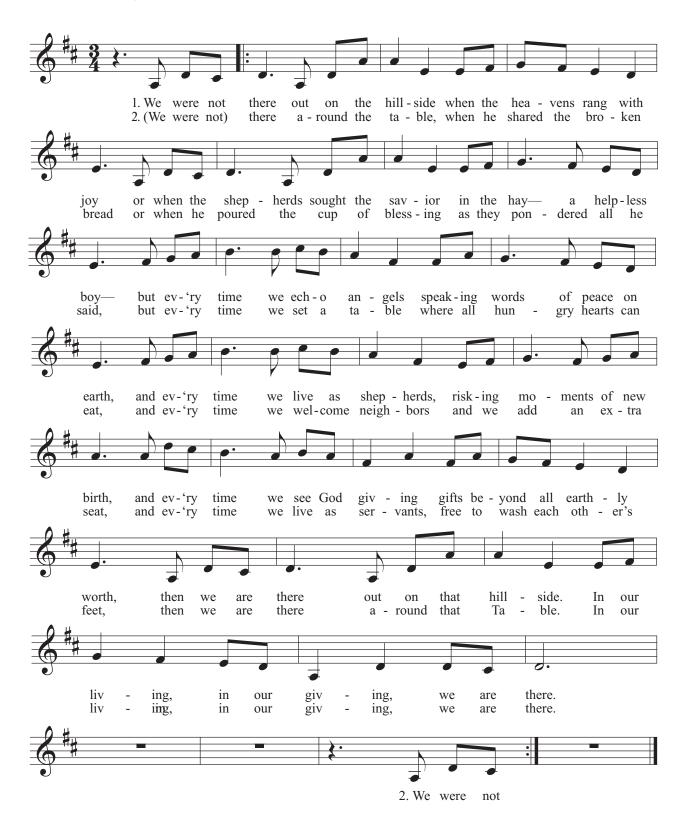
## WE WERE NOT THERE We Are There



Text and music by Rev. Chris Shelton



## WE WERE NOT THERE We Are There

- 1. We were not there out on the hillside when the heavens rang with joy or when the shepherds sought the savior in the hay—a helpless boy—but every time we echo angels speaking words of peace on earth, and every time we live as shepherds, risking moments of new birth, and every time we see God giving gifts beyond all earthly worth, then we are there out on that hillside. In our living, in our giving, we are there.
- 2. We were not there upon the waters as they sailed the raging seas or when they cried, "O Jesus help us!" then he woke, and spoke of peace, but every time the world is troubled and we dare to wake and see, and every time our neighbors call us, and we stand with those in need, and every time we are peacemakers, and the fearful are set free, then we are there upon those waters. In our living, in our giving, we are there.
- 3. We were not there around the table, when he shared the broken bread or when he poured the cup of blessing as they pondered all he said, but every time we set a table where all hungry hearts can eat, and every time welcome neighbors and we add an extra seat, and every time we live as servants, free to wash each other's feet, then we are there around that Table. In our living, in our giving, we are there.



- 4. We were not there within the garden where his wounded body lay, or when the women came at sunrise and the stone was rolled away, but every time we face disaster as those women bold and strong, and every time we share our sorrows, bringing right where there was wrong, and every time we free the captives with a resurrection song, then we are there within that garden. In our living, in our giving, we are there.
- 5. We were not there with the disciples, when the Spirit broke through walls, or when the Church was born in blazes by the One who seeks and calls, but every time we break divisions in the work of unity, and every time we act with courage, setting hopes and visions free, and every time we teach our children of the world God longs to see, then we are there, we are disciples.

  In our living, in our giving, we are there.

Written by Rev. Chris Shelton, pastor of Broadway Presbyterian Church, New York City

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