

CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD, THE (WILLIAM P. PITTS)

Old-Time Bluegrass Gospel Song by James Rowe- words, William P. Pitts- music, **DATE:** 1857 Pitts; 1911 new lyrics by Rowe; **CATEGORY:** Gospel Song; **RECORDING INFO:** Carter Family; Johnny Cash; **OTHER NAMES:** Little Brown Church in the Vale; **NOTES:** The Little Brown Church in the Vale has become a famous tourist attraction in Iowa, and the song describing its beauty is still sung.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols (G, D, C) are placed above the notes. A double bar line with a repeat sign is used to indicate a section. The score ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine'. The lyrics are: 'There's a church in the valley by the wild-wood, No love-lier spot in the dale, No place is so dear to my childhood as the little brown church in the vale. Come to the church in the wild-wood, Oh, come to the church in the vale.'

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G D G
There's a church in the valley by the wildwood, No lovelier spot in the dale;
C G D G
No place is so dear to my childhood, As the little brown church in the vale.

D G
Chorus: Come to the church in the wildwood, Oh, come to the church in the vale.
C G D G
No spot is so dear to my childhood as the little brown church in the vale.

Oh, come to the church in the vale, To the trees where the wild flowers bloom;
Where the parting hymn will be chanted, We will weep by the side of the tomb. *Chorus*

How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning, To list to the clear ringing bell;
Its tones so sweetly are calling, Oh come to the church in the vale. *Chorus*

From the church in the valley by the wildwood, When day fades away into night,
I would fain from this spot of my childhood, Wing my way to the mansions of light. *Chorus*