

Picnic at the River Jordan

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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. The first staff begins with a double bar line and repeat sign, followed by notes corresponding to the chords Em, Bm7, C, D, and Em7. The second staff continues with Em, G, Bm7, F#m, and a first ending (1) Am7, followed by a second ending (2) Am7. The third staff starts with a double bar line and repeat sign, with notes for Em, Am7, D, and G. The fourth staff continues with Em, Am7, G, and a first ending (1) Am7, followed by a second ending (2) Am7. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat sign.

In the last weeks of Sarah’s grandmother’s life, she began seeing and conversing with her many brothers and sisters, all of whom had passed before her. At one point, when the house started feeling crowded with spirits and memory, Sarah’s stepfather Stephen was heard to mutter, “Jeezum Crow, you’d think ONE of them could find a flippin’ boat to take her across the River Jordan.” We love to think of Mamaw reunited with her siblings, playing dominos, telling stories, and having a lovely picnic across the river.