Goat Herds

Music: to the tune of FOREST GREEN (8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.) English Traditional Melody [MHB 897]
Words: Brenton Prigge © 2005 New Hymn (Admin: Brenton Prigge) CCLI# 4621346

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1. The message that those Angels sang
for shepherds far from here,
is just as true for me and you
on plains of Africa,
as if they'd sung for goat-herds
on craggy mountain farms,
a message brought in Zulu, or
seTswana, or in San.

2. The first noel remains the same
in southern summer's heat,
ng'kuba nizalelwa namhla Luke 2:11 *for born to you today*
emzini kaDavid' *in the town of David*
uMsindisi, 'nguKristu *(is) the Saviour, who is Christ*
iNkosi – He is Lord! *the Lord* **(Xhosa)**
We don't need snow to feel the glow
of Christ's love in the world.

3. All echo then that song of praise
the angels brought to earth:
Al eer aan God in hoogste hem'l' - **Luke 2:14** *All glory to God in highest heaven*
(Afrikaans)
Let's praise with all we're worth –
The North and South, and East and West –
by these sweet words are blessed:
lefaseng go be le khutso, *in the world (on Earth) be peace,*
kgahliso bathong. E! **Luke 2:14** *goodwill(lit. – pleasing) to all. Yes!*
(Northern seSotho)

4. That message we must preach and sing
in every human tongue,
'till every woman, child and man
has heard that Christ has come.
gompieno lo tsaletswe, *today is born*
tsaletswe Mmoloki, *born the Saviour*
yo e leng K'reste Morena, **Luke 2:11** *who is Christ the Lord* **(seTswana)**
and He is Lord indeed!

My special thanks to Rev. Musi Losaba for his assistance in the vernacular phrases!

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