

## **“Two Shepherds, a Thousand Angels, and a Baby”**

by  
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**What** A beam of light still shines in the sky two days after the angel visited the shepherds in the fields surrounding Bethlehem. Shep and Hurd, two of those shepherds, recount the radical moment when the hills were filled with fire and music. Their humorous retelling captures the revolutionary moment in which heaven forever transformed earth and turned two shepherds into witnesses.

**Themes:** Christmas, Shepherds, Gospel, Angels, Testify, Witness

**Who** Shep  
Hurd

**When** The days after Jesus was born

**Wear (Props)** Long robes and shepherds’ staffs if the church has costuming; OR, simple, all black clothing if period-costumes aren’t available.

**Why** Luke 2:8-21

**How** This should be played with lots of energy and excitement! The dialogue should be delivered with urgency, but at the same time, don’t rush through. Let us hear the excitement and joy in your voices and your actions.

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*A spotlight lights a section of the stage brightly. **Shep** and **Hurd**, two of the men watching the sheep the night Jesus was born, stand outside and away from the spotlight, staring at it. They're also lit, but not as brightly.*

**Hurd:** This is amazing.

**Shep:** I can't believe it's still shining.

**Hurd:** It's dimmer than last night.

***Shep** turns and addresses the audience.*

**Shep:** The night it all happened was a cold night for Bethlehem.

**Hurd:** And there we were, staring into the darkness, fighting sleep, on the lookout for lions and bandits. Our hands on our slingshots—

**Shep:** You used a slingshot, I had a knife—

**Hurd:** What can I say? I'm old school. King David style.

**Shep:** Still, if a lion sneaks up on me, I prefer a knife.

**Hurd:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. Anyway. We were ready in case a bandit dared to take another animal since there'd been a string of thefts lately.

**Shep:** And then all heaven broke loose.

**Hurd:** For a moment I thought I'd fallen asleep and was being awoken by the sun. Light so bright I had to shield my eyes.

**Shep:** A feeling of terror took over my body, and I mean End of Days terror—as if it was all just *over*.

***Hurd** steps toward the light, his hand out as if he wants to touch it. As he does so, he addresses the audience.*

**Hurd:** Have you ever had a moment when your life flashes before your eyes? And a hundred things pass through your mind: your wife's smile; the things you wished you'd asked your parents; the smell of your home when you walk in the door; the names of your children.

**Shep:** You thought all that? When I saw the angel, I just thought I was gonna die.

***Hurd** steps into the spotlight, stares at it straight on. He's blinded by it and must shield his eyes.*

**Hurd:** The sky was like a wall of flame. The angel was so close I could almost touch him. Was I floating? Was I still on this earth? I was about to scream for mercy when I heard what sounded like a thousand men shouting at me, though it was the voice of a single angel. And he said:

**Shep:** *(imitating the Angel as best he can)* "Do not be afraid!"

*Hurd drops his hands and steps out of the spotlight. He looks directly at the audience.*

**Hurd:** Believe me, it was much more terrifying.

**Shep:** They get the idea.

**Hurd:** The voice echoed across the hills and beat through my heart like a drum. Words I'll never forget.

*Hurd steps back into the spotlight, returns to his stance of amazement and fear.*

**Shep:** *(imitating the Angel)* "Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people. Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord."

*Hurd steps out of the spotlight and speaks to the audience again. If the church has the light deck for it then more lights should light up the stage so that the stage is awash in light. If not, the audience can imagine what the actors are describing.*

**Hurd:** But that wasn't it.

**Shep:** The sky filled with more light, as though, one by one, God put in place new stars, a hundred suns to light the night.

**Hurd:** And then the sweetest music Shep or I or any of you will ever hear filled the sky, like a thousand worshipers on instruments with a choir of a thousand voices were saying:

**Shep:** "Glory to God!"

**Hurd:** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!"

**Shep:** The sound filled the night sky, the hills, the valley.

*All the bright lights, used to represent the host of heaven, suddenly go out. The only light remains is the original spot light and those used to light the two men.*

**Hurd:** How long were they there?

**Shep:** I have no idea.

**Hurd:** For a moment?

**Shep:** The other shepherds and our flocks of sheep were the only other witnesses. But I'm telling you, we touched heaven. We saw and heard eternity!

**Hurd:** And that isn't even the most amazing part. Because, my friends, we saw him. The baby.

**Shep:** The Christ child.

**Hurd:** The Savior of the world.

**Shep:** I thought he would come as an emperor or a conquering king. But he's there in the city of Bethlehem, lying in a manger.

**Hurd:** The Messiah we've all been waiting for.

**Shep:** Only God would do something so revolutionary...so impossible!

**Hurd:** We don't know how long this strange phenomenon of light will last.

**Shep:** God shone like a pillar at night for our ancestors for a long time in the desert, so maybe...

**Hurd:** True. Maybe the glory of his messengers will last for a while too, right here on this hill.

**Shep:** And maybe this miraculous light will fade away. But no matter what, we will tell the story.

**Hurd:** We don't know who will believe us. It's already dimmed over the last few days. But to whoever is out there, whoever will listen, we will share this story, as if our words are the light.

**Shep:** And so we say to those who will hear us, "Glory to God in the highest!"

**Hurd:** A Saviour is born and he is Christ the Lord!

*Lights out on the two men. The spotlight slowly dims to black.*