

# PRELUDE

Pastor:  
Jonathan Lamb

*Third Sunday in  
Lent*

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

CCLI License:  
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**

**“Sanctuary”**

# Call to Worship



*Leader:* Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation.

*People:* **We have failed in our calling to be your holy people,**

# Call to Worship



*Leader:* A people set apart for your divine purpose.

*People:* **We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope.**

# Call to Worship



*Leader:* We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice.

*People:* **We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice.**

# Call to Worship



*Leader:* We try to speak in your name  
without relinquishing our glories,

*People:* **Without nourishing our souls,  
without relying wholly on  
your grace.**



# Call to Worship



*Leader:* Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you.

*People:* **Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. Amen.**

# “Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19<sup>th</sup> Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

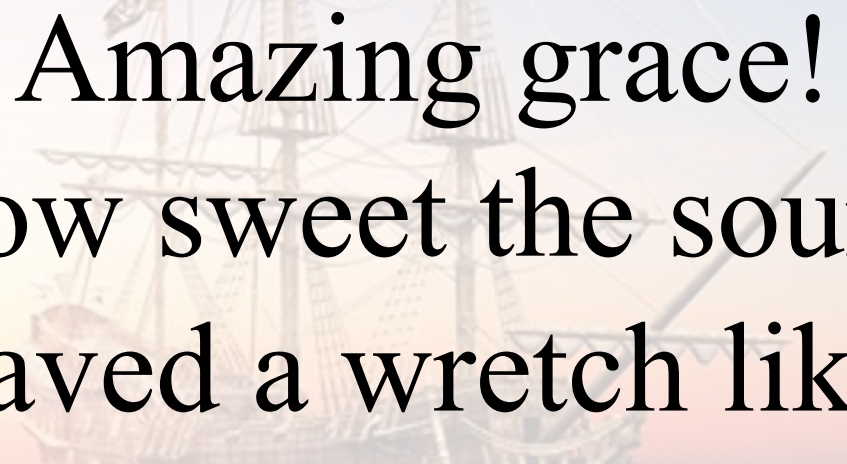


# “Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19<sup>th</sup> Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



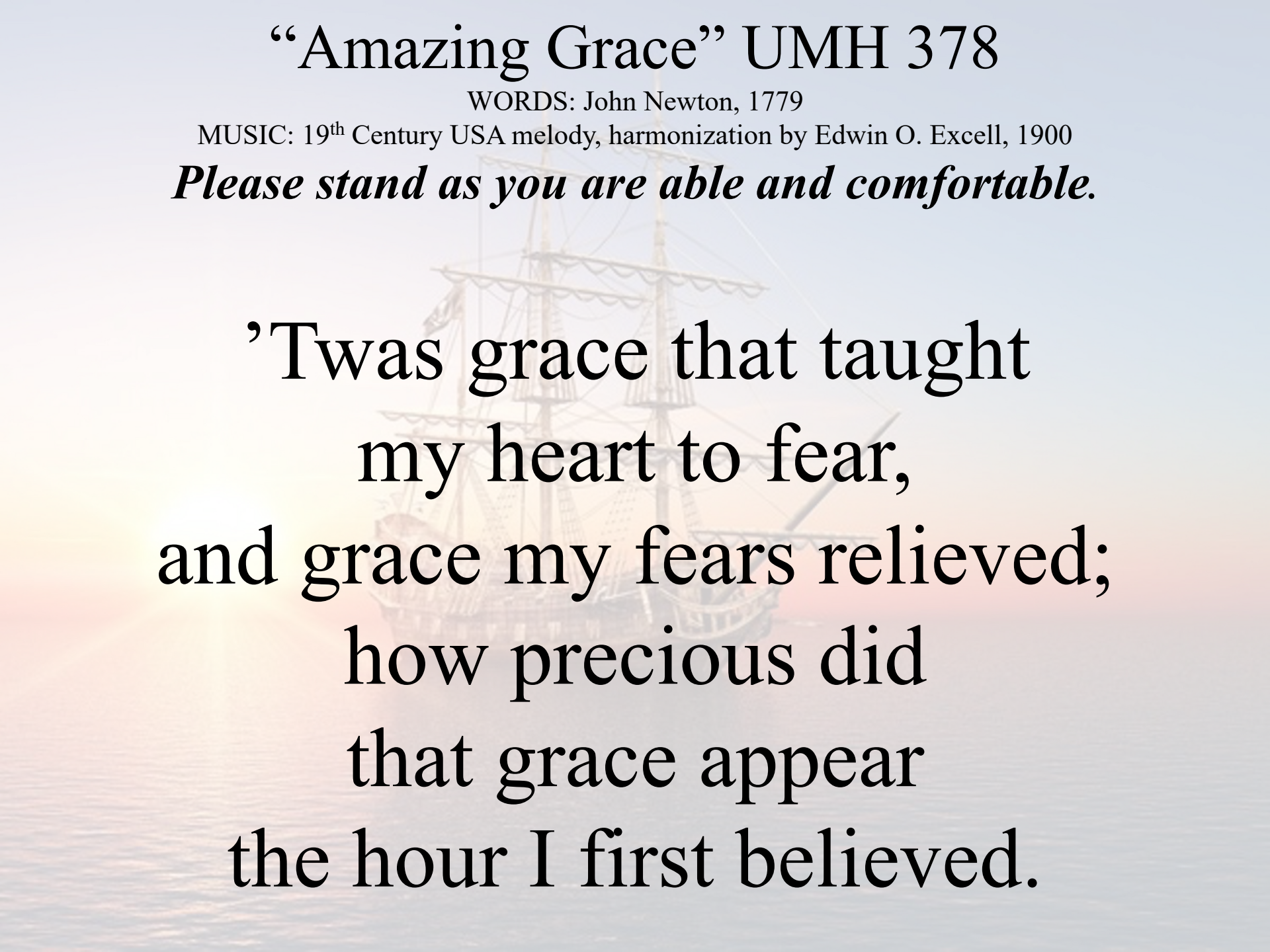
Amazing grace!  
How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost  
but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

# “Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19<sup>th</sup> Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



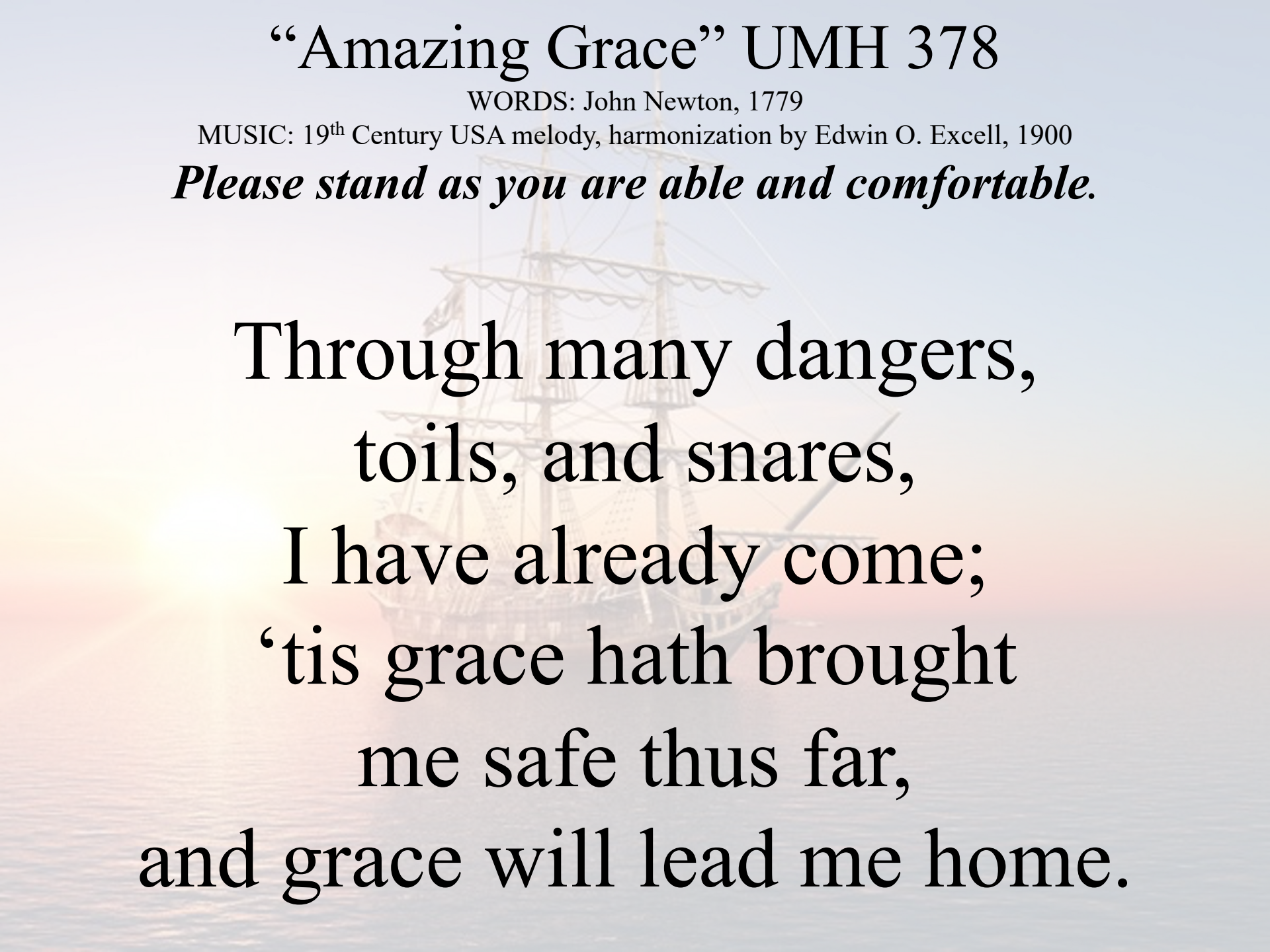
'Twas grace that taught  
my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did  
that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.

# “Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19<sup>th</sup> Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



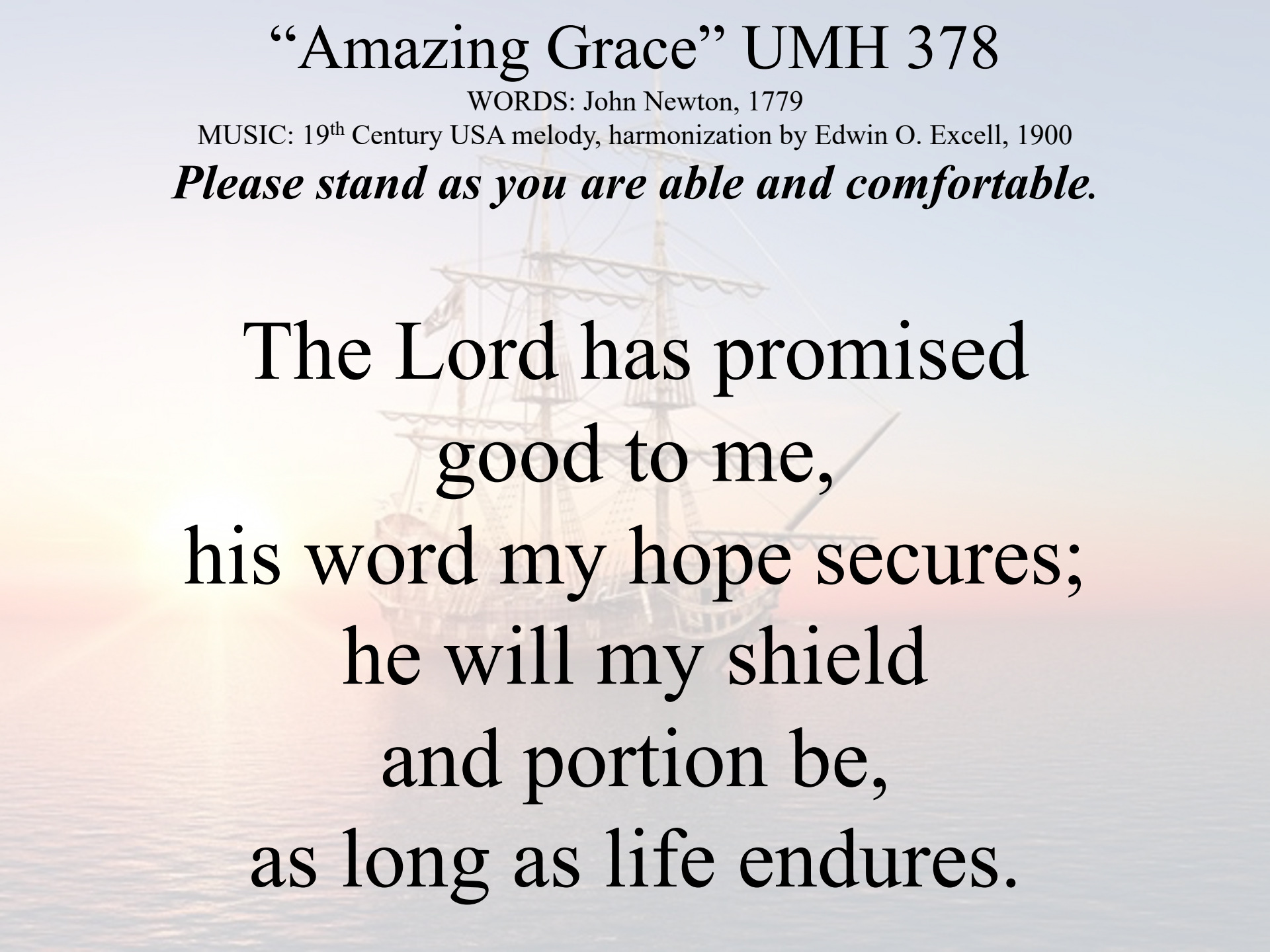
Through many dangers,  
toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
‘tis grace hath brought  
me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

# “Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19<sup>th</sup> Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



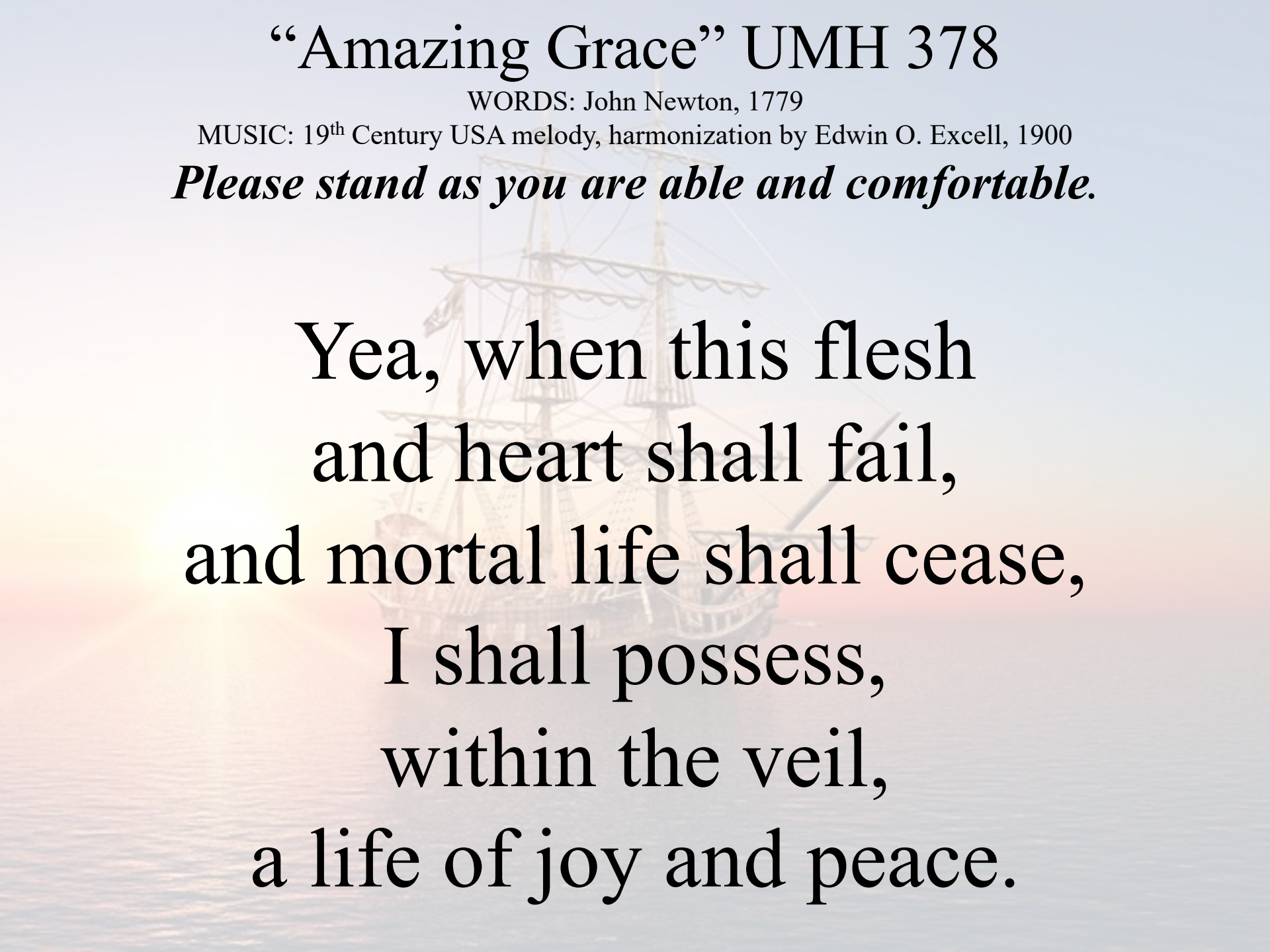
The Lord has promised  
good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield  
and portion be,  
as long as life endures.

# “Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19<sup>th</sup> Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



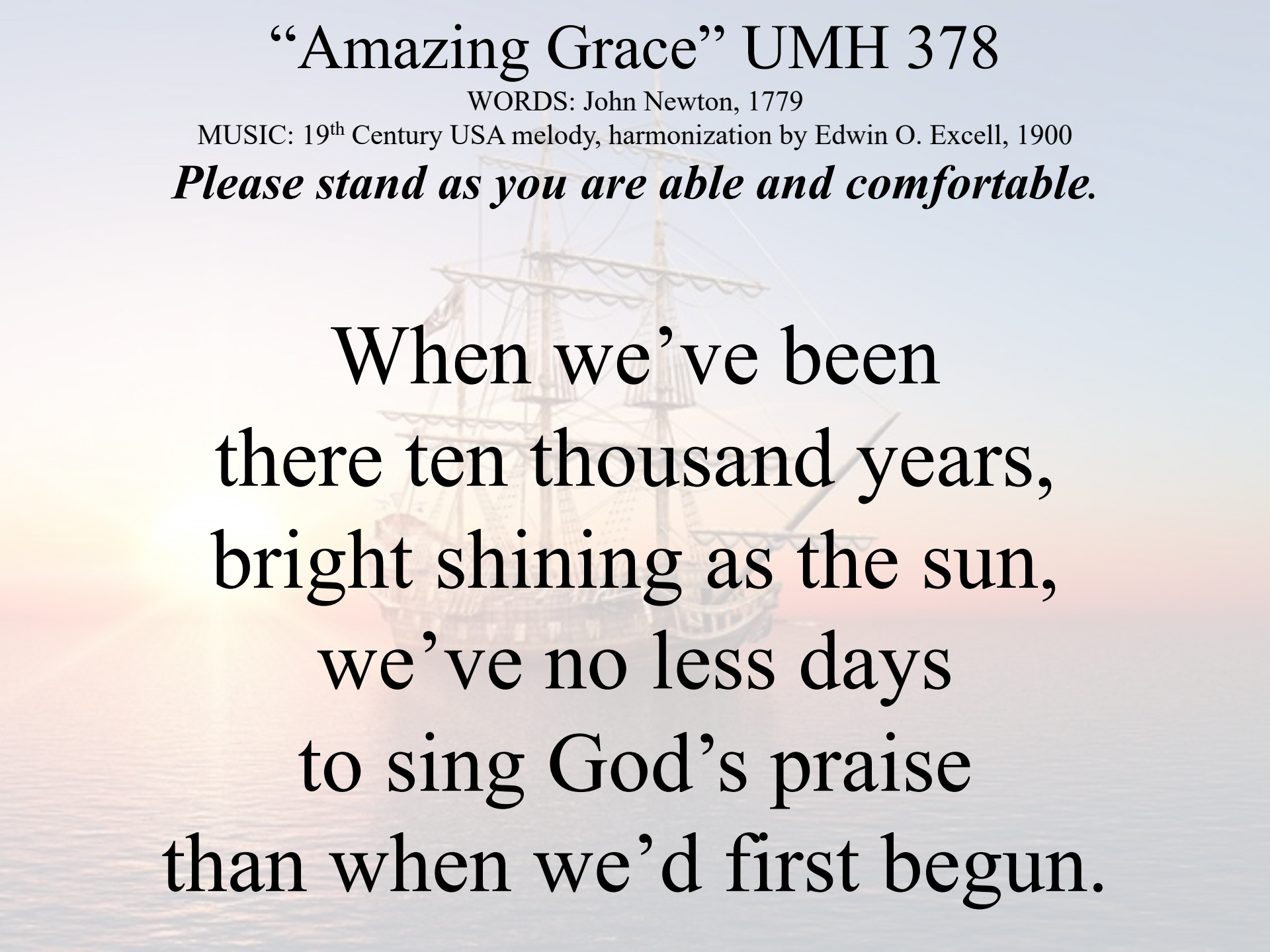
Yea, when this flesh  
and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess,  
within the veil,  
a life of joy and peace.

# “Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19<sup>th</sup> Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



When we've been  
there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days  
to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.



# OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**





Young Disciples' Message  
"Jesus Cleans the Temple"

# **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Spirit of promise, Spirit of  
unity, We thank you that you  
are also the Spirit of renewal.**

**Renew in the whole Church  
That passionate desire for the  
coming of your kingdom  
Which will unite all Christians  
in one mission to the world.  
May we all grow up together  
into him who is our head,  
The Savior of the world.**

**Amen.**





**Genesis 20: 1 -17**

Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a

while he stayed in Gerar,

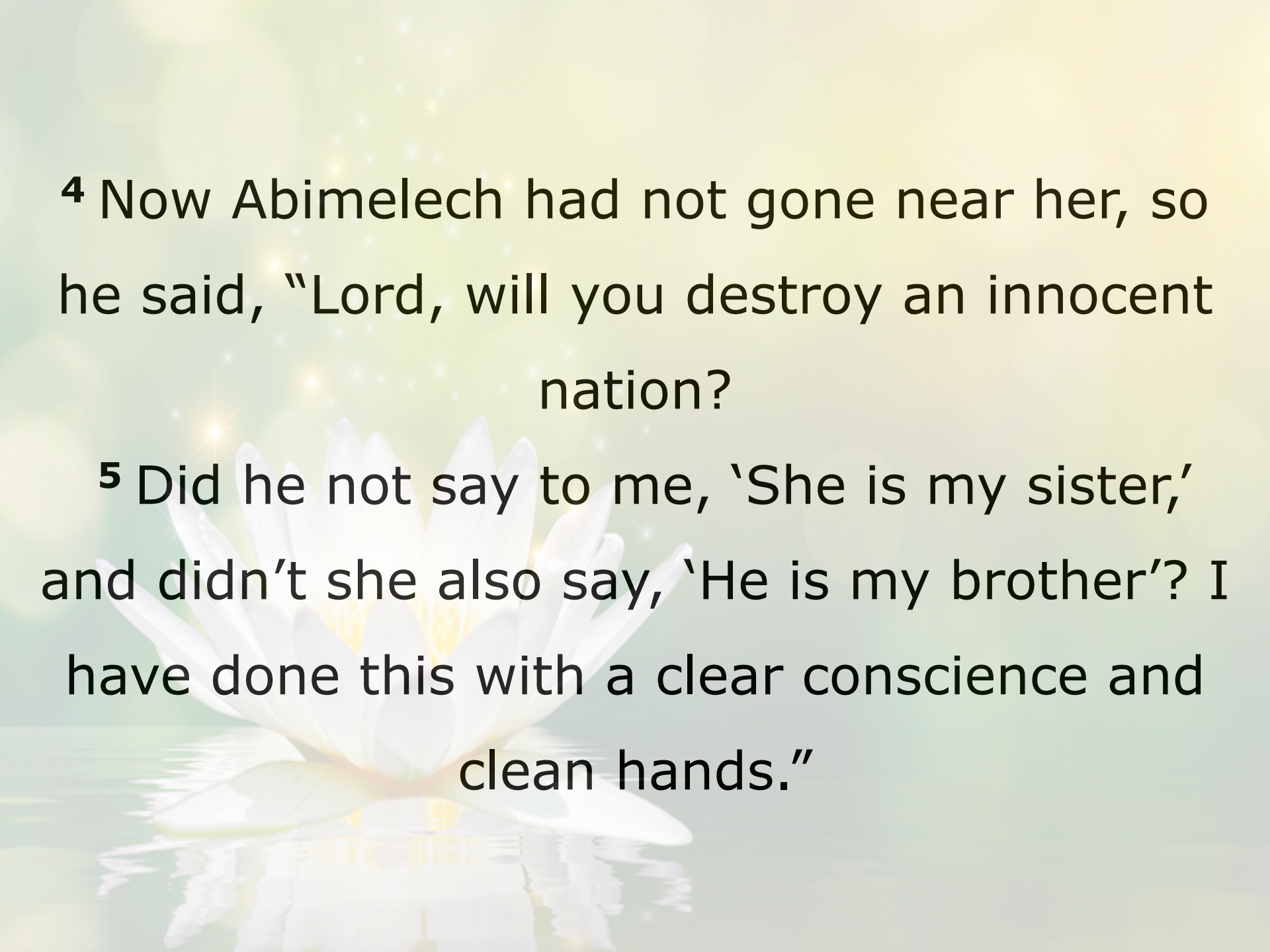
<sup>2</sup> and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah

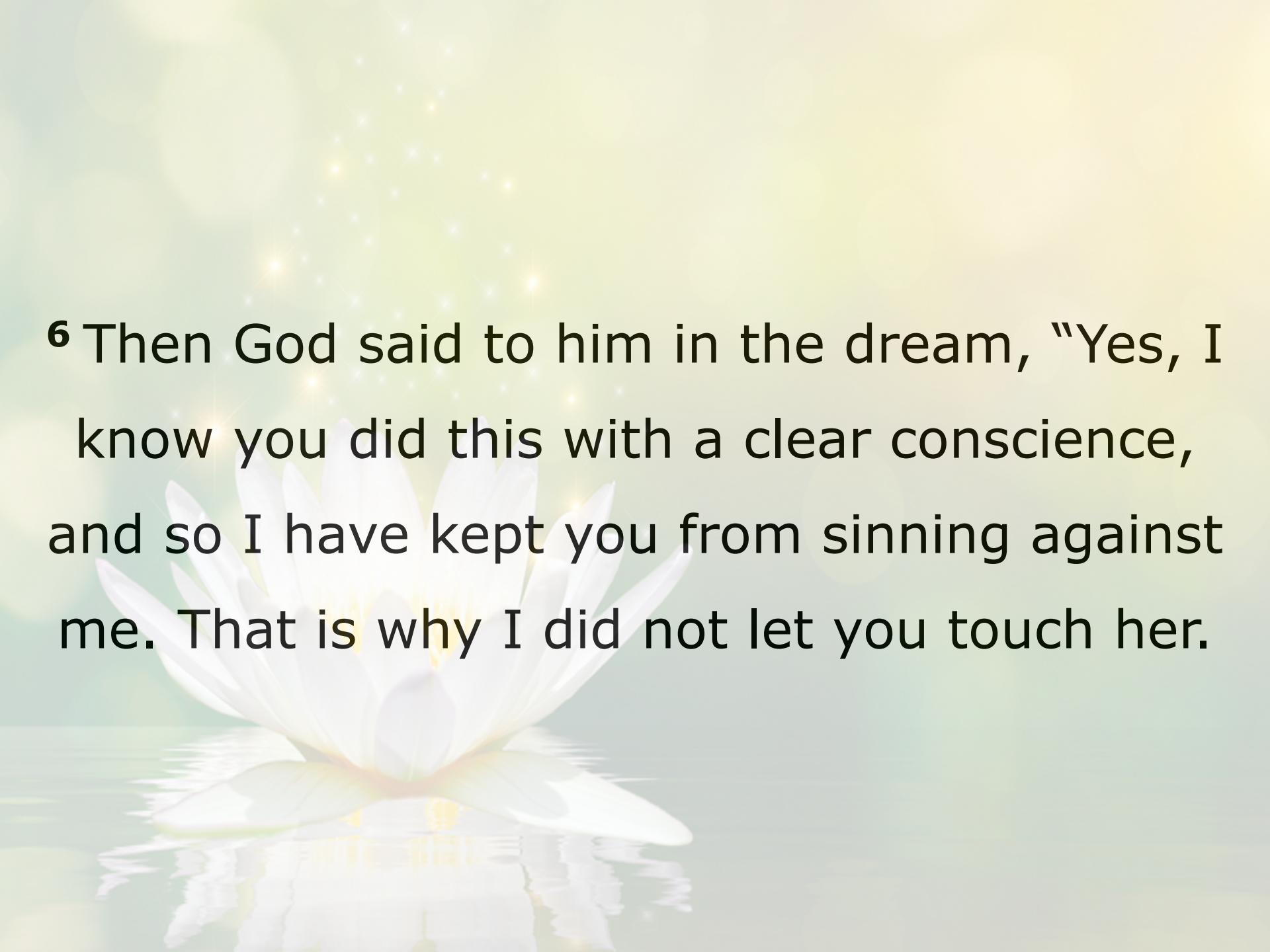
and took her.

<sup>3</sup> But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, “You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman.”

<sup>4</sup> Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation?"

<sup>5</sup> Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands."



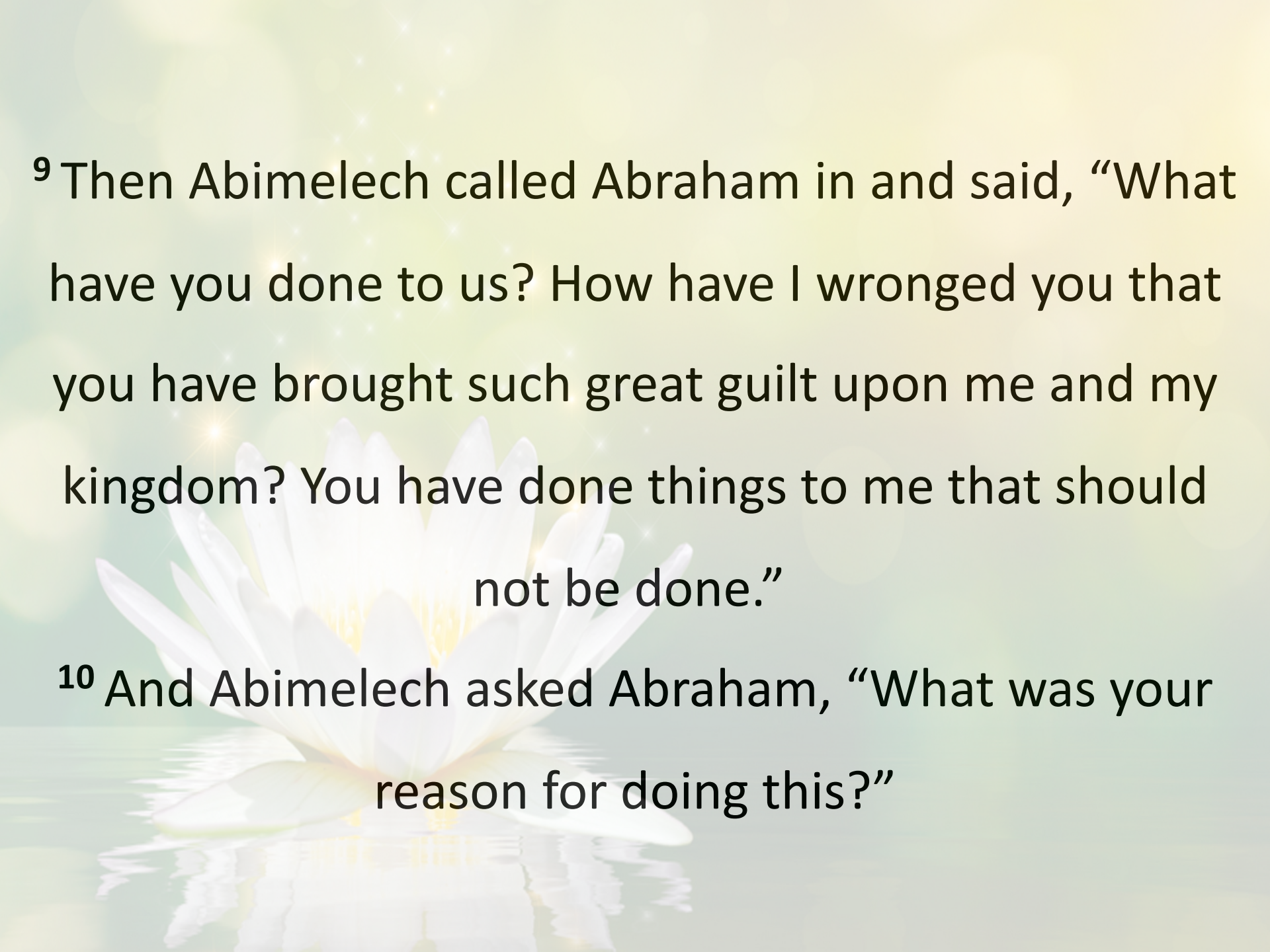


<sup>6</sup> Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her.

<sup>7</sup> Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die."

<sup>8</sup> Early the next morning Abimelech summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid.





<sup>9</sup> Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said, “What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should not be done.”

<sup>10</sup> And Abimelech asked Abraham, “What was your reason for doing this?”

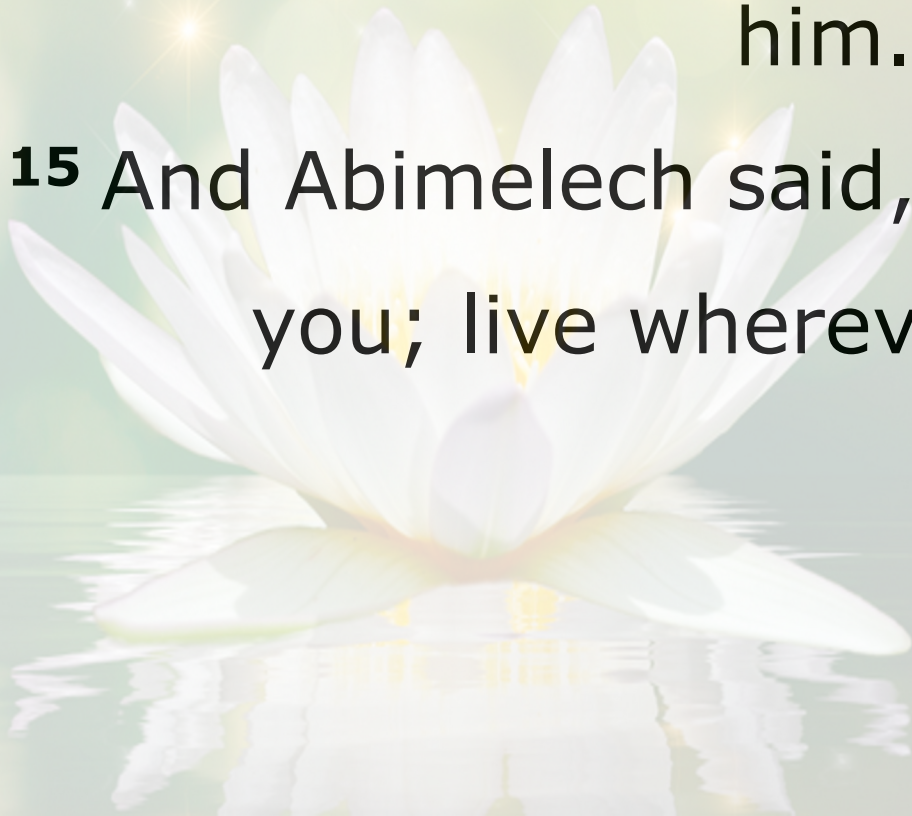
<sup>11</sup> Abraham replied, “I said to myself, ‘There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’”

<sup>12</sup> Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife.

<sup>13</sup> And when God had me wander from my father’s household, I said to her, ‘This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, “He is my brother.”’”

**14** Then Abimelech brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him.

**15** And Abimelech said, "My land is before you; live wherever you like."

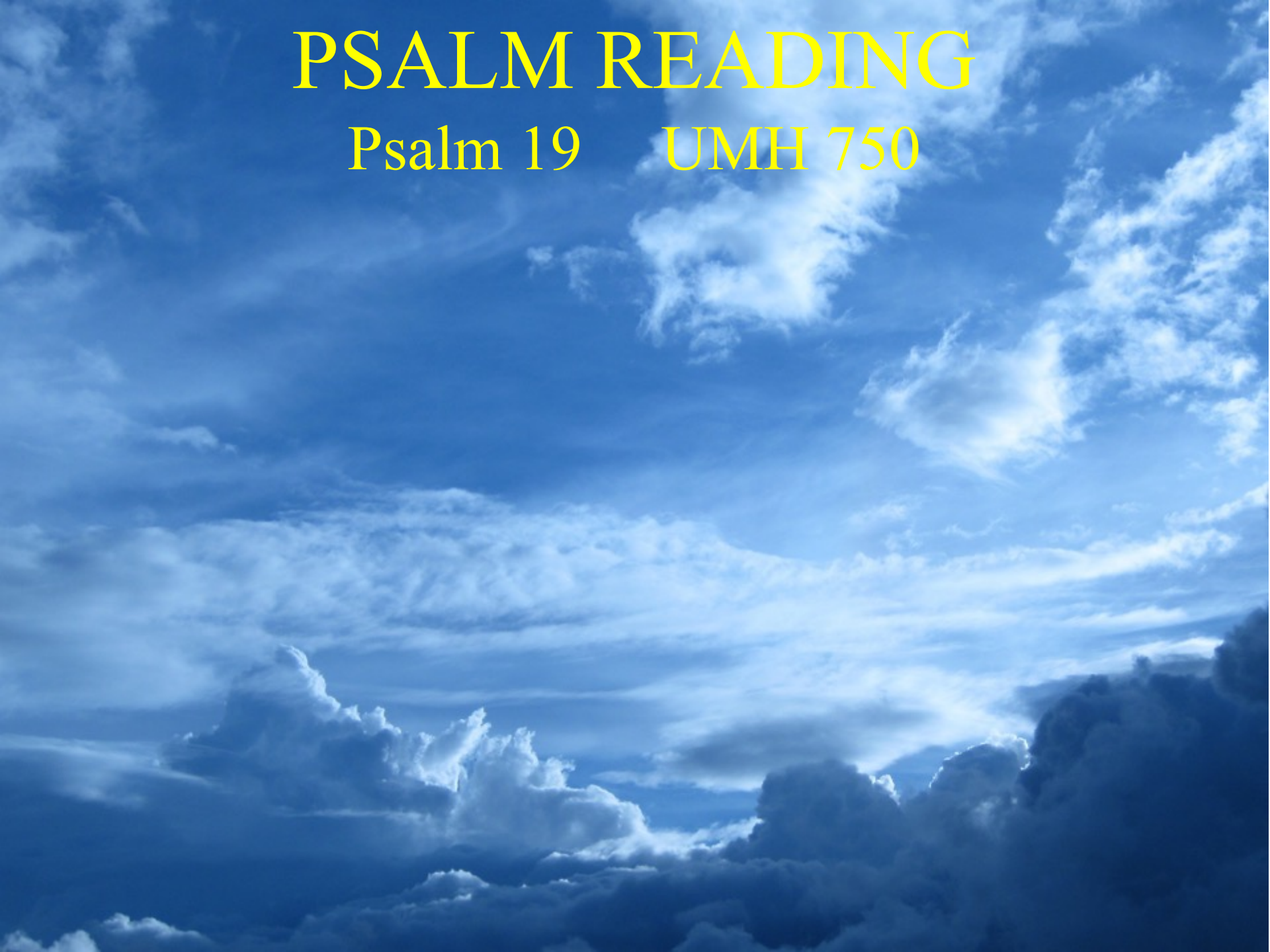


**16** To Sarah he said, "I am giving your brother a thousand shekels of silver. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated."

**17** Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls so they could have children again,

# PSALM READING

Psalm 19 UMH 750



# PSALM READING

Psalm 19    UMH 750

*Leader:* <sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling the  
glory of God; and the firmament  
proclaims God's handiwork.

*People:* <sup>2</sup>Day to day pours forth speech, and  
night to night declares knowledge.

# PSALM READING

Psalm 19    UMH 750

*Leader:* <sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

*People:* <sup>4</sup>yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

# PSALM READING

Psalm 19    UMH 750

*Leader:* In them God has set a tent for the sun, <sup>5</sup> which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and runs its course with joy like a strong man.

*People:* <sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and there is nothing hid from its heat.



# PSALM READING

Psalm 19    UMH 750

*Leader:* <sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord  
is perfect, reviving the soul;

*People:* the testimony of the Lord  
is sure, making wise the simple;

# PSALM READING

Psalm 19    UMH 750

*Leader:* <sup>8</sup>the precepts of the Lord  
are right, rejoicing the heart;

*People:* the commandment of the Lord is  
pure, enlightening the eyes;

# PSALM READING

Psalm 19      UMH 750

*Leader:* <sup>9</sup>the fear of the Lord  
is clean, enduring for ever;

*People:* the ordinances of the Lord  
are true, and righteous altogether.

# PSALM READING

Psalm 19    UMH 750

*Leader:* <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they  
than gold, even much fine gold;

*People:* sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

# PSALM READING

Psalm 19    UMH 750

*Leader:* <sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is  
your servant warned; in keeping  
them there is great reward.

*People:* <sup>12</sup>But who can understand one's  
own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

# PSALM READING

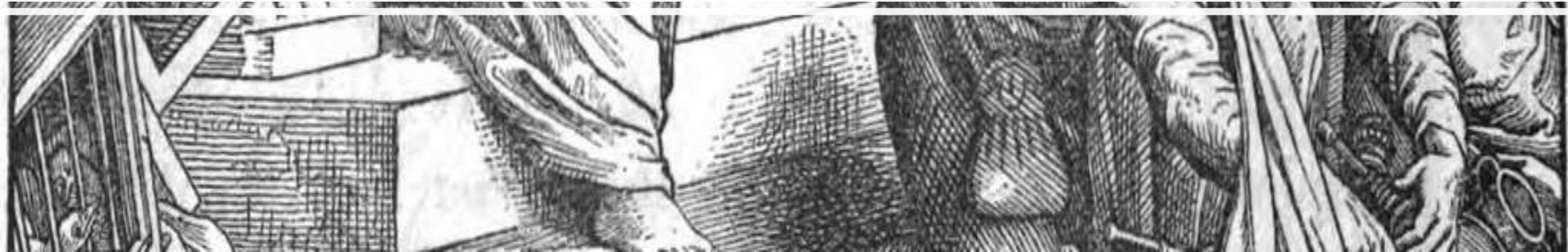
Psalm 19    UMH 750

*Leader:* <sup>13</sup> Also keep your servant from the insolent; let them not have dominion over me!

*People:* Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. <sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.



John 2: 13-22



**13** When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

**14** In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

**15** So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.



**16** To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!”

**17** His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

**18** Then the Jews demanded of him, “What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

**19** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

**20** They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"

**21** But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

**22** After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

# 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

“Jesus Clears the Temple Courts”



# “To God Be The Glory” UMH 98

Words: Fanny J. Crosty, 1875; Music: William H. Doane, 1875

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



“To God Be The Glory” UMH 98

Words: Fanny J. Crosty, 1875; Music: William H. Doane, 1875

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

To God be the glory great things He  
has done  
So loved He the world that He gave  
us His Son  
Who yielded His life an atonement for  
sin  
And opened the life gate that all may  
go in



# “To God Be The Glory” UMH 98

Words: Fanny J. Crosty, 1875; Music: William H. Doane, 1875

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Praise the Lord praise the Lord

Let the earth hear His voice

Praise the Lord praise the Lord

Let the people rejoice

O come to the Father through Jesus

the Son

And give Him the glory great things

He has done

# “To God Be The Glory” UMH 98

Words: Fanny J. Crosty, 1875; Music: William H. Doane, 1875

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

O perfect redemption the purchase of  
blood

To every believer the promise of God  
The vilest offender who truly believes  
That moment from Jesus a pardon  
receives

# “To God Be The Glory” UMH 98

Words: Fanny J. Crosty, 1875; Music: William H. Doane, 1875

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Praise the Lord praise the Lord

Let the earth hear His voice

Praise the Lord praise the Lord

Let the people rejoice

O come to the Father through Jesus

the Son

And give Him the glory great things

He has done

# “To God Be The Glory” UMH 98

Words: Fanny J. Crosty, 1875; Music: William H. Doane, 1875

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Great things He has taught us

Great things He has done

And great our rejoicing through Jesus  
the Son

But purer and higher and greater will  
be

Our wonder our transport when Jesus  
we see

# “To God Be The Glory” UMH 98

Words: Fanny J. Crosty, 1875; Music: William H. Doane, 1875

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Praise the Lord praise the Lord

Let the earth hear His voice

Praise the Lord praise the Lord

Let the people rejoice

O come to the Father through Jesus

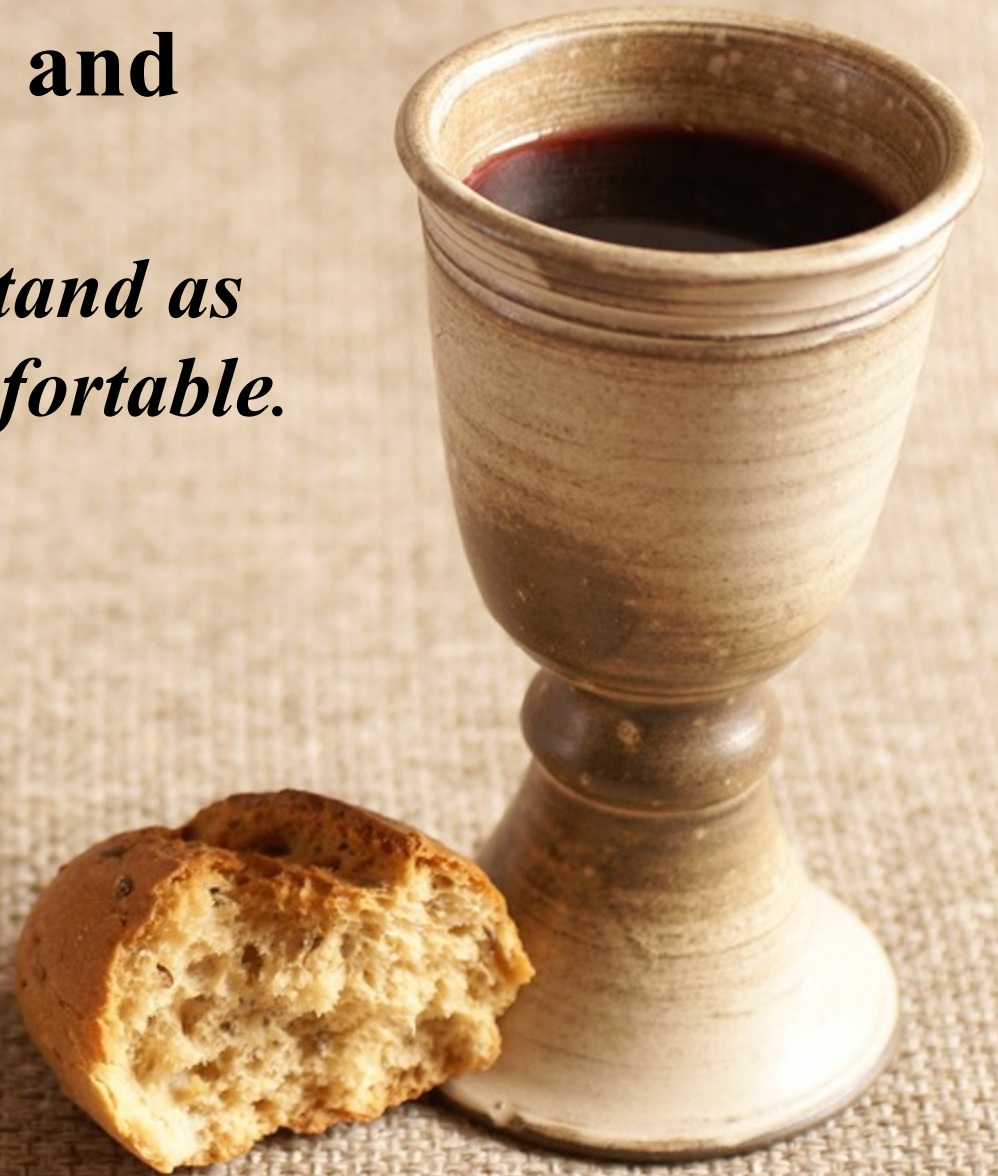
the Son

And give Him the glory great things

He has done

**INVITATION,  
CONFESSION, and  
PARDON**

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

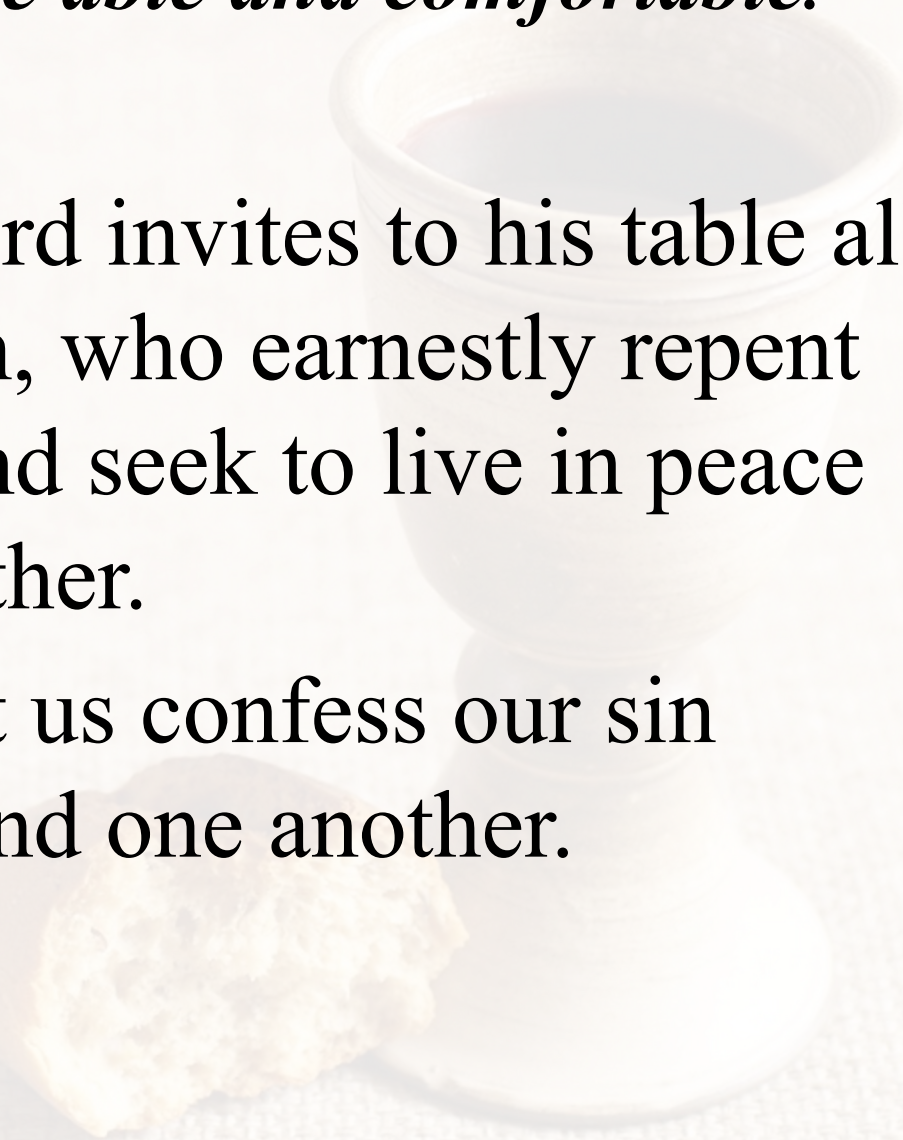


# INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

*Leader:* Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.



# **INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON**

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**



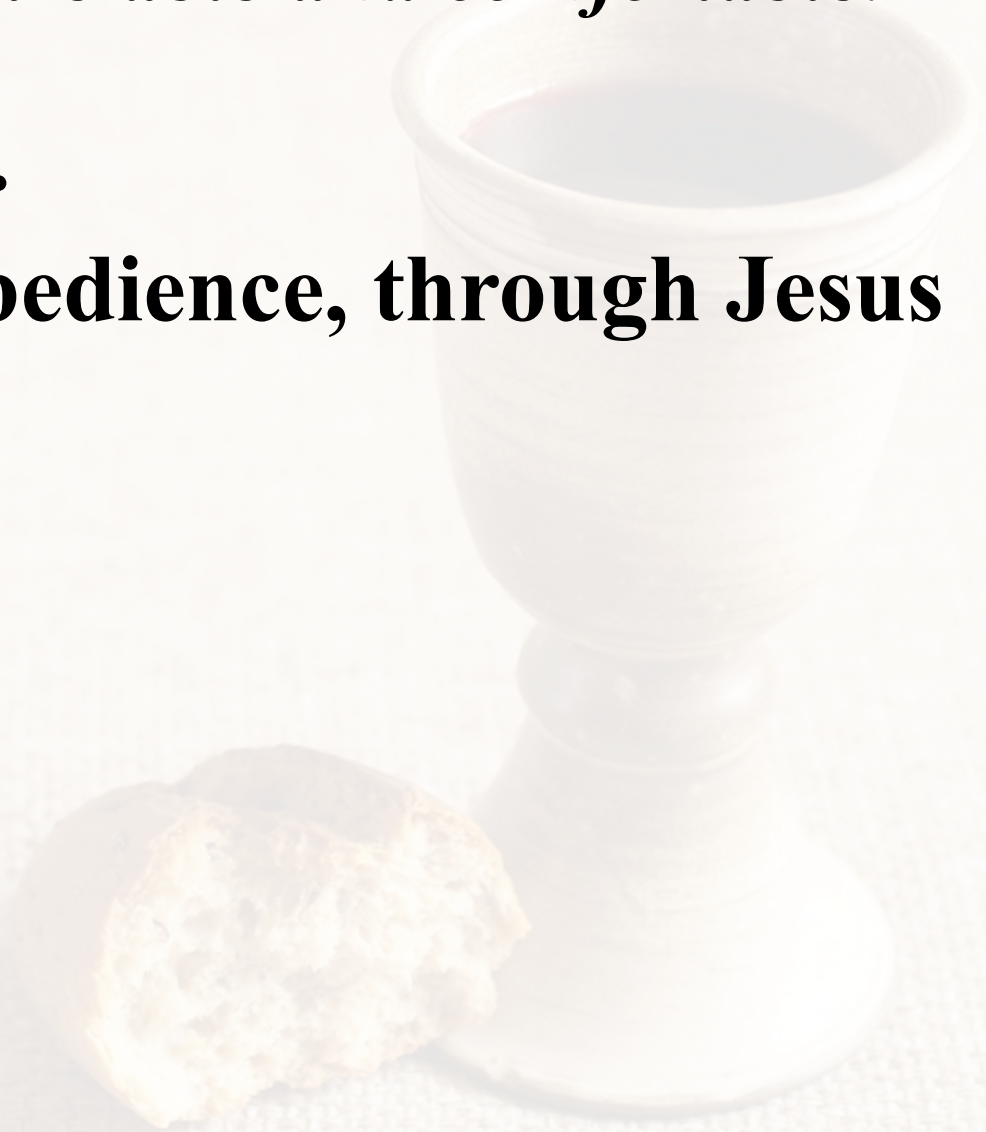
# **INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON**

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**



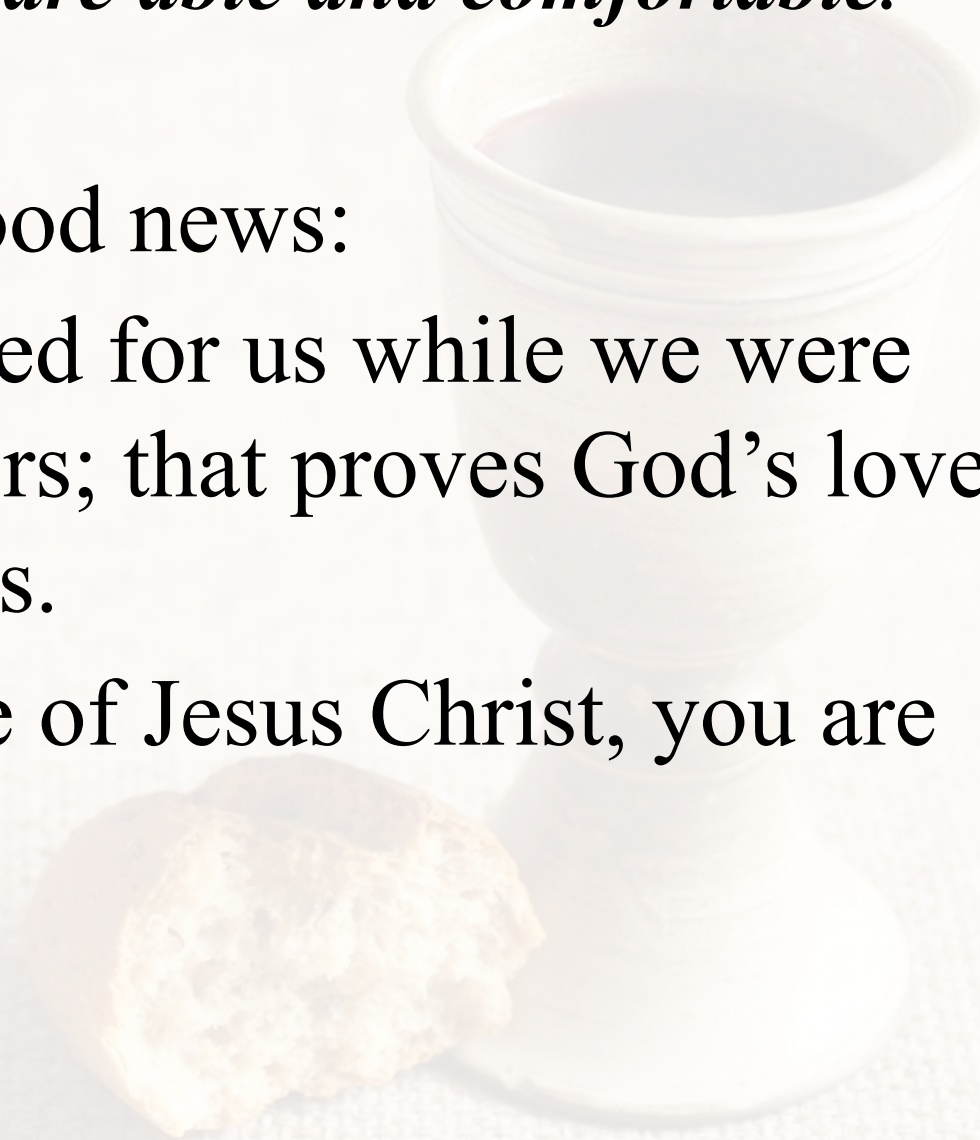
# INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

*Leader:* Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

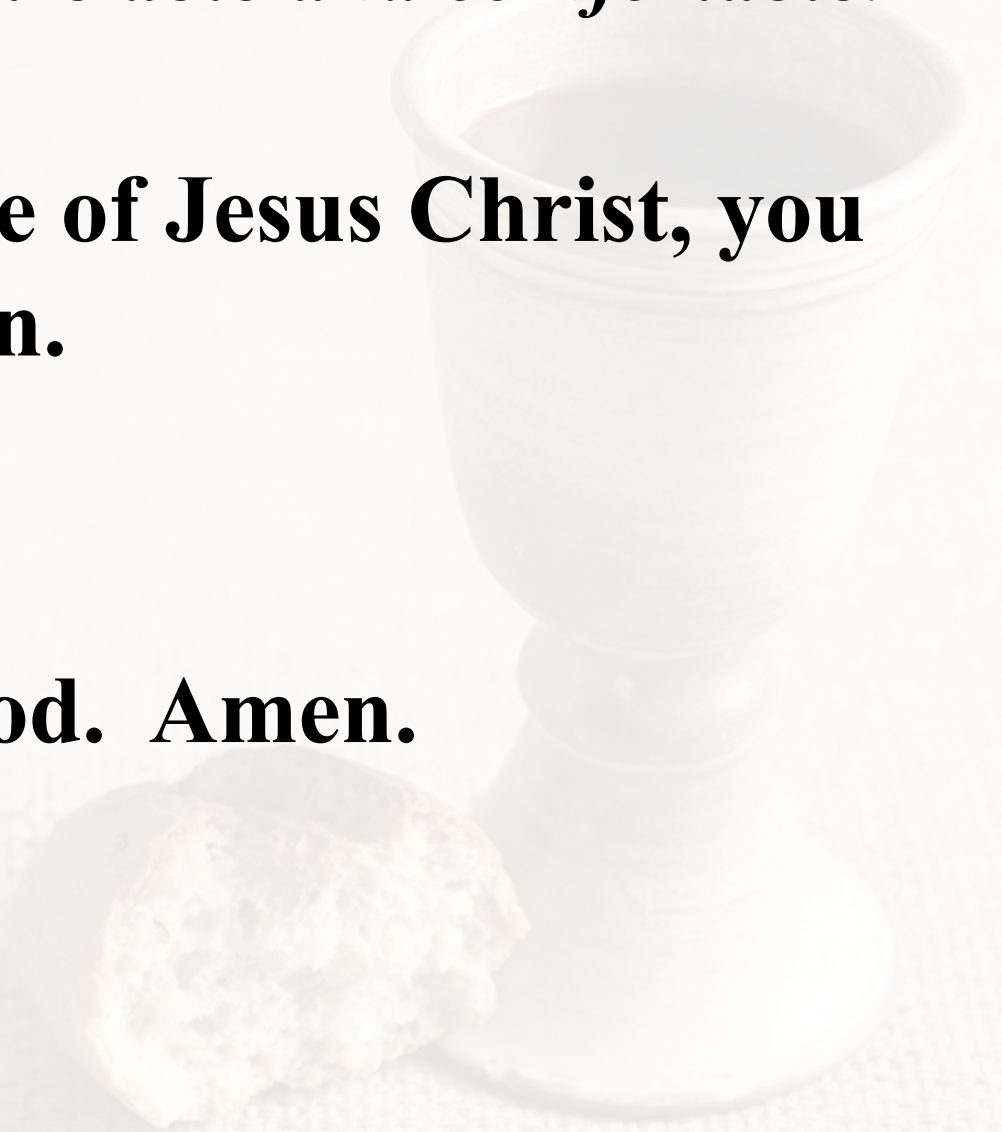


# INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

*People:* **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

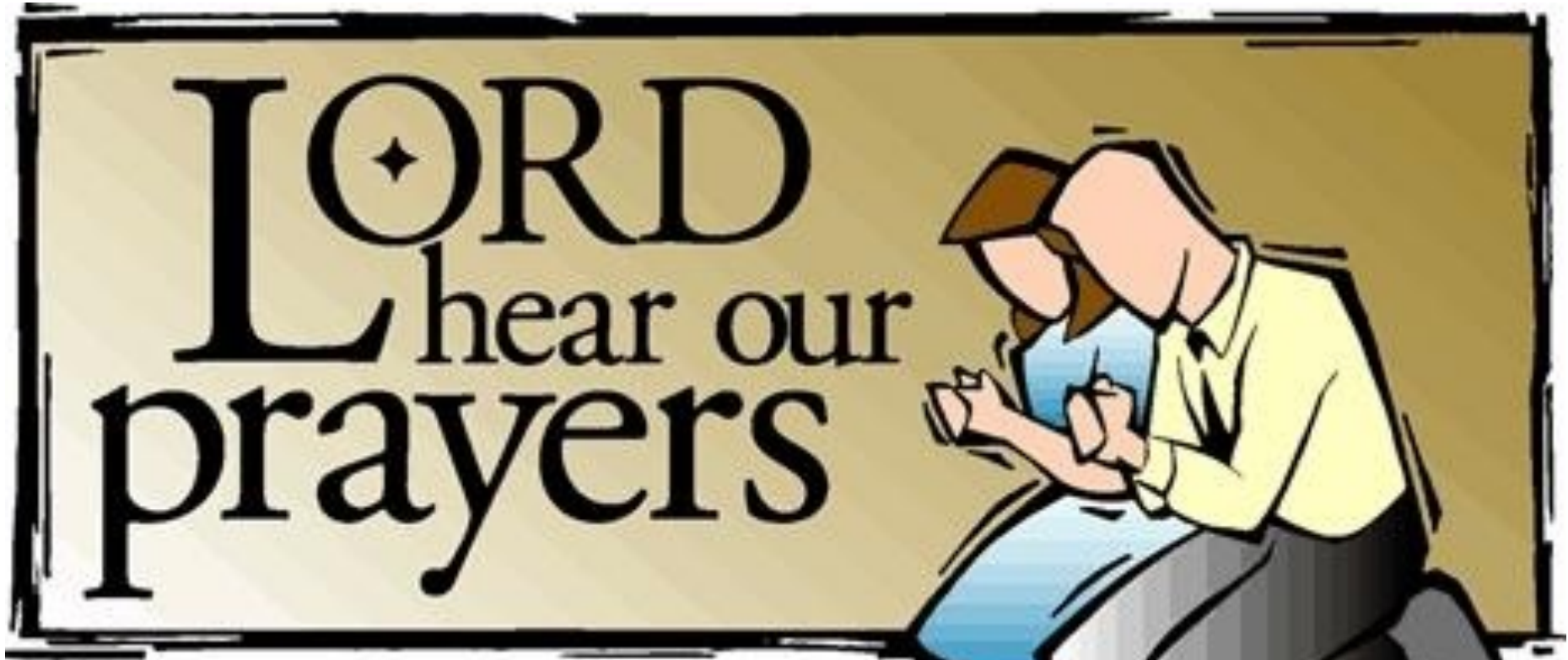
*All:* **Glory to God. Amen.**





**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

# PRAYERS of the PEOPLE



*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!



---

# Offertory Prayer

---

A wooden cross stands against a blue sky with white clouds. The cross is made of two simple wooden beams, one vertical and one horizontal, meeting at a central point. The sky is a vibrant blue, and the clouds are soft and white, scattered across the upper half of the image. The cross is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the frame.

# **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**UMH p. 13**

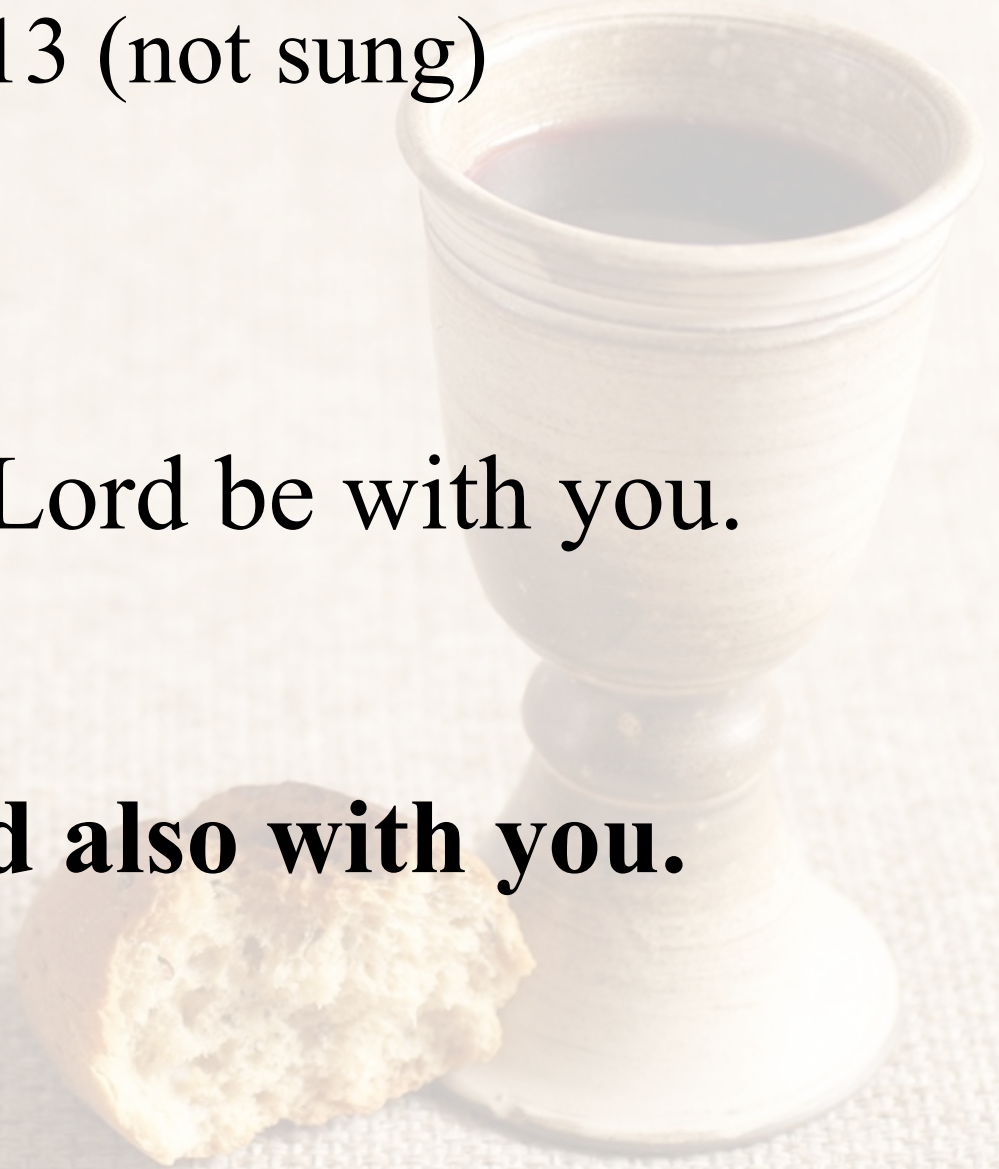


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

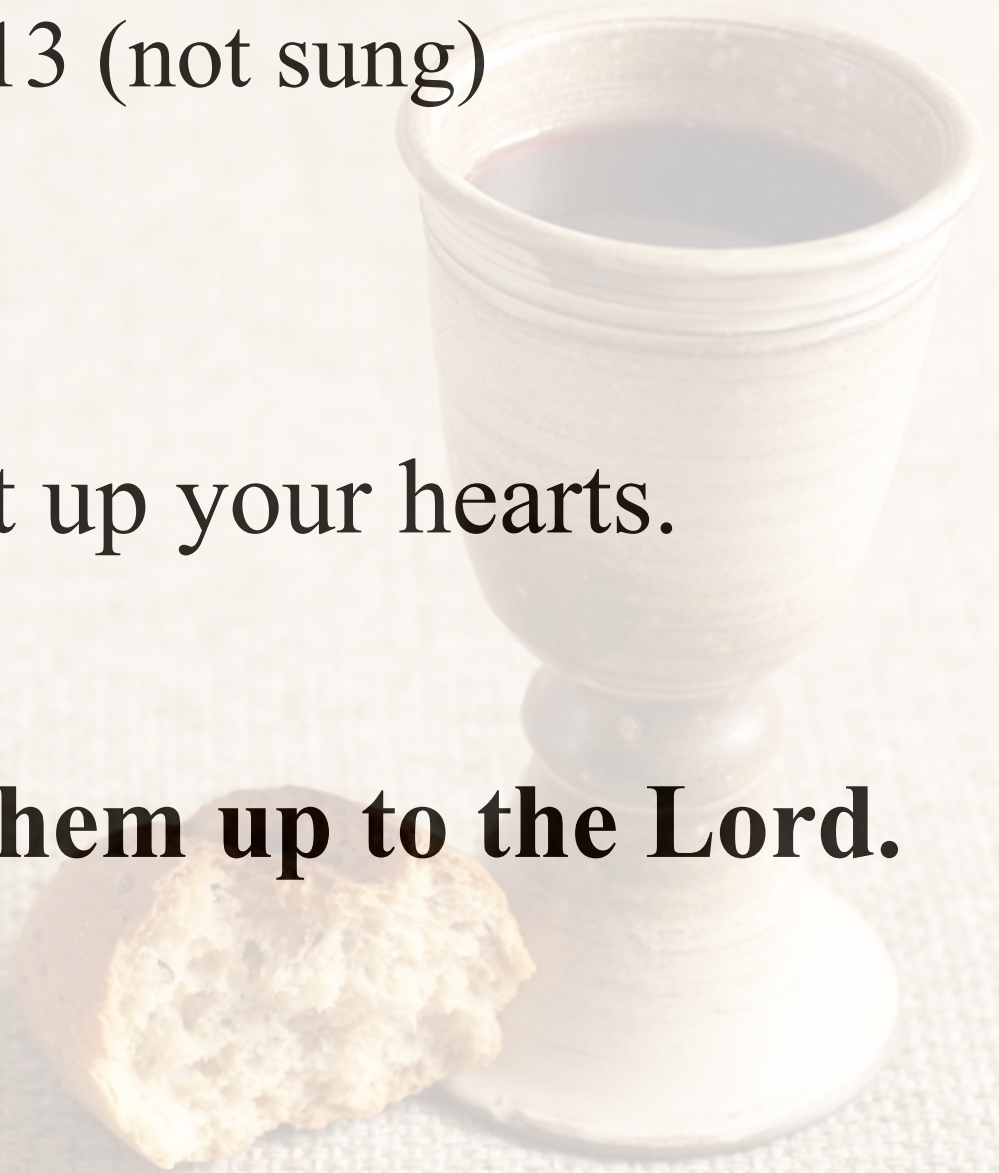


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

*Leader:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them up to the Lord.

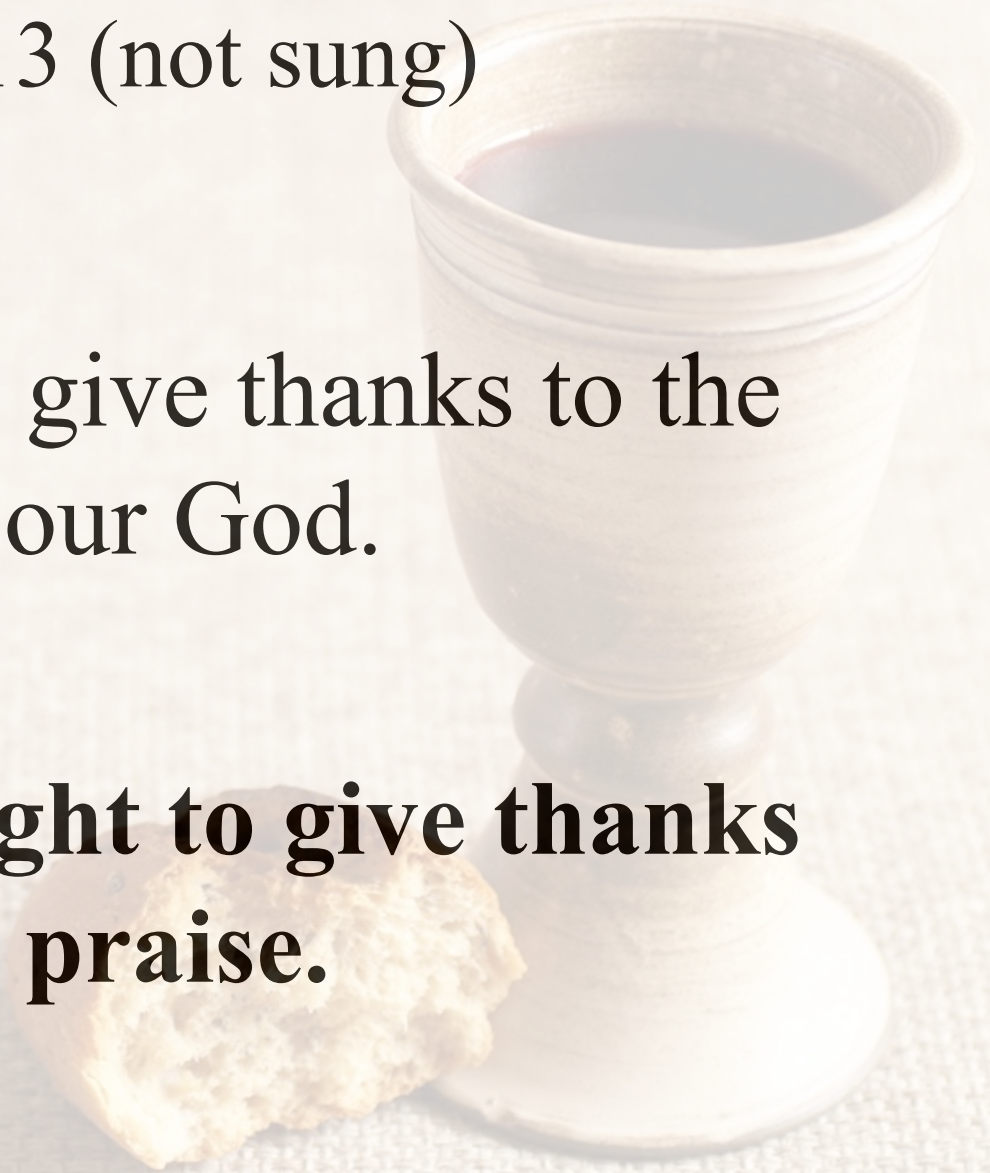


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

*Leader:* Let us give thanks to the  
Lord our God.

*People:* It is right to give thanks  
and praise.

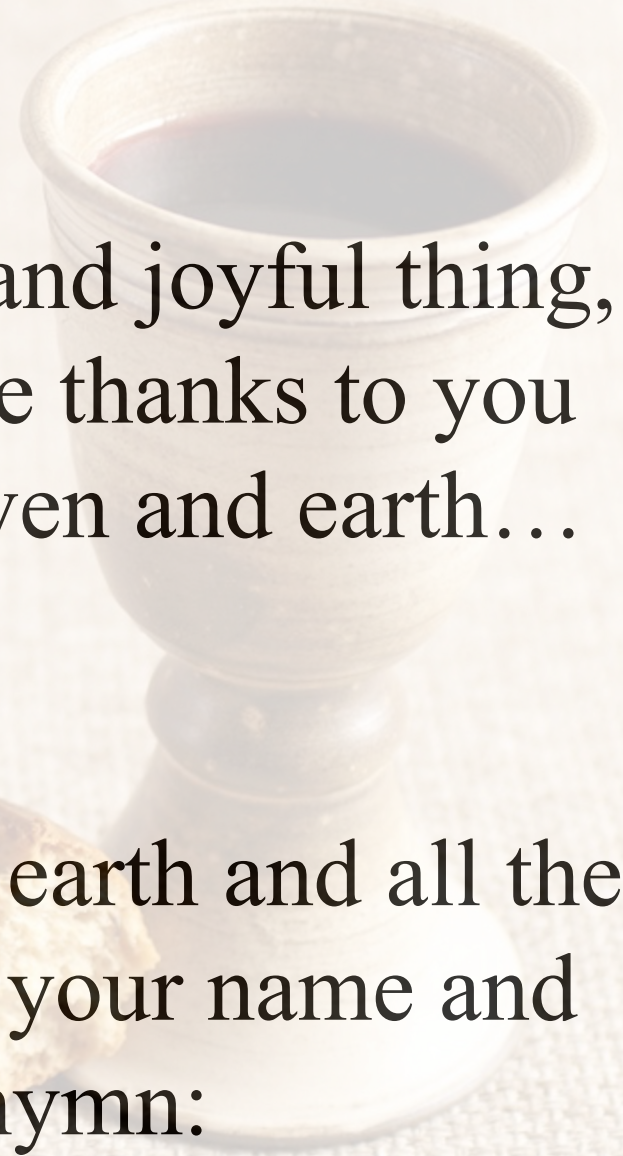


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth...

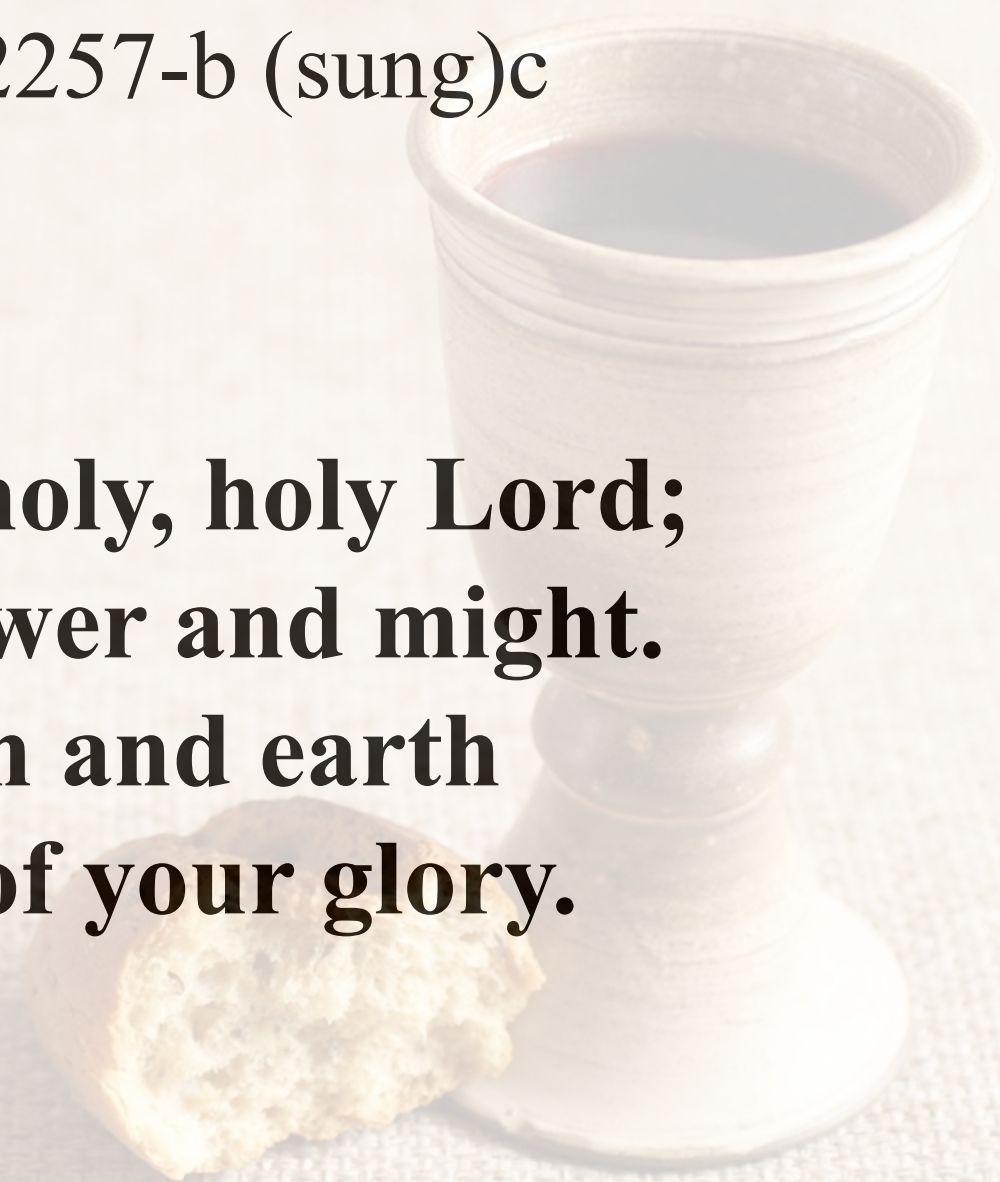
... and so, with your people on earth and all the  
company of heaven we praise your name and  
join their unending hymn:



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

TFWS #2257-b (sung)c

*All:* Holy, holy, holy Lord;  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.

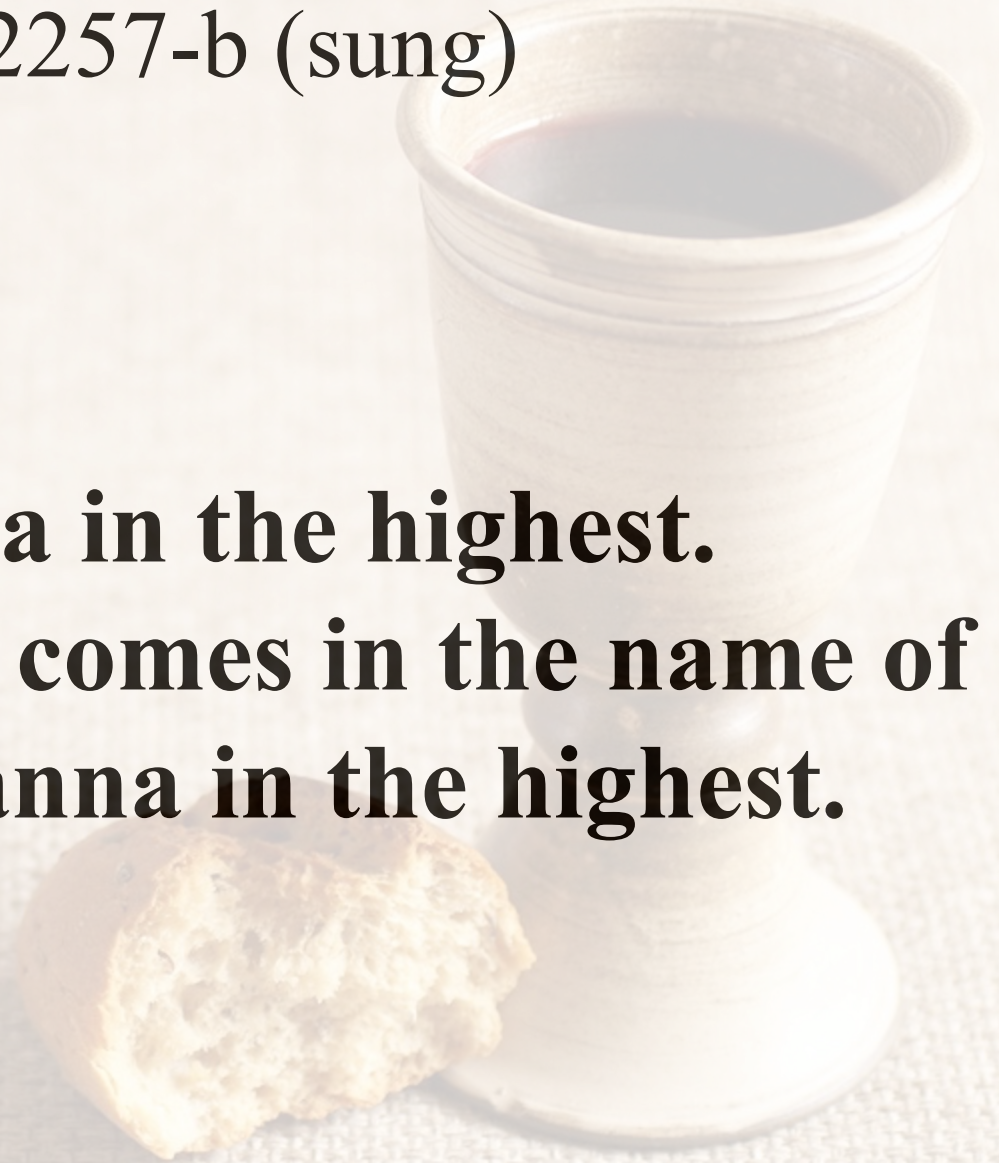


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

TFWS #2257-b (sung)

*All:* Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of  
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**



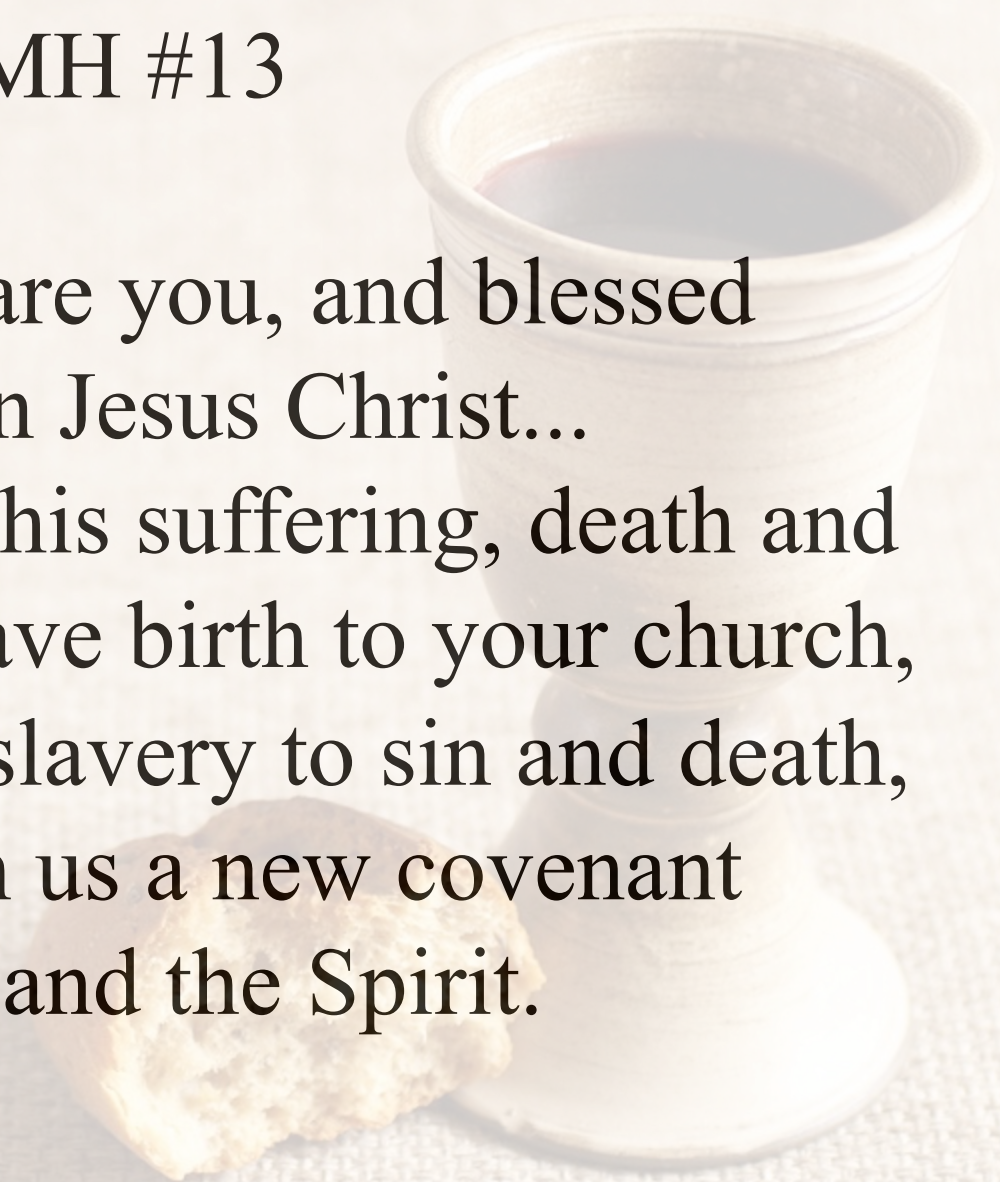


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* Holy are you, and blessed  
is your Son Jesus Christ...

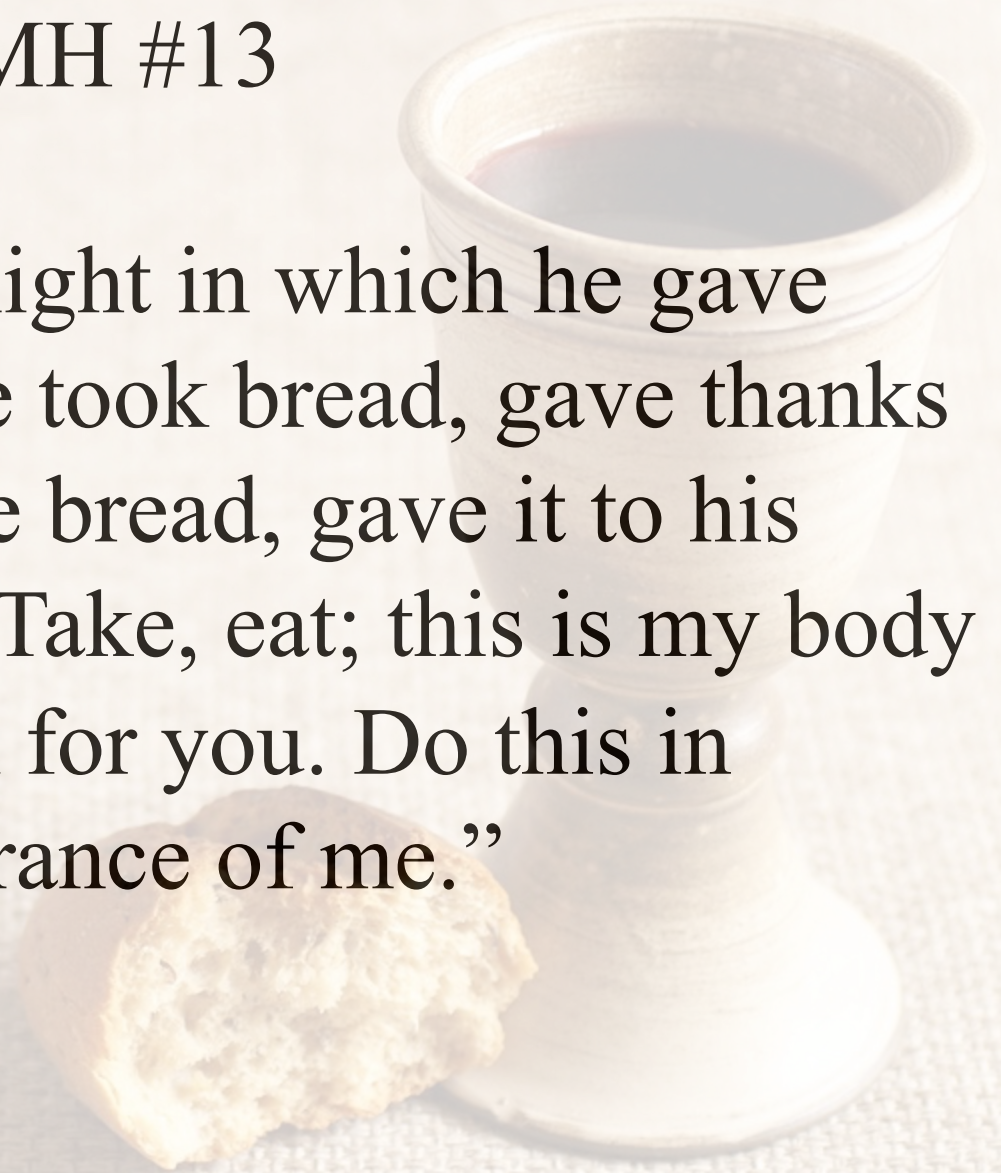
By the baptism of his suffering, death and  
resurrection you gave birth to your church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant  
by water and the Spirit.



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

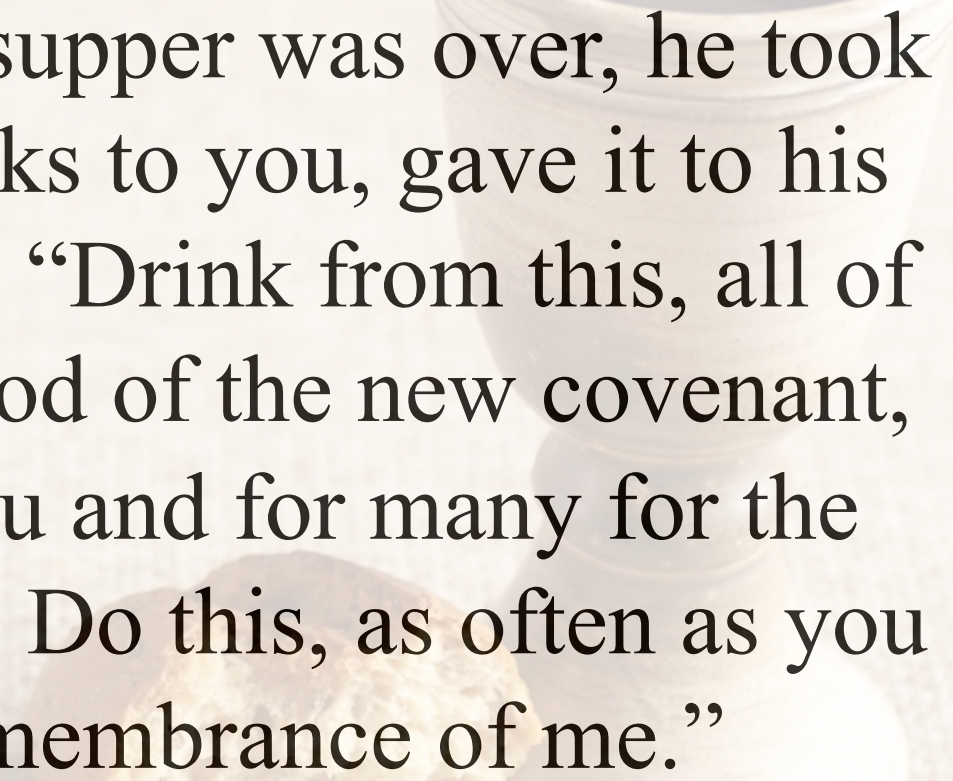
*Leader:* On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

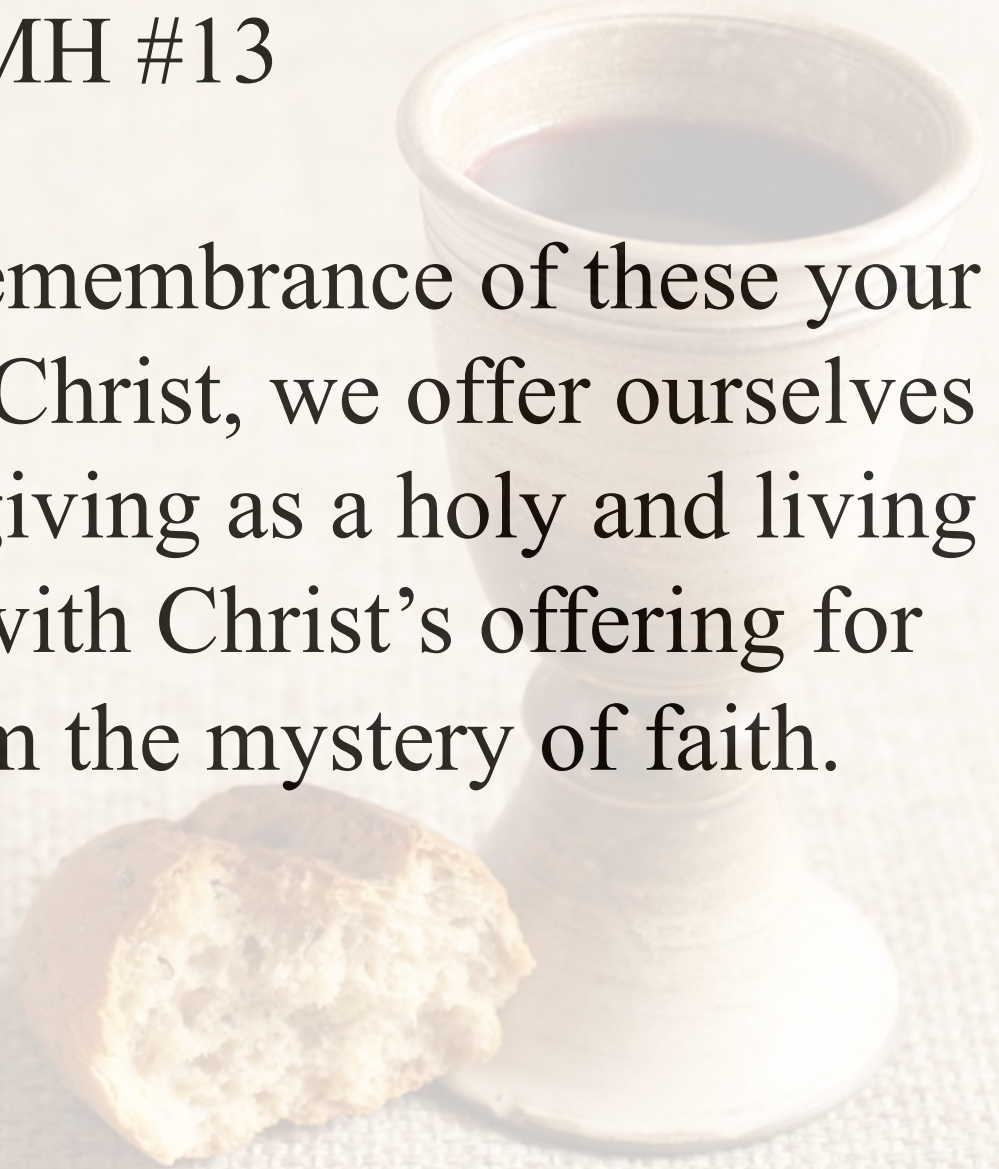
*Leader:* When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

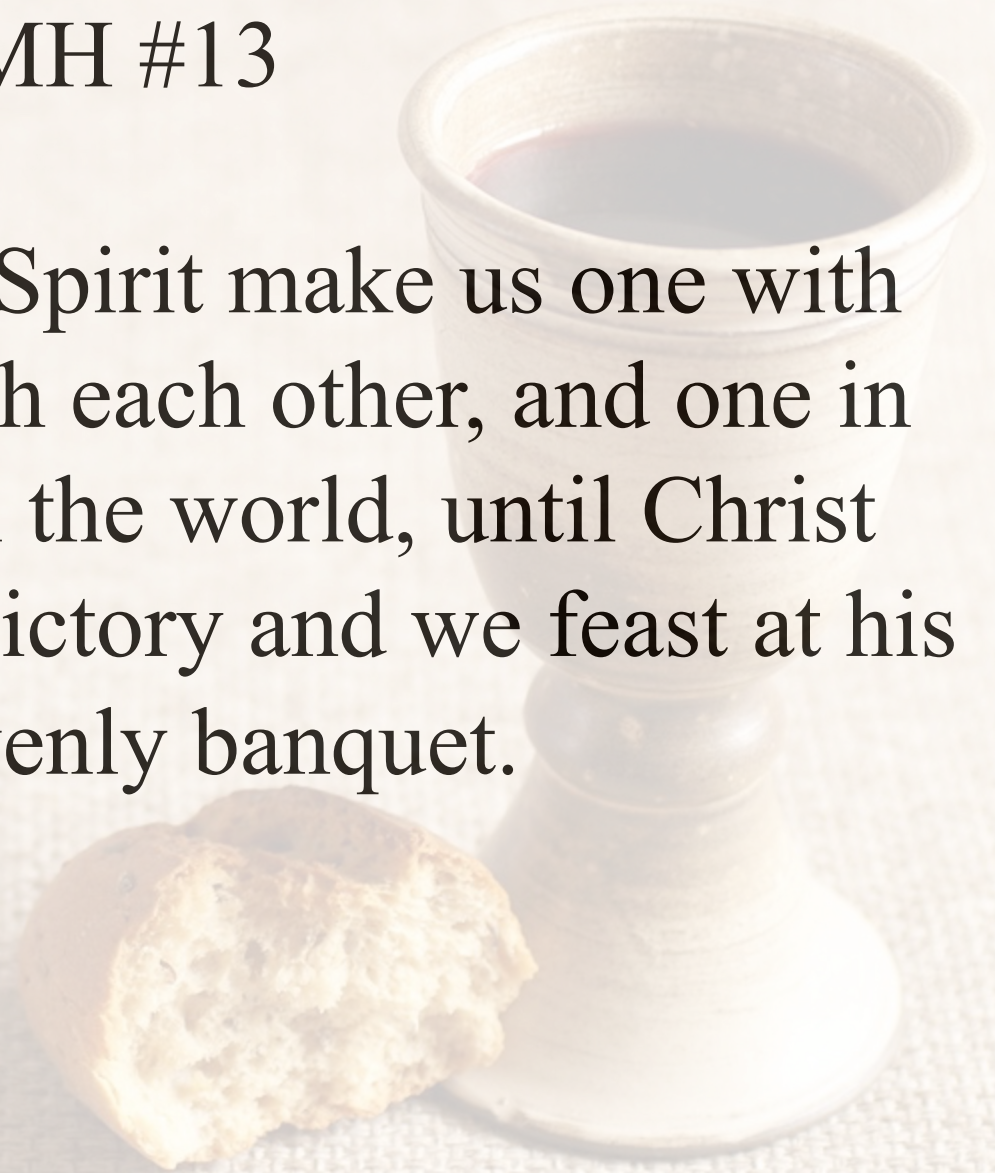
*All:* **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*Leader:* Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

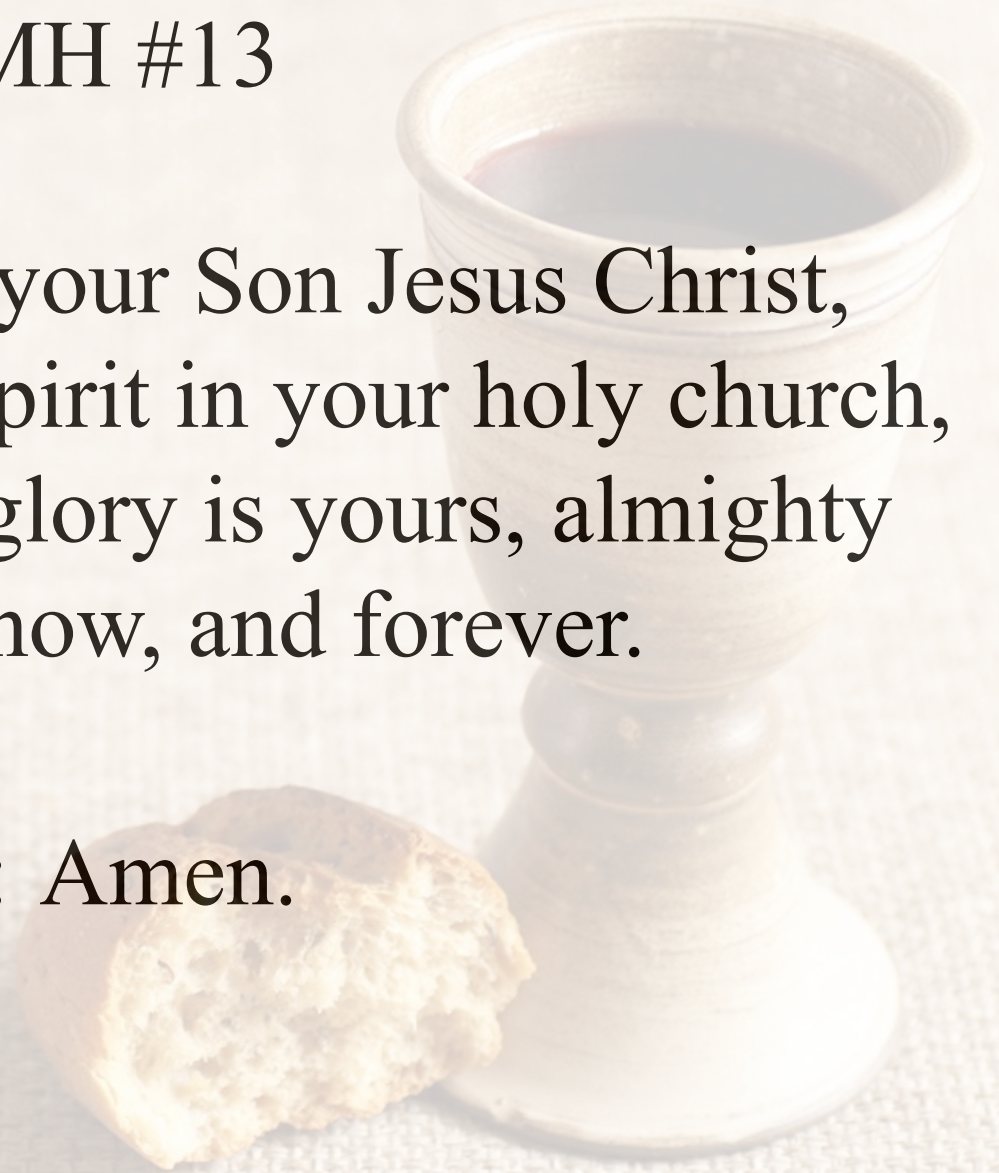


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty  
Father, now, and forever.

*All:* Amen.



# 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.**



# “Because He Lives” UMH 364

WORDS: Gloria and William J. Gaither, 1971    MUSIC: William J. Gaither, 1971

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**God sent his Son,  
they called him Jesus;  
he came to love,  
heal, and forgive;  
he lived and died  
to buy my pardon,  
an empty grave is there  
to prove my Savior lives.**

# “Because He Lives” UMH 364

WORDS: Gloria and William J. Gaither, 1971    MUSIC: William J. Gaither, 1971

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**Because he lives,  
I can face tomorrow;  
because he lives,  
all fear is gone;  
because I know  
he holds the future,  
and life is worth the living  
just because he lives.**

# “Because He Lives” UMH 364

WORDS: Gloria and William J. Gaither, 1971    MUSIC: William J. Gaither, 1971

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**How sweet to hold  
a newborn baby,  
and feel the pride  
and joy he gives;  
but greater still  
the calm assurance,  
this child can face uncertain  
days because he lives.**

# “Because He Lives” UMH 364

WORDS: Gloria and William J. Gaither, 1971    MUSIC: William J. Gaither, 1971

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**Because he lives,  
I can face tomorrow;  
because he lives,  
all fear is gone;  
because I know  
he holds the future,  
and life is worth the living  
just because he lives.**

# “Because He Lives” UMH 364

WORDS: Gloria and William J. Gaither, 1971    MUSIC: William J. Gaither, 1971

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**And then one day  
I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final  
war with pain;  
and then as death  
gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory  
and I'll know he reigns.**

# “Because He Lives” UMH 364

WORDS: Gloria and William J. Gaither, 1971    MUSIC: William J. Gaither, 1971

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**Because he lives,  
I can face tomorrow;  
because he lives,  
all fear is gone;  
because I know  
he holds the future,  
and life is worth the living  
just because he lives.**





**BENEDICTION**

# “On Eagle’s Wings” UMH 143

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

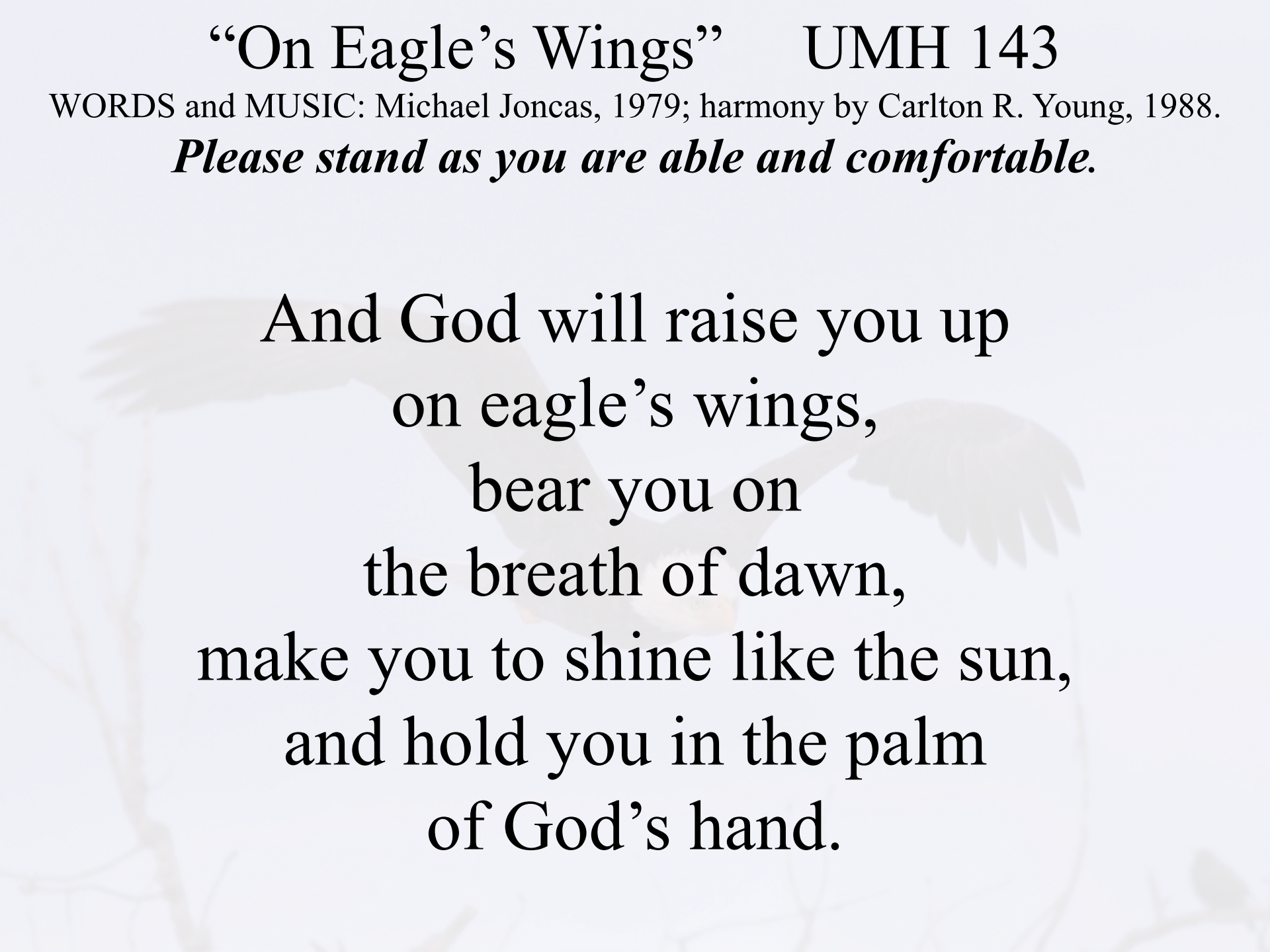
*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



# “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

**How can you clean the temple of  
your body and soul?**

# 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.