

“Down in the River to Pray”

Verse 1 (choir)

As I went down in the river to pray studyin’ about that good ole way
And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way
Oh sisters, let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down,
Oh sisters let’s go down, down in the river to pray.

Verse 2 (congregation hums)

As I went down in the river to pray studyin’ about that good ole way
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way.
Oh 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.

Verse 3 (women)

As I went down in the river to pray studyin’ about that good ole way
And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.
Oh fathers, let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down,
Oh fathers, let’s go down, down in the river to pray.

Verse 4 (men)

As I went down in the river to pray studyin’ about that good ole way
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way!
Oh mothers, let’s go down, let’s go down, don’t you wanna go down,
Come on, mothers, let’s go down, down in the river to pray.

Verse 5 (all)

As I went down in the river to pray studyin’ about that good ole way
And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way!
Oh sinners let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down
Oh sinners, let’s go down, down in the river to pray.

Verse 6 (all)

As I went down in the river to pray studyin’ about that good ole way
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way!

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Old Orchard Church

January 19, 2014 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

See print copy for art work.

The Lord’s lovingkindnesses

indeed never cease,

For His compassions never fail.

They are new every morning;

Great is Thy faithfulness.

—Lamentations 3:22-23—

Celebrating Jesus Christ, God of New Beginnings

Every day has a new beginning,
And it is from Jesus Christ,
The Agent by whom God made the world!
So we sing,

Morning by morning new mercies I see.
The week runs its course and begins again.
Every month has a new beginning,
Every year, every century.

Every conception in the womb is a new beginning
For a child made in the image of God.

Every milestone passed,
Every season of life finished, every crisis overcome,
Every new year ahead,
Opens into new choices for us.

Bless Christ for the new beginnings he builds into our life!
For new forgiveness, granted each time we seek it;
New opportunities, given by a Sovereign Will;
New strength, gained when we admit our weakness;
New trust, when the future unfolds not as we wish it.

Praise Jesus Christ the Lord of New Beginnings,
Especially for this New Year of 2014 in front of us.
Praise him who announces,
“Behold, I am making all things new!”



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 43:14-24
Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Sermon

“Loving and Protecting Children—Consistently”
Psalm 72:1-7

Ron Lutjens, lead pastor, preaching

New Year 1945

With every power for good to stay and guide me,
comforted and inspired beyond all fear,
I'll live these days with you in thought beside me,
and pass, with you, into the coming year.

The old year still torments our hearts, unhastening:
the long days of our sorrow still endure.
Father, grant to the soul thou hast been chastening
that thou hast promised—the healing and the cure.

Should it be ours to drain the cup of grieving
even to the dregs of pain, at thy command,
we will not falter, thankfully receiving
all that is given by thy loving hand.

But, should it be thy will once more to release us
to life's enjoyment and its good sunshine,
that we've learned from sorrow shall increase us
and all our life be dedicate as thine.

Today, let candles shed their radiant greeting:
lo, on our darkness are they not thy light,
leading us haply to our longed-for meeting?
Thou canst illumine e'en our darkest night.

When now the silence deepens for our harkening,
grant we may hear thy children's voices raise
from all the unseen world around us darkening
their universal paean, in thy praise.

While all the powers of good aid and attend us,
boldly we'll face the future, be it what may.
At even, and at morn, God will befriend us,
And oh, most surely on each new year's day.

*—written in the Gestapo prison, Berlin, by Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
Bonhoeffer was hanged by the Nazis four months later in April 1945,
just 23 days before the German surrender*