

Welcome to Bethany's time of
PRAISE & WORSHIP
First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024

Gospel Music Service
led by Bill Smallwood

"I Saw the Light"

I wandered so aimless life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night.
Praise the Lord! I saw the light!

Refrain

I saw the light, I saw the light,
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord! I saw the light.

Just like a blind man I wandered along;
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord! I saw the light! *Refrain*

I was a fool to wander and stray;
Straight is the gate and narrow the way.
Now I have traded the wrong for the right;
Praise the Lord! I saw the light. *Refrain*

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INVOCATION

P: In the mighty name of God,
in the saving name of Jesus,
in the strong name of the Spirit,

**C: we come, we watch,
we wait, we long for God.**

P: The Spirit and the church cry out:

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: All those who await His appearance pray:

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WELCOME
to Advent and to Bethany!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

BLESSING THE ADVENT WREATH:

P: O faithful and loving God, we praise you for
your tender compassion and give you thanks for
your steadfast love for us and all creation.

**C: Bless us who see the light of this wreath.
Strengthen us by the hope of your advent
among us, as we live toward the completion
of all things in you. We ask this through
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE "HOPE" CANDLE

"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

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PRAYER FOR TODAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. By your
merciful protection alert us to the threatening
dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of
justice, for you live and reign with the Father and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

"Swing Low Sweet Chariot"

Chorus

Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home;
Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see,
Comin' for to carry me home,
A band of angels comin' after me,
Comin' for to carry me home. (*Chorus*)

If you get there before I do,
Comin' for to carry me home,
Tell all my friends I'm comin' too,
Comin' for to carry me home. (*Chorus*)

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SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Jeremiah 33: 14-16
I Thessalonians 3: 9-13*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father...Jesus the Son...the Holy Spirit
(*Words on Screen*)

Prayer Song: "Down by the River to Pray"

Verse 1

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way!
O sisters let's go down, Let's go down, come on down
O sisters let's go down, Down in the river to pray.

Verse 2

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe & crown?
Good Lord show me the way
O brothers let's go down, Let's go down, come on down,
Come on brothers, let's go down,
Down in the river to pray

Attributed to George H. Allan.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response after each petition:

L: Lord in your mercy, C: **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against
us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the
glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer Song: "Down by the River to Pray"

Verse 3

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way
O fathers let's go down, Let's go down, come on down
O fathers let's go down, Down in the river to pray

Verse 4

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown?
Good Lord show me the way
O mothers let's go down, Come on down, don't you
wanna go down? Come on mothers, let's go down,
Down in the river to pray

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21: 25-36

MESSAGE

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the
Lord. He is tramp'ling out the vintage where
the grapes of wrath are stored.
He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift
sword. His truth is marching on.

Chorus

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

He has sounded from the trumpet that shall never call
retreat. He is sifting out the hearts of men before His
judgment-seat. Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him!
Be jubilant, my feet! Our God is marching on. (*Chorus*)

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men
free, While God is marching on. (*Chorus*)

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BLESSING

"I'll Fly Away"

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.

Chorus:

I'll fly away, Oh Glory, I'll fly away;
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away. *Cho*

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away;
To a land where joy shall never end,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away) (*Chorus*)

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Be, live as, and make disciples of
Jesus Christ...with enthusiasm!

C: **Thanks be to God! And we will...**
