

Welcome to Bethany's time of  
**PRAISE & WORSHIP**  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost  
November 19, 2023

**Special "Gospel Music Service"**

Today's Guests: **Bill and Sandie Smallwood**

***"When the Roll is Called Up Yonder"***

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound  
and time shall be no more  
And the morning breaks eternal bright and fair  
When the saved of earth shall gather  
over on the other shore  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there

***Chorus***

When the roll is called up yonder  
When the roll is called up yonder  
When the roll is called up yonder  
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there

On that bright and cloudless morning  
when the dead in Christ shall rise  
And the glory of His resurrection share  
When His chosen ones are gathered  
to their home beyond the skies  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there (*Chorus*)

Let us labor for the Master from the dawn 'til setting sun  
Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care  
Then when all of life is over  
and our work on earth is done  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. (*Chorus*)

*Text and music by James Black. Public domain.*

**WELCOME**

to Bethany and to a new week!  
**MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

***"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"***

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear.  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer.  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer. →→

Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield you;  
You will find a solace there.

*Text by Joseph Scriven. Music by Charles Converse. Public domain.*

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

P: Eternal God our creator,  
C: **in you we live and move and have our  
being. Look upon us, your children,  
the work of your hands.  
Forgive us all our offenses,  
and cleanse us from proud thoughts  
and empty desires.  
By your grace draw us near to you,  
our refuge and our strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Pastor announces  
good news of forgiveness*

***"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"***

I am weak, but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

***Chorus***

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. ***Chorus***

When my feeble life is o'er,  
Time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. ***Chorus***

*Anonymous. North American traditional. Public domain.*

## PRAYER FOR TODAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## BIBLE READINGS

*Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18*  
*1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SPECIAL MUSIC by The Smallwoods

## THE APOSTLES' CREED *[on screen]*

## Prayer Song: "Down in the River to Pray"

*[sing verse 1 & 2 before prayers]*

### 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

*American folk song. Public domain.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Response after each petition:*

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*on screen*

## "Unclouded Day"

Oh, they tell me of a home far beyond the skies  
Oh, they tell me of a home far away  
Oh, they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise  
Oh, they tell me of an unclouded day

### Chorus

Oh, the land of cloudless day  
Oh, the land of an unclouded day  
Oh, they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise  
Oh, they tell me of an unclouded day

Oh, they tell me of a home where my friends have gone  
Oh, they tell me of that land far away  
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom  
Sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day (*Chorus*)

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## GOSPEL READING

*Matthew 25: 14-30*

## MESSAGE

## "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*

*Hank Williams ©1948. Renewed 1975 Fred Rose Music. CCLI#1385523*

## 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.  
(*Chorus*)

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## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. With enthusiasm!  
C: **Thanks be to God! And we will!**