



“Glory to God in the highest.”

An Angel Visits the Shepherds - Luke 2:8-15

Granny B set the bowl of candy canes on the table next to her rocking chair. Then, she picked up her knitting needles and yarn. She was making a scarf for Pops for Christmas. A few minutes later, she heard footsteps and it wasn't long before Delbert and Lello were standing next to her.

“Well hello, little ones. How are you today?” Granny B asked.

“We're fine. What are you doing?” Lello asked.

“I'm knitting a scarf for Pops. It's going to be a Christmas present for him to keep him warm,” Granny B explained, as she continued to work.

“Oh, it looks pretty,” Lello added.

Delbert examined the yarn, and then he noticed a bowl of candy canes. Granny B offered one to each of them.

“Thanks, Granny B. Candy canes are one of my favorite parts of Christmas!” Delbert said between bites of the sweet peppermint candy.

“Delbert, you sure have a lot of favorite parts of Christmas,” Lello noticed.

“Haw! I sure do!” he laughed.

Granny B picked up a candy cane. She looked at it carefully for a minute. “Do you two know what this looks like?” Granny B asked, as she held out a candy cane.

“Uh ... a candy cane?” Delbert offered.

Granny B laughed and said, “Well, yes, but it also looks like a shepherd's staff.”

"Baa. I see that. Is that what today's candle is—the Shepherd's Candle?" Lello asked hopefully.

"That's right," Granny B said. "Do you remember why we light the Christmas Candles?"

Delbert jumped up. "I know! We light the Christmas Candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas."

"That's right, Delbert. The Shepherd's Candle reminds us of the shepherds who heard the good news from the angel," Granny B added.

"I bet the shepherds were excited to hear about baby Jesus," Lello said sweetly.

"They were!" Granny B agreed. "They hurried to see Him. Afterward, the shepherds told everyone Jesus was born," she added. Granny B stood up and walked over to the Christmas Candles and lit the four outer candles.

"Haw! All the candles are lit. Christmas comes this week!" Delbert exclaimed.

"That's right. Did you notice the white candle in the center of the wreath? It's called the Christ Candle; we light that one on Christmas Eve."

"Lello, have you decided what to give your mom?" Granny B asked.

"I did! I'm going to make her an angel from white paper and sparkly things!" Lello explained excitedly.

"That sounds lovely. Every time your mom sees that angel, she will remember the story of the angel who told the shepherds about baby Jesus. I have some sparkling yarn I can give you, if you'd like," Granny B offered.

Lello leaned her head on Granny B's lap and Granny B gently rubbed her ears. Delbert finished up his candy cane and licked his lips.

"Granny B, thank you for the candy canes and thank you for telling us about the Christmas Candles," Delbert said, putting his head on Granny B's shoulder.

"You're welcome. It's been fun remembering the story of baby Jesus with each candle," Granny B said with a smile.

"Haw. Lello, let's pretend we are shepherds and tell everyone about baby Jesus," Delbert suggested.

"Baa. That's a great idea," Lello said.

Lello and Delbert said goodbye to Granny B and walked down the steps of the porch. When they got to the last step, they both turned and wished Granny B a merry Christmas.

"Merry Christmas!" Granny called. She watched Delbert and Lello walk away, sat in her rocking chair, picked up her knitting, and returned to work on Pop's scarf.