

Once a Sheep Was in a Pasture

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D ("Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

Once a sheep was in a pasture with the other ninety-nine.
Their good shepherd loved those hundred, and he told them, "You are mine!"
As the hundred grazed together, for some reason yet untold,
one found she was separated from the shepherd, from the fold.

Shepherd, sometimes we face trouble, far from others, far from you.
There are different ways we struggle, different things that we can do.
There are times we're prone to wander; there are times we're pushed away.
Shepherd, by your love you find us— then in joy you celebrate!

Like a shepherd, Lord, you know us and the songs our spirits sing.
You accept us and you love us-- and you know the gifts we bring.
With our signing, with our voices, with our hearts, may we express:
Shepherd, by your love you find us— we are yours, and we are blessed!

Shepherd, by your love you find us, then you send us out in turn
to seek out all your beloved and to bring the wounded home.
As we lead and help each other, as we advocate and pray,
may we shepherd one another on your faithful, loving Way.

Biblical Text: Luke 15:1-10

Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824 ("Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

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