

For Hannah Soloff and Davy Song

# Down in the River to Pray

SATB and Piano

Traditional

Eric Nelson

Simply, folk-like (♩ = 60)  
*mf*

Alto

As I went down in the riv - er to pray, stud - y - ing a - bout that

Piano

Simply, folk-like (♩ = 60)

(2)

good old — way, and who shall wear the star - ry crown, good —

4

+ Soprano  
*unis. mf*

Lord, show me the way. — O sis - ters let's go down, —

Text and Tune: "Down in the River to Pray," traditional American folk song (PD);

"Deep River," African American spiritual (PD).

Music: Eric Nelson (ASCAP), newly composed, and copyright © 2023 Birnamwood with this publication.

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6

let's go— down, come on down.— O sis - ters let's go down,—

8

down in the riv - er to pray.

10

*mf*

S As I went down in the riv - er to pray,

A

*mf*

T As I went down, as I went—

B

12

stud - y - ing a - bout that good old way, and who shall wear the

down, stud - y 'bout that good old way, and who shall wear the

star - ry crown, good Lord, show me the way.

(13)

star - ry crown, good Lord, show me the way.

star - ry crown, good Lord, show me the way.

15

*mf*

O let's go down,— let's go— down, come on down.— O sis-ters

*mf*

O let's go down, O come on down.— O

*mf*

O broth-ers let's go down,— O— come on down.— O

*mf*

O broth-ers let's go down,— O come on down. O

(17)

let's go down,— down in the riv-er to pray.

let's go down, down in the riv-er to pray.

let's go down,— down in the riv-er to pray.

let's go down,

20

S  
A

T  
B

*unis. mf*

As I went down in the riv - er to pray,

22

stud - y - ing a - bout that good old way, and

23

who shall wear the star - ry crown, good Lord, show me the

(24) *mf*

O let's go down, —  
 way. — O broth - ers let's go down, —

26

O — come on down. — O sis - ters let's go down, —  
 let's go — down, come on down. — O let's go down, —

28

down in the riv - er to pray. —  
 down in the riv - er to pray. —

Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) vocal staves. The Tenor and Bass parts have lyrics: "Deep" and a dynamic marking of *mp*.

Piano accompaniment for measures 30-31, including treble and bass clef staves with a dynamic marking of *mp*.

Vocal staves for Tenor (T) and Bass (B) with lyrics: "riv - er, my home is o - ver".

Piano accompaniment for measures 32-33, including treble and bass clef staves.

34

*mp*  
Deep

*mp*  
Deep

Jor - dan. Deep

Jor - dan. Deep

36

riv - er, Lord, cross o - ver to

riv - er, Lord, cross o - ver to

riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver in - to

riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver in - to



38

*poco rit.* *a tempo*  
*mf firmly*

camp - ground. O don't you want— to

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

camp - ground.

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

camp - ground.

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

camp - ground.

*a tempo*

*poco rit.*

40

go — to that gos - pel

*mf*

to that gos - pel

*mf*

that

*mf*

that

42

*poco rit.* **f** *a tempo*

feast, that prom - ised

*poco rit.* *unis.* **f** *a tempo*

feast, that prom - ised

*poco rit.* **f** *a tempo*

gos - pel feast, that prom - ised

*poco rit.* **f** *a tempo*

feast, that prom - ised

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

44

*unis.*

land where all is

land where all is

land where all is

land where all is

46 *poco rall.* *a tempo*

peace? *poco rall.* *a tempo*

peace? *poco rall.* *a tempo*  
*mp*

peace? — O — deep  
*poco rall.* *a tempo*  
*mp*

peace? Deep

*poco rall.* *a tempo*  
*mp*

48

*mp*

cross o - ver,

riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver in - to

riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o - ver in - to

50 *mp*

cross o - ver.

cross o - ver.

camp - ground, cross o - ver.

camp - ground, cross o - ver.

52 Soprano *poco rall.* *a tempo*

As I went down in the riv-er to pray,

*poco rall.* *a tempo*

*p*

54

stud-y-ing a-bout the good old-way, and who shall wear the robe and crown, good-

56

S Lord, show me the way. — *mp* O let's go down, —

A — *mp* O let's go down,

T — *mp* O broth - ers let's go down, —

B — *mp* O broth - ers let's go down, —

*mp*

58

let's go — down, come on down. — *mf* O sis - ters let's go down, —

O come on down. — *mf* O let's go down,

O — come on down. — *mf* O let's go down, —

O come on down. *mf* O let's go down,

*mf*

60

*f*

O — let's go down, — down in the riv - er to pray,

*f*

O — let's go down, — down in the riv - er to

*f*

down in the riv - er to pray, O — let's go down, —

*f*

down in the riv - er to pray, O —

62

down in the riv - er to pray, —

*(melody - bring out)*

pray, down in the

down in the riv - er to pray, to pray,

down in the riv - er to pray,

64

pray. *poco rit.*

pray, to pray. *poco rit.*

riv - er to pray. *poco rit.*

to pray. *poco rit.*

to pray.

*poco rit.*

66 *a tempo unis. mp* *rall.*

S  
A  
Down in the riv - er to pray.

*a tempo unis. mp* *rall.*

T  
B  
Down in the riv - er to pray.

*a tempo* *rall.*

*mf* *mp*