

Jim Reeves**"Shall We Gather at the River? (Mother Went A-Walki)"**

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(Tom Bearden)

(Sang)

(Shall we gather at the river that flows by the throne of
God.)

(Spoken)

The church doors opened one Sunday in a little country
town

The people all were silent in the rain that misted down
And an old gray-haired granddad his shoulders
stooped with pain

Was holdin' fast a little boy who kept cryin' in the rain.

And in the dim candlelight within a casket lay so still
That soon would lie beneath the earth up at the top of
the hill

The little boy kept askin' in a low and plaintive tone
What's wrong with mommy grandpa won't she be
comin' home?

It's awful lonesome grandpa since daddy went away
And mommy's all the reason why I'm happy every day
Wouldn't she feel better grandpa if I layed down by her
side

The old man turned and faced him and with these
words replied.

Mother went a walkin' son, away up in the sky
Along the brook that winds among the stars up there on
high

And down the valley where the sun goes home at night
to sleep

Mother went a walkin' son she wouldn't want us to
weep.

The boy didn't seem to understand just where his mom
had gone

He couldn't realize that now she wouldn't be comin'
home

He saw the rain on grandpa's face, he didn't know he

cried
And of course he couldn't hear the words that grandpa
said inside.

Mother went a walkin' son, up yonder in the sky
And all that we can do down here son is bow our heads
and cry
She's gone to meet your daddy son and take him by
the hand
Yes, mother went a walkin' son in God's great
meadowland...

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