



# PRELUDE

Pastor:

Jonathan Lamb

*Last Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
Transfiguration Sunday*

February 4<sup>th</sup> , 2024

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3430384-01-1829



WELCOME,  
ANNOUNCEMENTS,  
and  
CELEBRATIONS





## Give Thanks

Let us quiet our minds, hearts, and spirits as we begin to focus on the presence of God as we bring the *Light of Christ* into our midst.



**Bringing In The Light of Christ**

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”



# CALL to WORSHIP



# CALL to WORSHIP

*Leader:* We are gathered to worship together, full of the joy we feel about God's love for us.

*People:* **He who loved us first, has called us to love and care for one another.**

*Leader:* With God's help, we can overcome hatred and anger.

*People:* **We seek God and ask for guidance, knowing that we can love because of this grace.**



# CALL to WORSHIP

*Leader:*

God's love is the beginning and the end; it is the Alpha and Omega.

*People:*

**Praise God for peace and hope.**

*Leader:*

Come, oh beloved children, let us rejoice and sing a new song.

# When Morning Gilds the Skies 185

WORDS: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, ca. 1744;  
sts. 1, 2, 4, trans. by Edward Caswall, 1854; st. 3 by Robert S. Bridges, 1899

**<sup>1</sup>When morning gilds the skies  
my heart awaking cries:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Alike at work and prayer,  
to Jesus I repair:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**



**<sup>2</sup>The night becomes as day  
when from the heart we  
say:**

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**The powers of darkness fear  
when this sweet chant they  
hear:**

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**3. Let all the earth around  
ring joyous with the sound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**In heaven's eternal bliss  
the loveliest strain is this:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**



**4 But this, while life is mine,  
my canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Be this th'eternal song  
through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

# OPENING PRAYER

**God,**

**We confess to you our  
human weakness, our  
human stubbornness, to  
not forgive and love one  
another, for lashing out  
in anger and hatred to  
our brother and sister.**





# **OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, we say that we  
love you, yet we ignore  
the suffering of others.  
We say that we love you,  
yet strike back at our  
brothers and sisters with  
vengeance.**



# **OPENING PRAYER**

**Help us love you better by loving our neighbor. Help us show to others the love you gave to us. Help us open our eyes to the people around us and fill our hearts with loving compassion. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**







Young Disciples' Message – “Naaman Follows Direction”

**PRAYER FOR**

**ILLUMINATION**

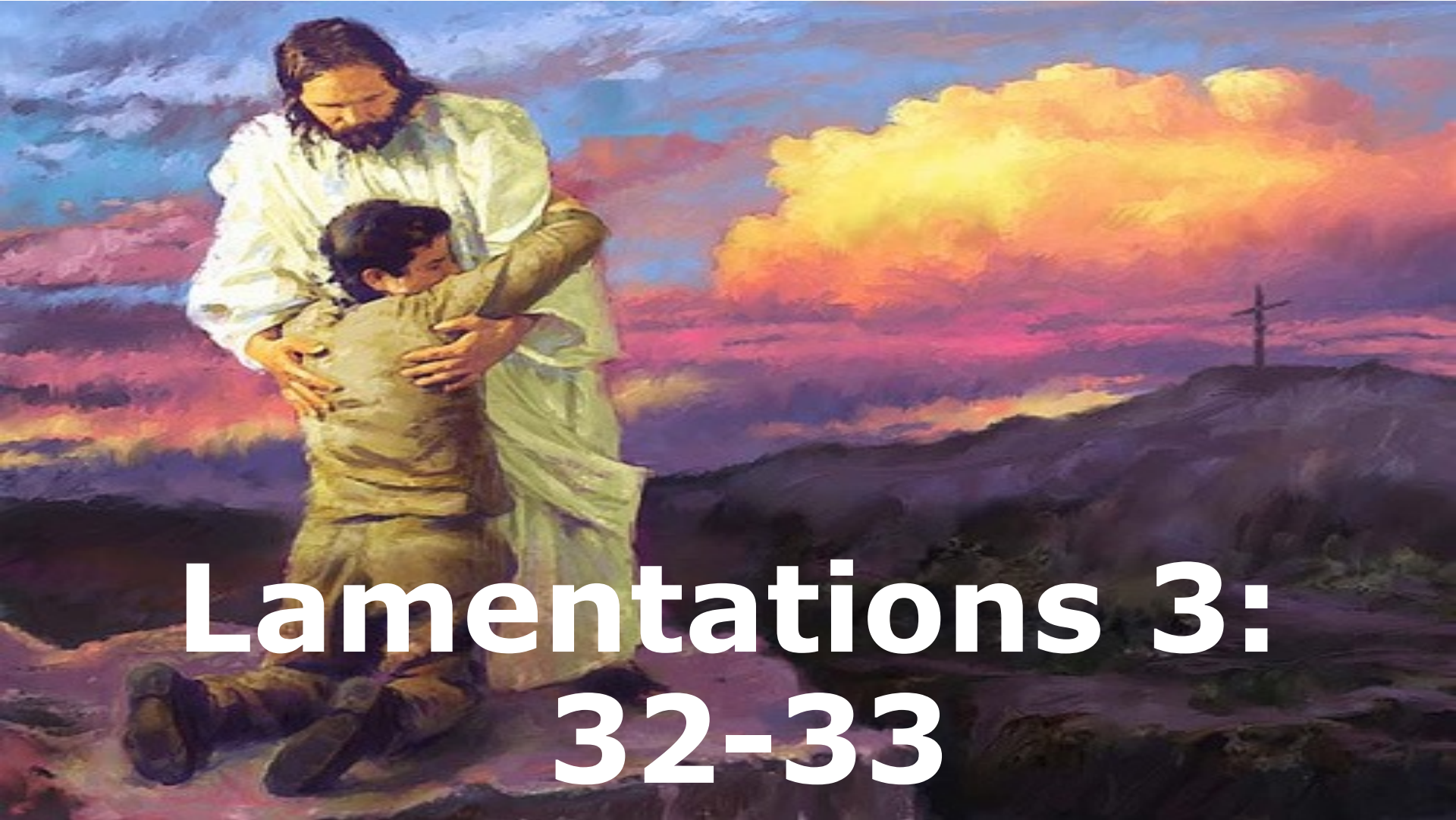
**Lord, make me an  
instrument of thy peace;  
Where there is hatred, let  
me sow love;  
Where there is injury,  
pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair,  
hope;  
Where there is darkness,  
light;  
And where there is  
sadness, joy.**



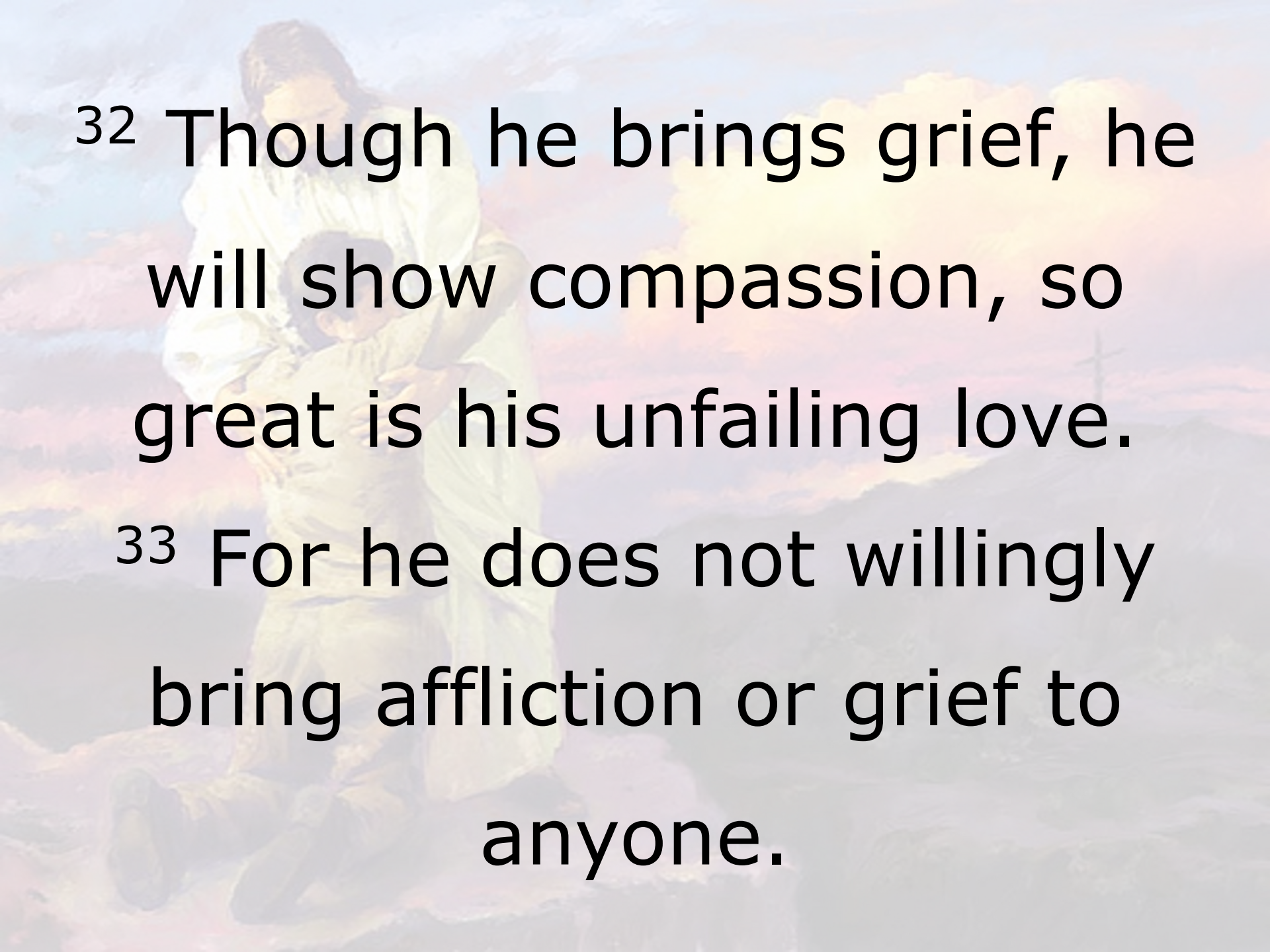
**PRAYER FOR  
ILLUMINATION  
O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so  
much seek  
To be consoled as to  
console;  
To be understood, as to  
understand;  
To be loved, as to love;  
For it is in giving that we  
receive,  
It is in pardoning that we  
are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we  
are born to eternal life.**







**Lamentations 3:  
32-33**



32 Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.

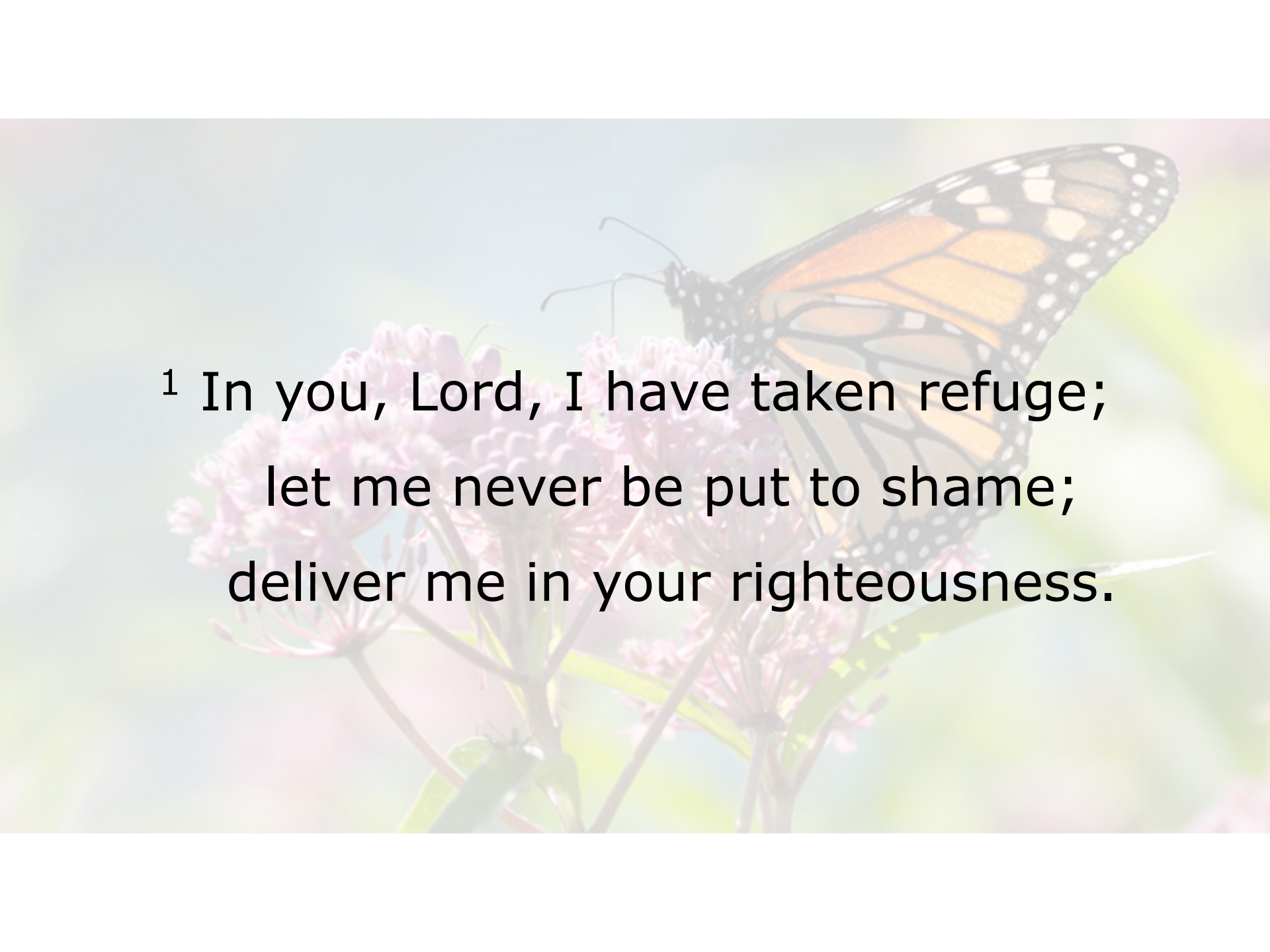
33 For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.



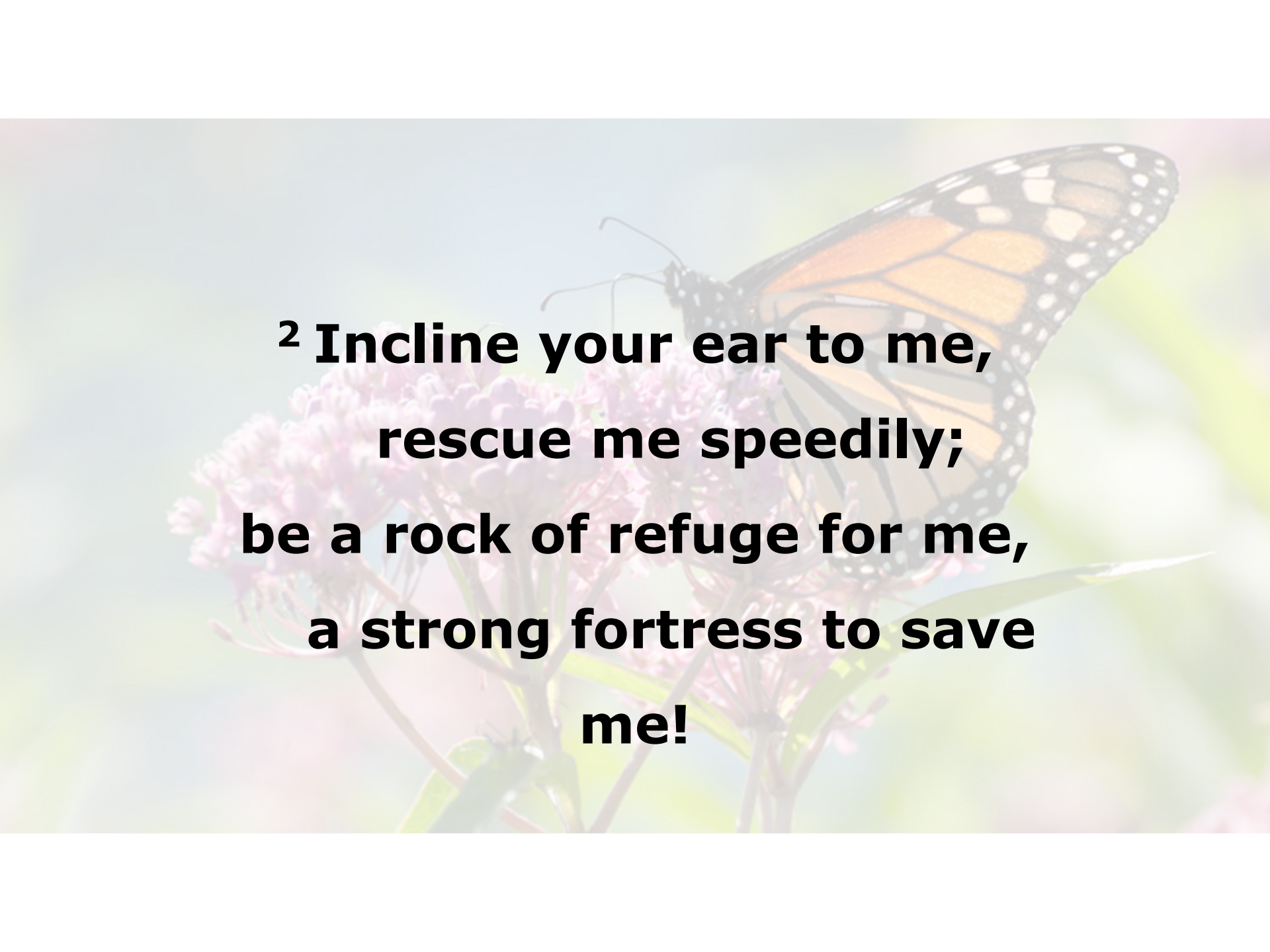


# Psalm 31

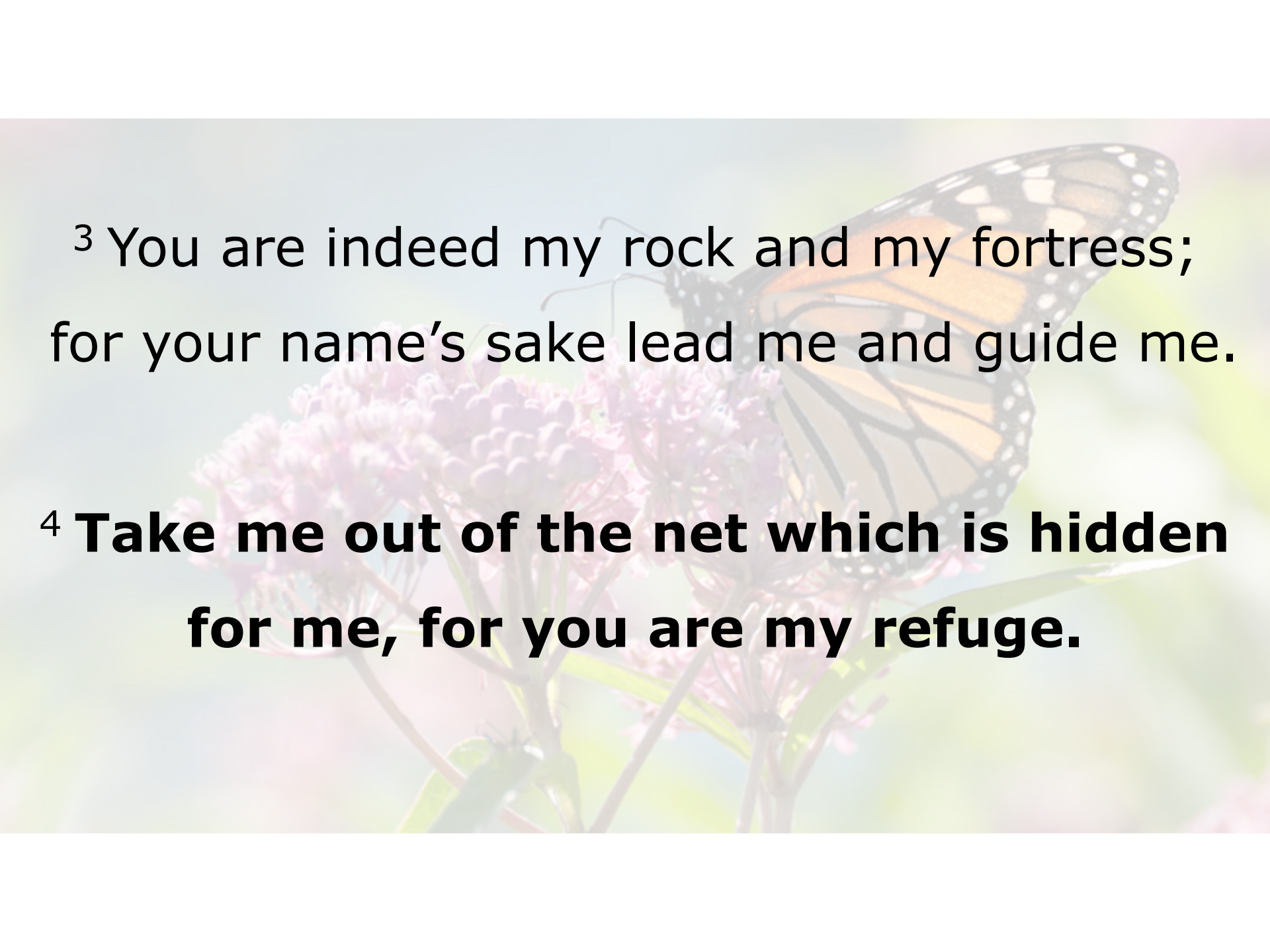


A monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a cluster of small pink flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on the image in a black, sans-serif font.

<sup>1</sup> In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

A monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a pink flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.


**<sup>2</sup> Incline your ear to me,  
rescue me speedily;  
be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save  
me!**

A monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a pink flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow.

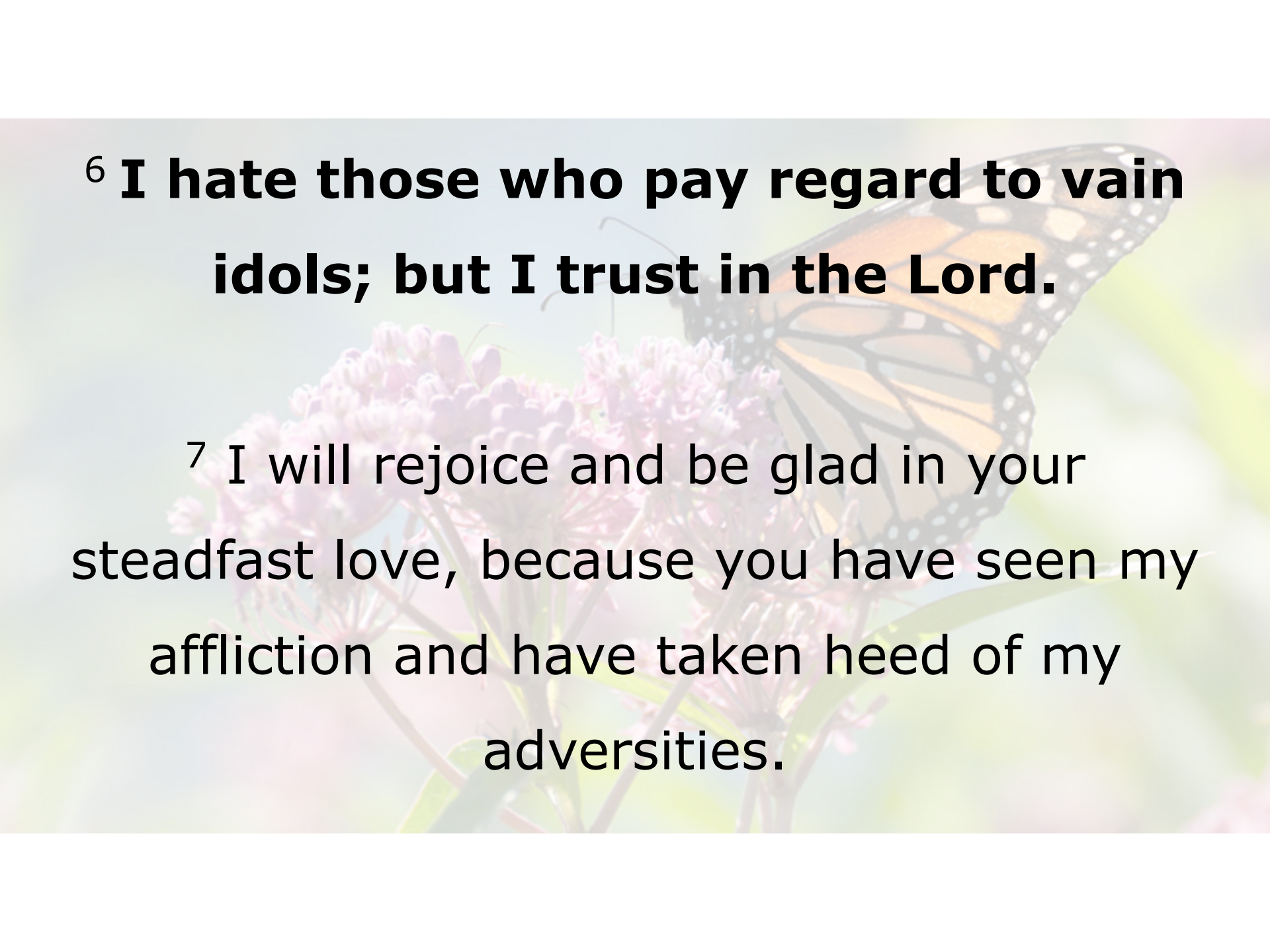
<sup>3</sup> You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net which is hidden  
for me, for you are my refuge.**



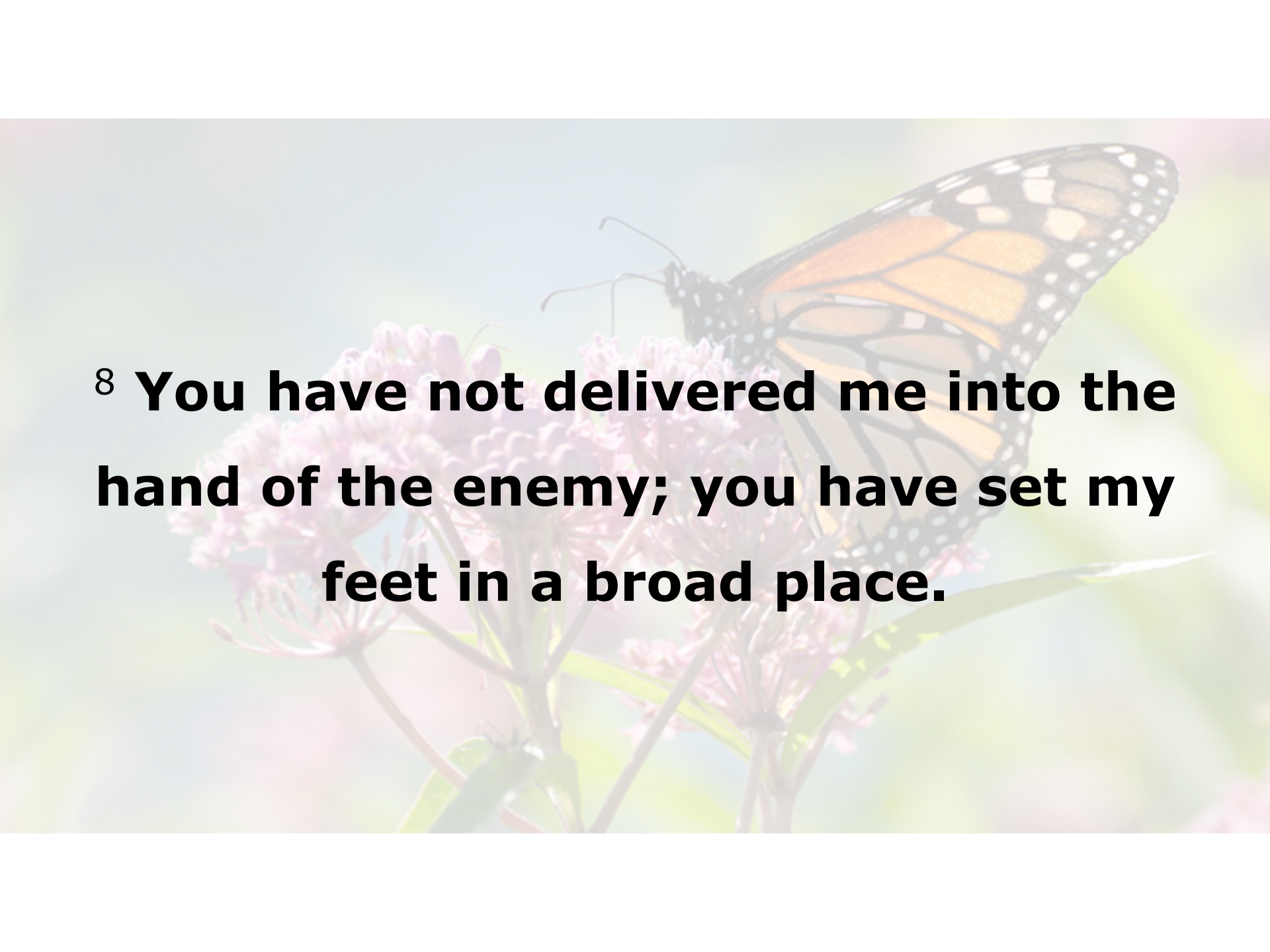
A monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a cluster of small pink flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on the image in a black, sans-serif font.

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commit  
my spirit;  
you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, my faithful God.

A monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a pink flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow.

**<sup>6</sup> I hate those who pay regard to vain idols; but I trust in the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction and have taken heed of my adversities.

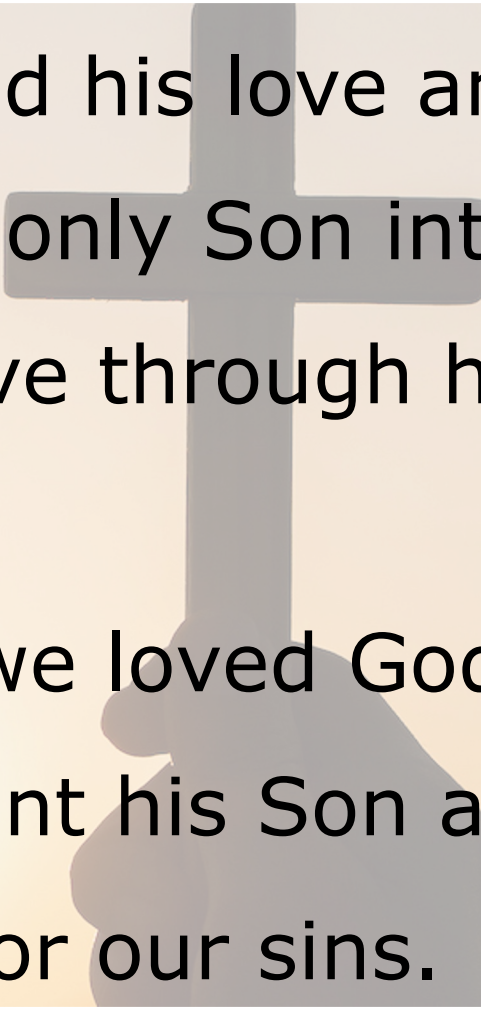
A monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a pink flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black font.

**<sup>8</sup> You have not delivered me into the  
hand of the enemy; you have set my  
feet in a broad place.**

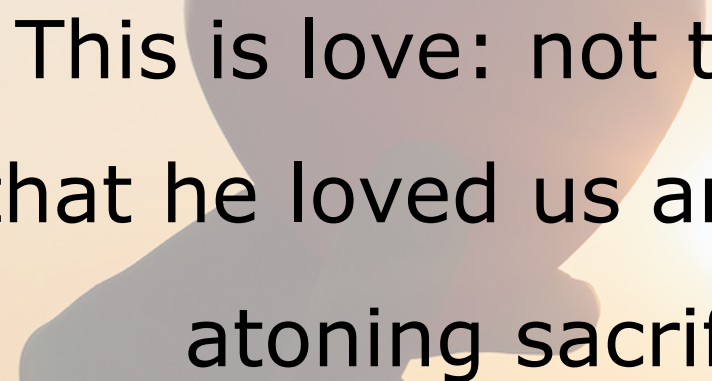




**1 John 4: 9-10**



<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.



<sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

# Glory Be to the Father

70

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

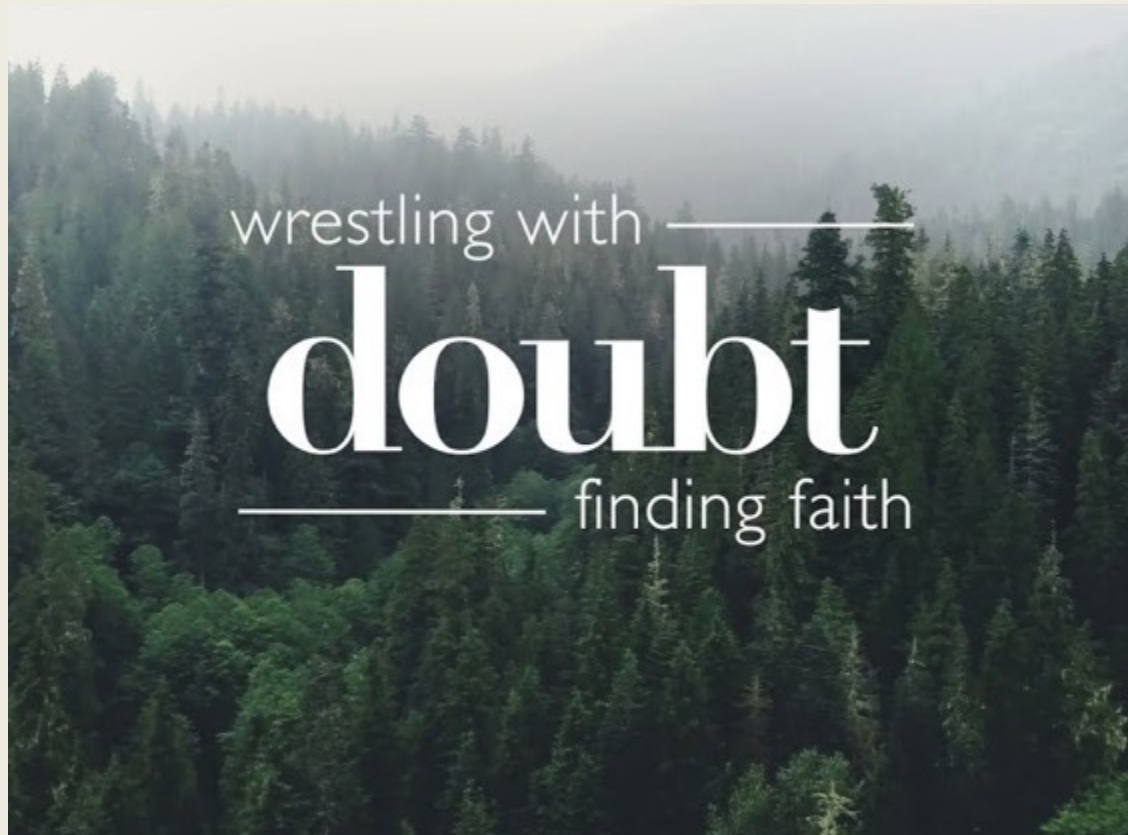
**Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;**



**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen. Amen.**

# TODAY'S MESSAGE

“Wrestling with Doubt:  
Finding Faith – Does God Love Me?”



# “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH 206

WORDS and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*





# “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH 206

WORDS and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

# “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH 206

WORDS and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.



# “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH 206

WORDS and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.



# AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

## UMH 882



I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven  
and earth.

# AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

UMH 882



I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.



# AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

UMH 882



On the third day he  
rose again; he  
ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right  
hand of the Father,  
and will come again to  
judge the living and  
the dead.



# AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

UMH 882



I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

# PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

LORD hear our  
prayers



*as we lift up to you our  
joys and our concerns.*





Pastoral Prayer



# Tithes and Offerings

worship  
through  
giving



# “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted by Gilbert H. Viera, 1978

MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; harmonized by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

***Please stand as you are able and comfortable.***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



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# Offertory Prayer

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A wooden cross stands against a blue sky with white clouds. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams, one vertical and one horizontal, intersecting in the center. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white, fluffy clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.



# **The Lord's Prayer**

UMH 895

**Our Father, who art in  
heaven, hallowed be thy  
name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will  
be done on earth as it is in  
heaven.**



# **The Lord's Prayer**

UMH 895

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**



# The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

**And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us  
from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and  
the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**





# “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” UMH 703

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith, 1987

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*





# “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” UMH 703

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith, 1987

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home;  
swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home.



# “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” UMH 703

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith, 1987

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

I looked over Jordan,  
and what did I see,  
coming for to carry me home?  
A band of angels  
coming after me,  
coming for to carry me home.



# “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” UMH 703

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith, 1987

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home;  
swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home.



# “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” UMH 703

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith, 1987

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

If you get there  
before I do,  
coming for to carry me home;  
tell all my friends  
I'm coming too,  
coming for to carry me home.



# “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” UMH 703

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith, 1987

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home;  
swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home.



# “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” UMH 703

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith, 1987

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

I'm sometimes up,  
I'm sometimes down,  
coming for to carry me home;  
but still my soul  
feels heavenly bound,  
coming for to carry me home.



# “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” UMH 703

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith, 1987

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home;  
swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home.



# “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” UMH 703

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith, 1987

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

The brightest day  
that I can say,  
coming for to carry me home;  
when Jesus washed  
my sins away,  
coming for to carry me home.



# “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” UMH 703

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith, 1987

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home;  
swing low, sweet chariot,  
coming for to carry me home.





**BENEDICTION**



# “On Eagle’s Wings” UMH 143

WORDS and MUSIC: Michael Joncas, 1979; harmony by Carlton R. Young, 1988.

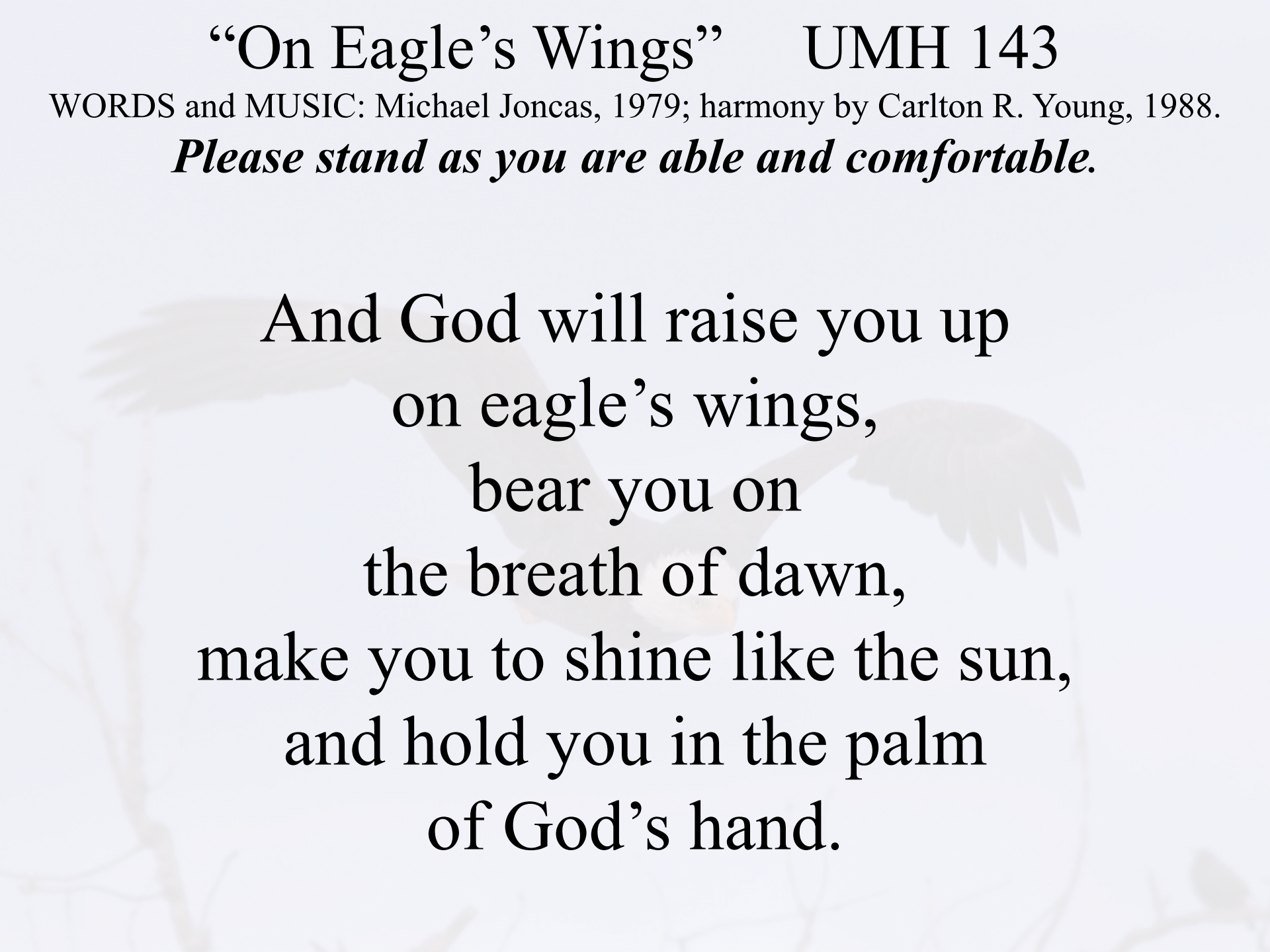
*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



# “On Eagle’s Wings” UMH 143

WORDS and MUSIC: Michael Joncas, 1979; harmony by Carlton R. Young, 1988.

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



And God will raise you up  
on eagle’s wings,  
bear you on  
the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm  
of God’s hand.



# Questions for Reflection

**What did you learn about God's love today?**

# BLESSING AND BENEDICTION



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

This service has ended, and now  
your service in the world begins!



# Rectortown United Methodist Church

serving God with  
**P**rayer, **A**ction, and **L**ove  
through **S**ervice.