shepherd 2:** The Savior has come!!

**Shepherd 1:** The one who will rule the nations!!

**Shepherd 3:** Who will save us all!!

**Shepherd 1:** The glory of the Lord has come!

**Shepherd 2:** And we are made glorious in this!

**Shepherd 3:** We share with Heaven the greatest news to ever be proclaimed.

**Shepherd 2:** The Almighty has chosen shepherds

**Shepherd 1:** The lowest of the low

**Shepherd 3:** To share in the delight of Heaven!

**Shepherd 2:** And so we sing

**Shepherd 1:** Glory to God in the highest!!

**Shepherd 2:** Peace on Earth!!

**Shepherd 3:** Goodwill to men!!

**Shepherd 1:** Gloria!

**Shepherd 2:** Gloria!

**Shepherd 3:** In excelsis deo!

*Full stop as they look about them, dazed and breathless.*

Shepherd 2: And then...

Shepherd 3: Just like that....

Shepherd 1: Gone.

*Long beat as they breathe heavily.*

Shepherd 3: And we're alone.

Shepherd 1: Shepherds.

Shepherd 2: And sheep

Shepherd 3: Crickets and frogs.

Shepherd 2: Sheep baaing

Shepherd 1: Quiet

*Long, quiet beat.*

Shepherd 2: And now...

Shepherd 3: We're left, wondering

Shepherd 1: Alone

Shepherd 2: What now?

Shepherd 3: Do we go?

Shepherd 1: Now?

Shepherd 2: To Bethlehem?

Shepherd 1: Crowded...

Shepherd 3: How to find

Shepherd 2: A babe

Shepherd 1: Swaddled...

Shepherd 3: In that town

Shepherd 2: So crowded...

Shepherd 1: Impossible  
Shepherd 3: But the angels  
Shepherd 2: They said

Shepherd 1: There  
*He points to something in the distance...a beat.*

Shepherd 2: A star.  
Shepherd 1: Bright  
Shepherd 3: And unusually so

Shepherd 2: Right over  
Shepherd 1: Bethlehem  
Shepherd 3: Leading the way

Shepherd 2: Guiding us  
Shepherd 1: Forward  
Shepherd 2: To Bethlehem

Shepherd 3: For a child  
Shepherd 2: Not JUST...  
Shepherd 3: More than that

Shepherd 2: He is  
Shepherd 1: Savior.

*Beat*  
Shepherd 3: We're just shepherds

Shepherd 2: Not just  
Shepherd 1: Still...

Shepherd 2: Why us?  
Shepherd 3: He will be



Shepherd 1: King

Shepherd 2: The ruler

Shepherd 3: We keep sheep

Shepherd 2: We smell

Shepherd 1: Awful

Shepherd 3: He will lead

Shepherd 2: and bring

Shepherd 1: Freedom.

*A beat as they look at each other for the first time.*

Shepherd 3: Should we go

Shepherd 2: And see?

Shepherd 1: Sure

Shepherd 2: Why not

Shepherd 3: Follow the star

Shepherd 2: Let's go.

Shepherd 1: Bethlehem.

*We see a slight, nervous, yet excited smile crosses their face as the lights fade to black.*