

# Down in the Valley to Pray

## SATB, a cappella

Also known as "Down to the River to Pray," this traditional African American spiritual was first published as "The Good Old Way" in 1867, two years after the end of the Civil War, and is believed to originate from the Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi area. A variation of the tune was popularized by the movie 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?'

The melody which begins at rehearsal mark C was whistled by Dick, last name unrecorded, a black pole-man on the steamboat *Marion* on the Ocklawaha River route in May of 1875, as transcribed in the book "Florida: Its Scenery, Climate, and History."

**Allegretto** ♩ = 115  
*mp* Arr. M. Furtak

Soprano  
Alto  
Tenor  
Bass

for rehearsal only

4

S.  
A.  
T.  
B.  
Pno.

7

S. star - ry crown, - Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, mourn - ers,

A. Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, mourn - ers,

T. Good Lord, show me the way.

B. Good Lord, show me the way.

Pno. *mp*

11

S. let's go down, let's go down, let's go down, Oh, mourn - ers,

A. let's go down, let's go down, let's go down, Oh, mourn - ers,

T. Oh, let's go down,

B. Oh, let's go down,

Pno. *mp*

15 *mf* **A**

S. let's go down, down in the val-ley to pray. As I went down in the

A. let's go down, down in the val-ley to pray. As I went down in the

T. down in the val-ley to pray.

B. down in the val-ley to pray.

Pno. *mf*

19

S. val-ley to pray, — stud - yin' a - bout that good old way, and

A. val-ley to pray, — stud - yin' a - bout that good old way, and

T.

B.

Pno.

22

S. who shall wear the wings and crown, — Good Lord,

A. who shall wear the wings and crown, — Good Lord, —

T. —

B. —

Pno. —

25

S. *f* show me the way. *mf* Oh, sis - ters, let's go down, hand in hand,

A. *f* show me the way. *mf* Oh, sis - ters, let's go down, hand in hand, —

T. —

B. —

Pno. *f* *mf* —

29

S. *f*  
let's go down, Oh, — sis-ters, let's go down, down in the val-ley to

A. *f*  
let's go down, Oh, sis-ters, let's go down, down in the val-ley to

T.

B.

Pno. *f*

33 **B** *mf*

S. *mf*  
pray. Ah, —

A. *mf*  
pray. As I went down in the val-ley to pray, — stud - yin' a-bout that

T. *mf*  
As I went down in the val-ley to pray, stud - yin' a-bout that

B. *mf*  
I went down, — stud - yin' a-bout that

Pno. *mf*

37

S. *f* *mf* *f*  
Ah, Ah,

A. *cresc.* *f*  
good old way! And would you wear His robe and crown?\_ Good Lord,

T. *cresc.* *f* \*See note below.  
good old way! And would you wear His robe and crown?\_ Good Lord,

B. *cresc.* *f*  
good old way! And would you wear His robe and crown?\_ Good Lord,

Pno. *f* *mf* *f*  
*cresc.* *f*

41

S. *mf*  
Ah, Oh, broth - ers,

A. *mf*  
show me the way. Oh, broth - ers,

T. *mf*  
show me the way. Oh, broth - ers, let's go down,

B. *mf*  
show me the way. Oh, broth - ers, let's go down,

Pno. *mf*

\*In case of range issues, notes in parentheses may be used.

44

S. *rit.*  
let's go down, let's go down,

A.  
let's go down, Oh, broth - ers, let's go down,

T.  
let's go down, let's go down, Oh, broth - ers, let's go down,

B.  
let's go down, let's go down, Oh, broth - ers, let's go down,

Pno. *rit.*

48

S. **a tempo** *mp* **C**  
down in the val-ley to pray.

A. *mp*  
down in the val-ley to pray.

T. *mf*  
down, down, Oh, let's go down, Good

B. *mp*  
down in the val-ley to pray.

Pno. **a tempo** *mp* *mf*

52

S.

A. *mf*  
down, down, let's go down,

T. *mp*  
— Lord, show me the way, down, down, Oh, let's go down, Good—

B.

Pno. *mp* *mf*

56

S. *mp*  
down, down,

A. *mp*  
Good Lord, show me the way, down, down,

T. *mp*  
— Lord, show me the way, down, down, Oh,

B. *mf*  
As I—

Pno. *mp* *mf*

59

S. Oh, let's go down, Good Lord, show me the way,

A. — let's go down, Good Lord, show me the way,

T. 8 let's go down, Good — Lord, show me the way, down, —

B. — went down, — down —

Pno.

*mf*

62

S. down, down, Oh, let's go down, Good Lord,

A. down, down, — let's go down, Good Lord,

T. 8 — down, Oh, let's go down, Good — Lord, show

B. — to the val - - ley,

Pno.

65

S. show me the way, down, down, Oh, let's go down, Good Lord,

A. show me the way, down, down, let's go down, Good Lord,

T. me the way, down, down, Oh, let's go down, Good Lord,

B. green sway - in' trees,

Pno. *mf*

**D**

69 *mp* *rit.* *f* *mp* **Meno mosso** ♩ = 105

S. show me the way. As I went down in the val-ley to pray,

A. show me the way.

T. show me the way. As I went down in the val-ley to pray,

B. show me the way.

Pno. *mp* *rit.* *f* *mp* **Meno mosso** ♩ = 105

74

S. stud - yin' a - bout that good old way, and you shall wear that

*mp*

A. Ooh, ooh,

T. stud - yin' a - bout that good old way, and you shall wear that

*mp*

B. Ooh, ooh,

Pno.

77

S. star - ry crown, — Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, — sin - ners

A. Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, sin - ners,

T. star - ry crown, Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, — sin - ners,

B. Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, sin - ners,

Pno.

81

S. *p* *mp*  
let's go down, let's go down, let's go down, Oh, sin - ners,

A. *p* *mp*  
let's go down, let's go down, let's go down, Oh, sin - ners,

T. *p* *mp*  
8 let's go down, let's go down, let's go down, Oh, sin - ners,

B. *p* *mp*  
let's go down, let's go down, let's go down, Oh, sin - ners,

Pno. *p* *mp*

85

S. *rit.* *mf*  
let's go down, down in the val - ley to pray!

A. *mf*  
let's go down, down in the val - ley to pray!

T. *mf*  
8 let's go down, down in the val - ley to pray!

B. *mf*  
let's go down, down in the val - ley to pray!

Pno. *rit.* *mf*