

MOVIN' UP TO GLORYLAND

A MUSICAL

by
David S. Lampel



MOVIN' UP TO GLORYLAND

The time is late morning on Saturday, March 4, 1933.

The setting is a county park somewhere in the rural Midwest. The occasion is the annual church picnic.

5 *Before anyone enters, we hear (from a radio) the broadcast of the Oath of Office for Franklin Delano Roosevelt's first term.*

[FDR] “. . . industrial enterprise . . .”

10 *As the crowd in Washington applauds, and the address continues, the women of the church enter and begin preparing a simple, yet hearty meal for the members around two tables downstage.*

[FDR] “. . . only a foolish optimist can deny the harsh realities of the moment.” < pause tape >

WOMAN #1

15 Betty, did you bring another of your raspberry pies this year? Land sakes, how do you manage?

BETTY

The good Lord fills my bushes so I gotta pick 'em.

WOMAN #1

How many years now with Frank gone?

20 **BETTY**

Since '29.

WOMAN #1

And how we'd like to forget that year!

WOMAN #2

25 Say, where's the Jones family today?

WOMAN #1

Didn't you hear? They're home packing. Lost the farm last week.

WOMAN #2

No!
30 [FDR] < release tape > “. . . frankly and boldly . . . ”
*The menfolk begin straggling in describing their present depression and
resulting hard times. The people have a faded and weary air about
them—yet, in spite of their near poverty, they have a strong community
spirit of pulling together and a powerful faith in their God.*
35 *Several of the men huddle around the radio.*
[FDR] “. . . have to fear is fear itself. Nameless, unreasoning . . . ” (speech
slowly fades out) < pause tape >

MAN #1

Well, do you think he'll pull it off?

40 **MAN #2**

Who?

MAN #3

God?

45 **MAN #1**

No, silly; Roosevelt.

MAN #3

Same thing.

MAN #2

He can't work miracles.

50 **MAN #1**

(to #3)

Listen, if anyone can get this country back onto its feet, it's FDR.

MAN #2

55 Don't be so sure. I say it's a long way from Hyde Park to us poor dirt
farmers.

MAN #3

Just have a little faith.

MAN #2

What, in a politician?!

60

MAN #3

No, in our President!

PREACHER

(scolding good-naturedly)

Gentlemen! Not today. Not at our picnic.

65

MAN #3

What do you say, Pastor? Will the "New Deal" really work?

MAN #2

Or will we just keep on building `Hoovervilles'?

PREACHER

70

God gives us our leaders, too. We must trust His judgment.

MAN #2

Well, I say those leaders haven't been doing so well lately. The country's in a mess. It couldn't get any worse!

PREACHER

75

John, God is still here with us.

MAN #2

These days I think I'd rather go up and be with Him, 'stead of Him being down here with us.

MAN #3

80

Sure, when things are rough, that's when we want Jesus to return.

PREACHER

But when things are smooth, we'd just as soon he take His time about it.

MAN #2

I don't care. He can get me outta here any time! ☹️

85

General agreement among the people as INTRO begins.

I'LL FLY AWAY - 1:48 - :08

Much laughter and slapping of backs as everyone settles back into their groups. Meanwhile, the SHERIFF enters.

SHERIFF

90 Is Sam Richards here today? *(Everybody looks around)* Got somethin' for him.

SAM

(knowing already what the Sheriff has for him)

You decide to finally join the church Sheriff?

SHERIFF

95 *(trying to be official about it)*

I'm real sorry, Sam. It pains me but I gotta do it. I gotta serve these papers on ya.

Grumbings from the people.

SHERIFF

100 Yeah, I know. I've been putting it off long as I can. But the bank says it can't wait any longer.

PREACHER

But not at our picnic! Here, have some watermelon.

SHERIFF

105 I hate it as much as you, Preacher. But it's gotta be done. *(handing papers to SAM)* They're giving you three days, Sam, to come up with the mortgage or vacate the premises. *(SAM stares at the paper in his hand; the Sheriff turns to go, then turns back)* Real sorry, Sam. *(pause)* C'mon, I'll give you a lift into town.

110

SAM

(to the PREACHER)

What am I going to tell Mabel? 😞

115

*The PREACHER comforts SAM and they exit as INTRO begins.
PREACHER returns in time for Trio.*

JOY COMES IN THE MORNING - 4:00 - :03 - TRIO, SOLO

THE SOLID ROCK - 2:09 - :12

COUSIN SADIE

120

Sure we got hard times. No argument there. And I know heaven starts
lookin' real sweet when things are lookin' bad down here. But listen folks,
there's no reason in the world to be thinkin' all's lost. You think the Lord
don't see what's goin' on down here? You think His hand ain't in it?
Why, I remember the old days when things were really rough. My stars,
we were lucky to even get any supper before bed. We'd have to trudge a
good 50 mile through snow up to here just to get to school. This is
nothin'. ☹️

125

Listen, don't go lookin' for no easy excuse to stop singin' His praise. The
Lord's still on our side. He's still here with us. So when those blues start
gettin' to ya, you just think of Jesus lookin' down from above. He's always
takin' care of us.

130

HE'S STILL THERE - 5:53 - :25 - SOLO

COUSIN SADIE

135

Sure, we've all been there, haven't we. Tom, remember when your barn
caught fire and the whole town turned out to save it? You found friends
you never knew you had. And Sarah, when your little Jimmy was late in
coming and Frank was over in France fightin' the Kaiser . . . you had more
midwives than you could handle. Jesus was right there in all of it. He's
here, working through every one of us. So sing glory to His name!

140

GLORY TO HIS NAME/ARE YOU WASHED IN THE BLOOD - 2:11 - :05

WHEN GOD DIPS HIS LOVE IN MY HEART - 2:05 - :10 -

WIFE

Go on, John. You can do it.

145

HUSBAND

Leave me be, woman!

WIFE

You said you were going to.

HUSBAND

150

That was yesterday.

WIFE

Go on. Speak your peace before I speak it for you.

HUSBAND

(seeing that everyone's attention is on him by now anyway)

155

It's really no big deal. I just had somethin' I wanted to say. *(pause; turning back to his wife)* But I don't think so. *(his wife turns him back around)* Well, you see, I just got this letter from my cousin in South Dakota. He says grain there is cheaper than coal—so they're burnin' it in their furnace. Burned it all winter, they did. The county elevator listed corn at minus three cents. Minus three cents a bushel, can you believe it! You gotta pay that there elevator man three cents a bushel just to take it off your hands. Say it don't pay for them to handle it. Well, it got me to thinkin'. Minus three cents is pretty bankrupt. You're scrapin' the bottom when things get so bad that you gotta pay some guy to take your crop off your hands. Yessir, that's pretty bankrupt. *(pause)* Just like we're bankrupt when we come to the Lord. We got nothin' else. ☹️ We come to Him with our pockets turned inside out—nothin' to offer. And look what he does in return.

160

165

170

JESUS LOVES ME/AMAZING GRACE - 3:41 - :09 - SOLO(S)

WOMAN #3

Brother Harold! Haven't you got anything to say about all this?

HAROLD

175 I got plenty to say. But no one asked.

PREACHER

That's never stopped you before.

HAROLD

When a man of God retires God don't turn off his brain.

PREACHER

180 Well, what do you think of our new president?

HAROLD

185 When all's said and done, I bet you he puts his pants on one leg at a time, just like me. *(pause for reaction)* But I'll say this for him: he ain't afraid to speak his mind.

MAN #3

But, will he get us out of this depression?

HAROLD

190 Well now, he just might. But it won't be his doin'. Roosevelt's just hangin' around down here like us. I happen to agree with Cousin Sadie; we aren't in charge down here. The great God in heaven's gonna pull us outta this fix we're in—and it's Him that's gonna decide when. *(pause)* Nobody's lookin' forward to those streets of gold more than me. But for the moment, we're here. And we're to be singin' His glory and doin' His work while we are.

WOMAN #4

What you gonna be doin' up there in heaven, Harold?

HAROLD

200 Now we all know I've overstayed my welcome. The good Lord's gettin' ready to call me home any day now. And you know what I'm lookin' forward to? I've been talkin' to Jesus from way down here all these years.

205

Yeah, I know He's heard every word I've said. But still, it's gonna be glorious talking to Him in person— 😊 lookin' into His eyes, telling Him face to face how much I love Him. And I'll never get tired of telling Him.

TEN THOUSAND YEARS - 3:15 - :15 - SOLO

Brother Harold begins the song as a solo.

210

WOMAN #3

Well, you're not dead yet, Brother Harold! But you have been around awhile. Weren't you one of the original members of our church?

HAROLD

Set the front door in place myself, back in '09.

WOMAN #3

And how we've grown since!

215

PREACHER

We too easily forget how our church has bound us all together. Not the building—but us. We make up the church.

WOMAN #4

Why, little Amy was baptized in our church—

220

WOMAN #2

Remember Pastor Sam and his talking mule?

MAN #2

I helped put the bell up in the belfry . . .

225

his WIFE

(aside)

Yeah, and the bats have been there ever since! 😊

COUNTRY CHURCH MEDLEY - 3:18 - :06 - SOLOS & ENSEMBLES

PREACHER

230 But just like everything else in this world: the bell, the belfry, the front door
 Brother Harold set in place—everything, including us, is only here for a
 short time. This world's not our home; we're just passin' through!

GOOD-BY, WORLD, GOOD-BY - 2:15 - :03

235 *Immediately at cutoff, lots of crowd noise and laughter, men quickly move
 two tables off to stage right and left. As they are returning to center stage
 Trax begin. Big finish.*

MOVIN' UP TO GLORYLAND - 2:48 - :06

240

TRAX roll after INVITATION. This is demo for "going home" music.

The Songs

I'll Fly Away	p.72 - Joyous Songs...Choir
Joy Comes in the Morning	p.22 - "
The Solid Rock	p.19 - Because of Who You Are
He's Still There	p.13 - "
Glory to His Name/Are you Washed?	p.8 - "
When God Dips His Love	p.51 - Joyous Songs...Choir
Jesus Loves Me/Amazing Grace	p.31 - Because of Who You Are
Ten Thousand Years	p.4 - Joyous Songs...Choir
Old Country Church Medley	p.12 - "
Good-By, World, Good-By	p.49 - Because of Who You Are
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