

# PRELUDE

Pastor:

Rev. Victor Gomez

*Fifth Sunday of  
Easter*

April 28<sup>th</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**

“Goodness is Stronger  
than Evil”

# CALL to WORSHIP

*Leader:* Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you.

*People:* **Do not accuse anyone for no reason—when they have done you no harm.**

# CALL to WORSHIP

*Leader:* Do not envy the violent or choose any of their ways.

*People:* **For the Lord detests the perverse but takes the upright into his confidence.**

# CALL to WORSHIP

*Leader:* The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.

*People:* **He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.**

*Leader:* The wise inherit honor, but fools get only shame.

# “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” UMH 400

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758    MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813*

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*





# “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” UMH 400

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758    MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for song of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.

# “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” UMH 400

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758    MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

# “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” UMH 400

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758    MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

# OPENING PRAYER

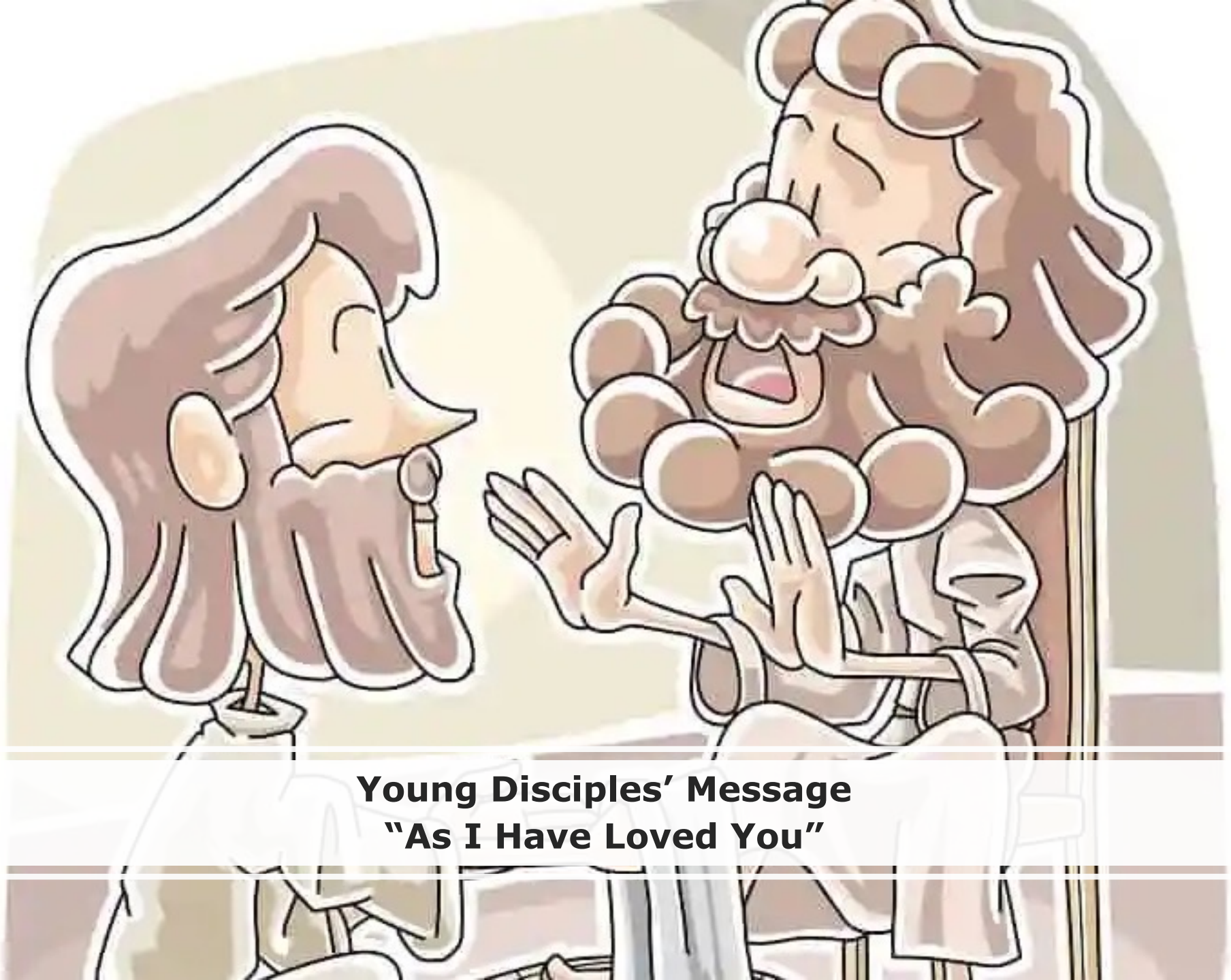
**O God, you have prepared  
for those who love you  
such good  
things as surpass our  
understanding: Pour into  
our hearts such  
love towards you, that  
we, loving you in all  
things and above  
all things, may obtain  
your promises, which  
exceed all that we  
can desire;**



# **OPENING PRAYER**

**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**  
**"As I Have Loved You"**

# **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Lord, open our heart and  
minds  
By the power of your Holy  
Spirit,  
That, as the Scriptures are  
read  
And your Word  
proclaimed,  
We may hear with joy  
what you say to us today.  
Amen.**





John 1: 6-8



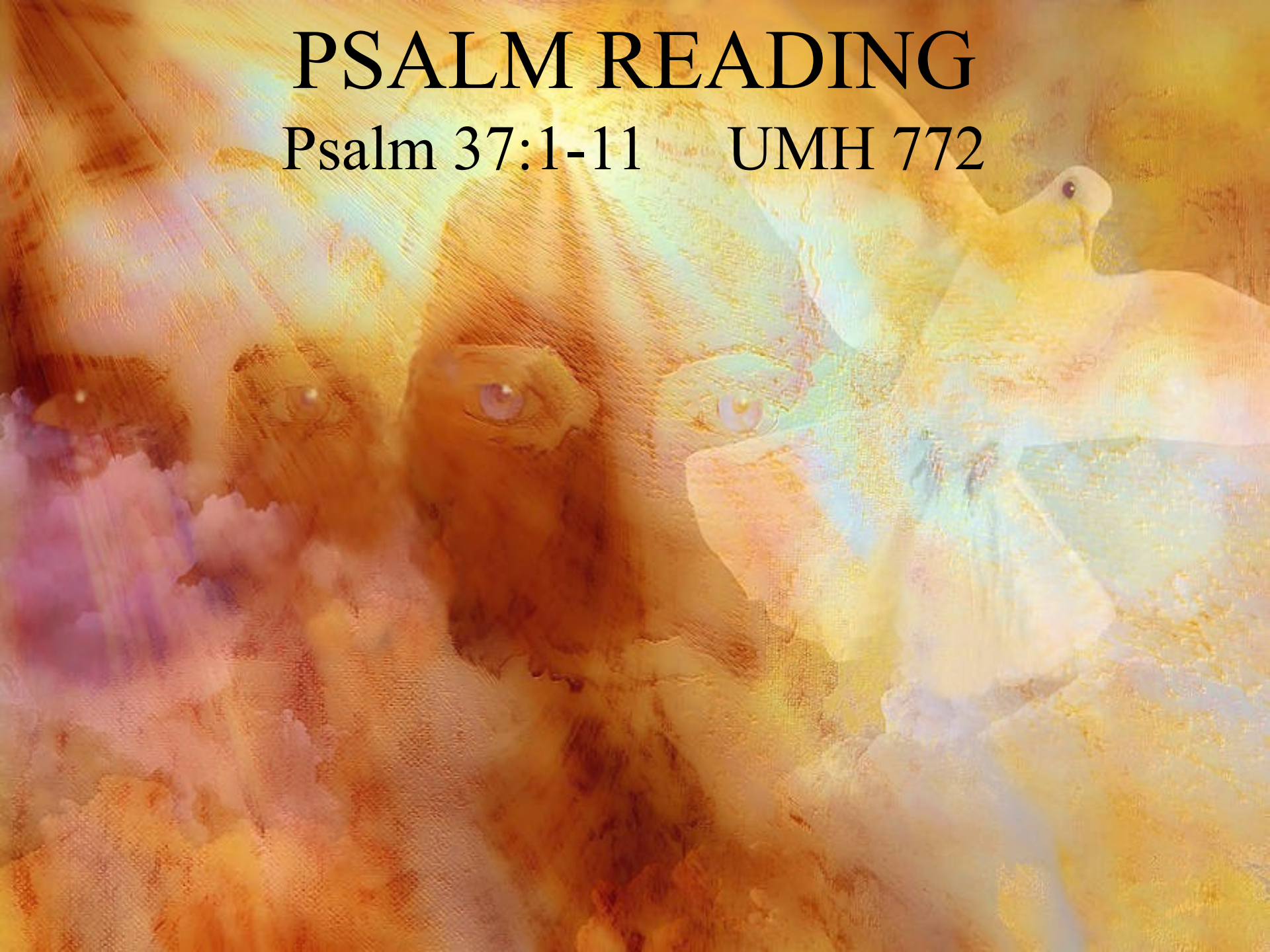
**6** There was a man sent from God; his name  
was John.

**7** He came as a witness to testify concerning  
that light, so that through him all men might  
believe.

**8** He himself was not the light; he came only  
as a witness to the light.

# PSALM READING

Psalm 37:1-11      UMH 772



# PSALM READING

Psalm 37:1-11      UMH 772

***Leader:*** <sup>1</sup>Do not be angry because of the wicked, do not be envious of wrongdoers!

***People:*** <sup>2</sup>For they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

# PSALM READING

Psalm 37:1-11      UMH 772

***Leader:*** <sup>3</sup>Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security.

***People:*** <sup>4</sup>Take delight in the Lord, who will give you the desires of your heart.

# PSALM READING

Psalm 37:1-11      UMH 772

***Leader:*** <sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the Lord; trust in God, who will act, <sup>6</sup>bringing forth your vindication as the light, and your right as the noonday.

***People:*** <sup>7</sup>Be still and wait patiently before the Lord; do not be angry because of those who prosper in their way, because of those who carry out evil devices!

# PSALM READING

Psalm 37:1-11      UMH 772

*Leader:* <sup>8</sup>Refrain from anger,  
and forsake wrath! Do not be angry;  
it leads only to evil.

*People:* <sup>9</sup>For the wicked shall be cut off;  
but those who wait for the Lord shall  
possess the land.

# PSALM READING

Psalm 37:1-11      UMH 772

*Leader:* <sup>10</sup> Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look at their place, they will not be there.

*People:* <sup>11</sup> But the meek shall possess the land, and delight in abundant prosperity.



John 1: 19-28



**19** Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

**20** He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

**21** They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

**22** Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

**23** John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

**24** Now the Pharisees who had been sent

**25** questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

**26** “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know.

**27** He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

**28** This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

# 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

"Do No Harm"





# “Blessed Assurance” UMH 369

WORDS: Franny J. Crosby, 1873    MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



# “Blessed Assurance” UMH 369

WORDS: Franny J. Crosby, 1873    MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.



# “Blessed Assurance” UMH 369

WORDS: Franny J. Crosby, 1873    MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.



# “Blessed Assurance” UMH 369

WORDS: Franny J. Crosby, 1873    MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.



# “Blessed Assurance” UMH 369

WORDS: Franny J. Crosby, 1873    MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.



# “Blessed Assurance” UMH 369

WORDS: Franny J. Crosby, 1873    MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.



# “Blessed Assurance” UMH 369

WORDS: Franny J. Crosby, 1873    MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

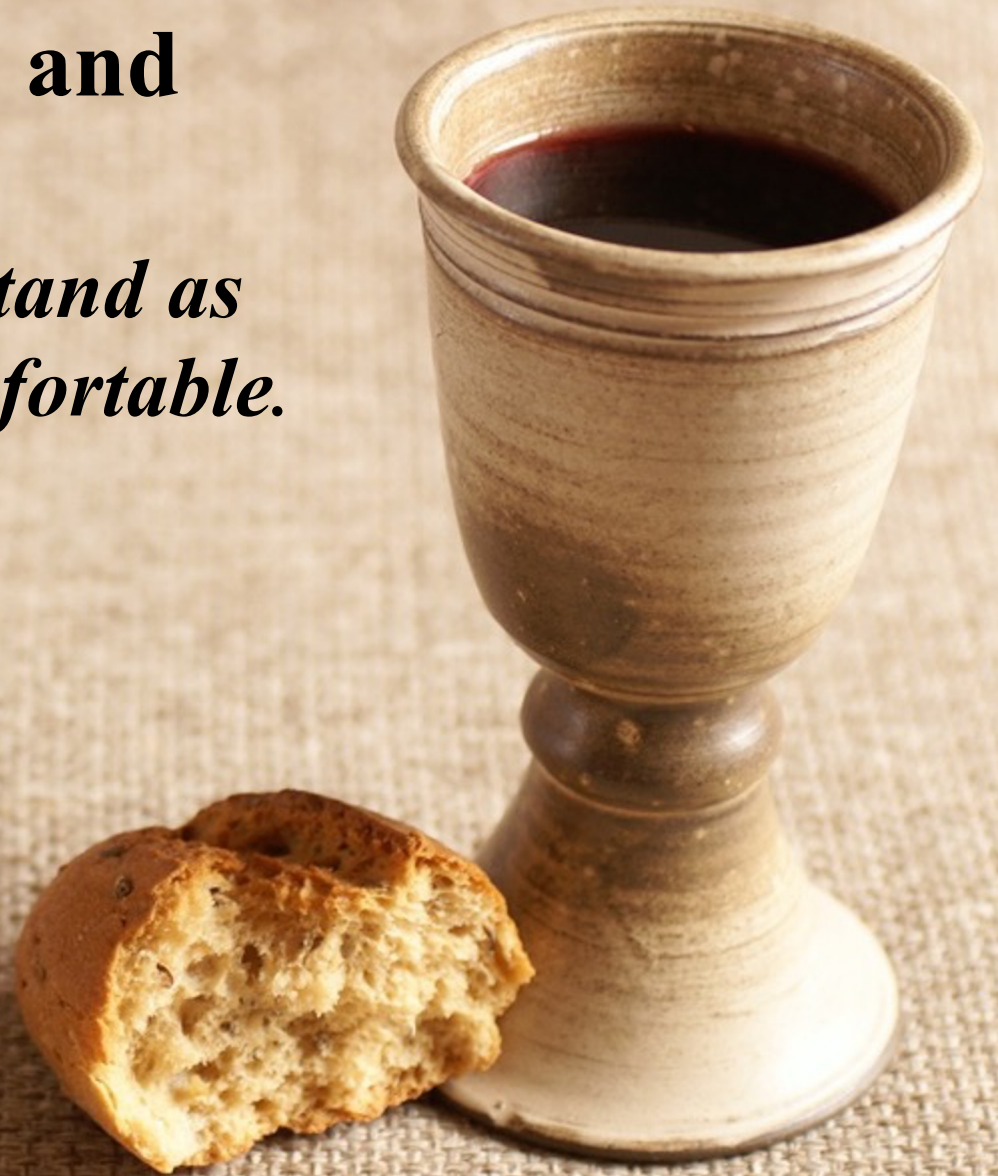
*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.



**INVITATION,  
CONFESSION, and  
PARDON**

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



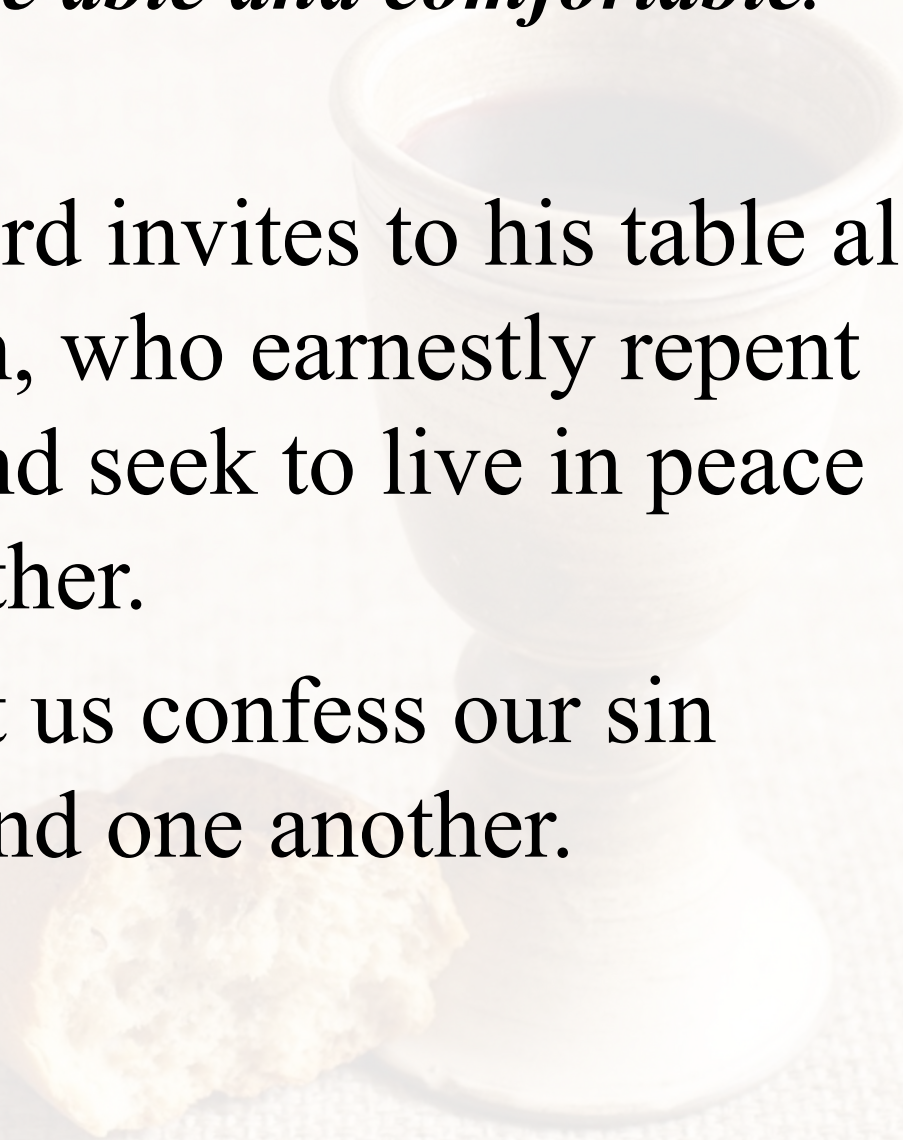


# INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

*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.**

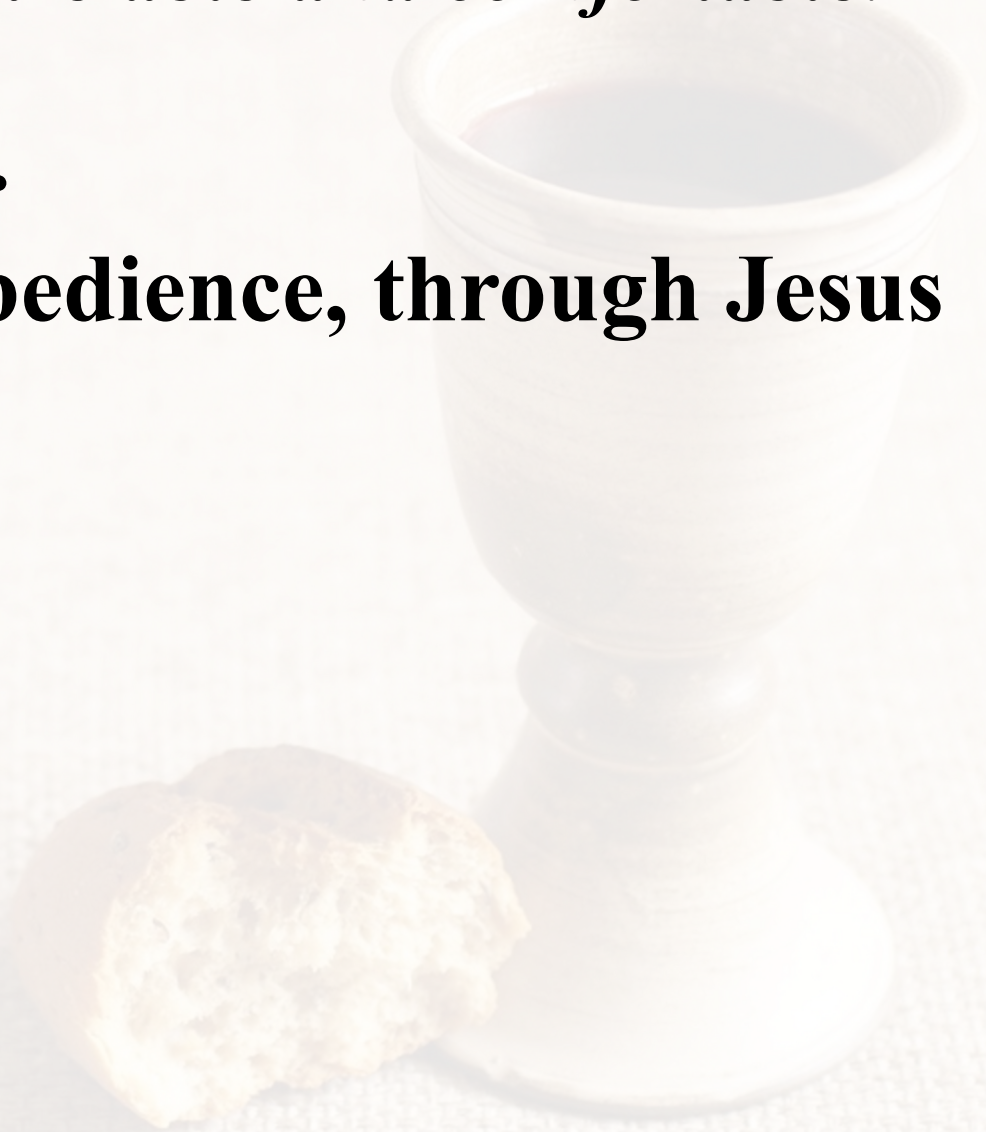
# **INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON**

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**Forgive us, we pray.**

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

**Amen.**



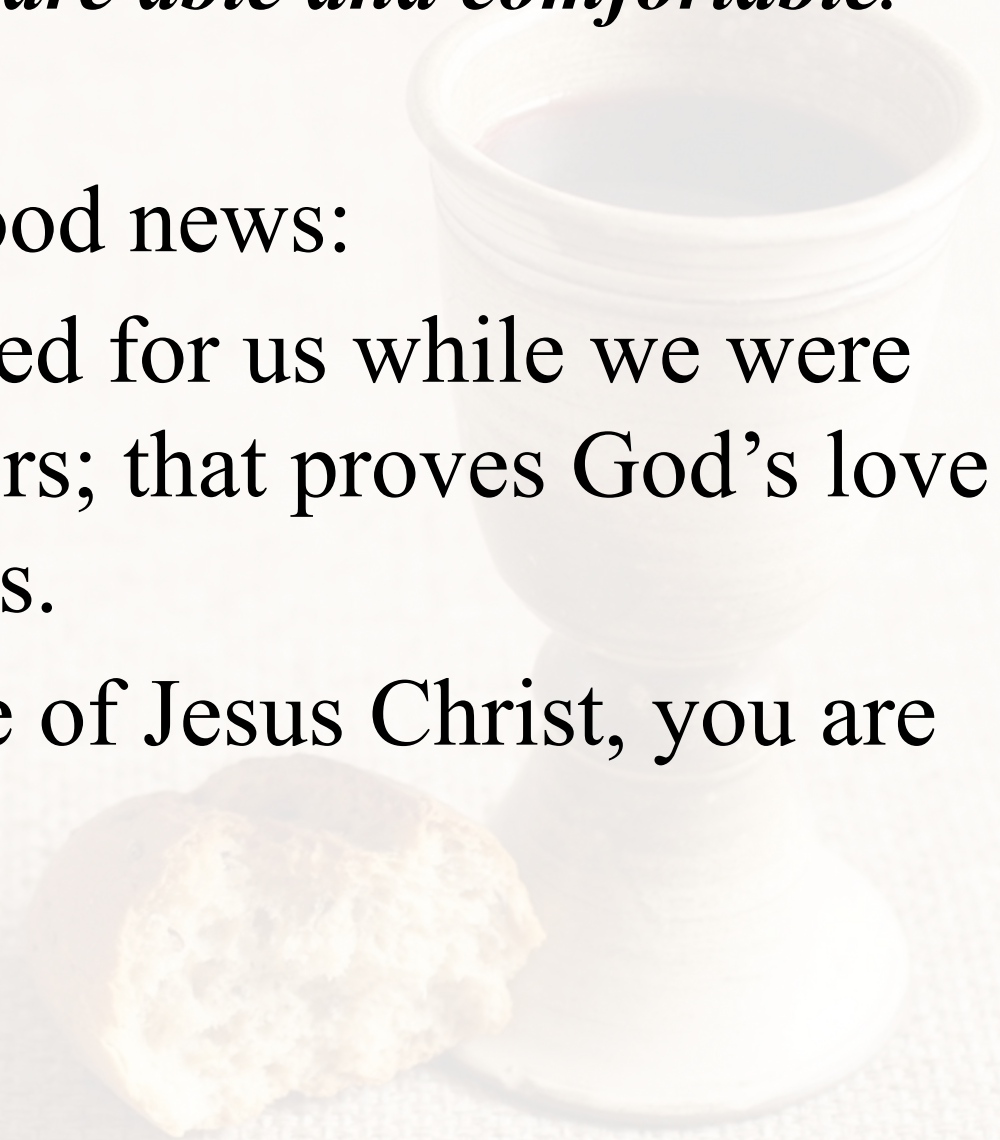
# INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

*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!

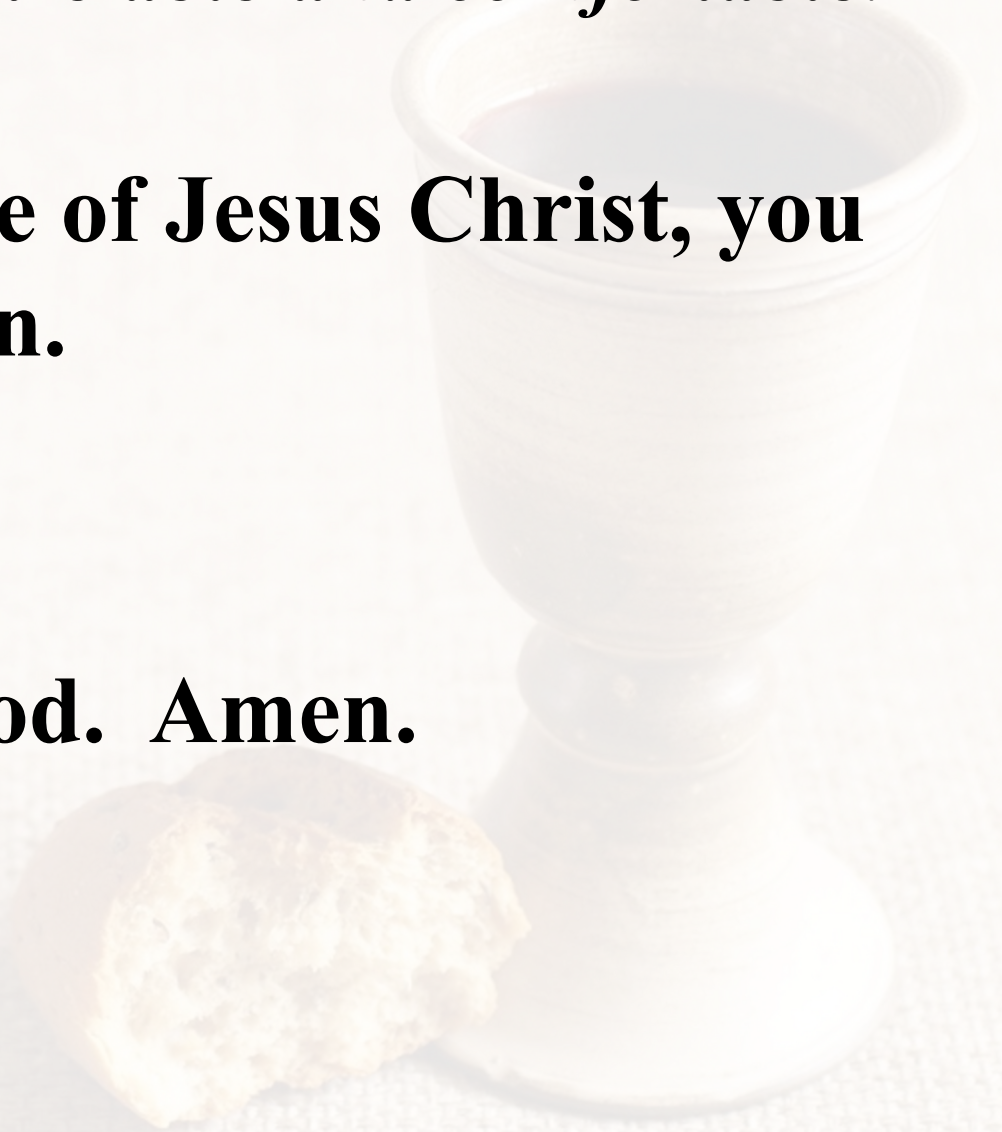


# INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

*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

LORD hear our  
prayers



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



# Pastoral Prayer

301
308
310
323
323
327
330
330
331
344
346
284
284
286



The background of the slide is a light blue wooden surface with a vertical grain. Scattered across the surface are several white cherry blossoms with yellow stamens and pinkish centers, along with some fallen petals. The flowers are primarily located in the corners and along the edges, framing the central text.

# 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!

The background of the entire image is a light blue wooden surface with a visible grain. Scattered across this surface are numerous white cherry blossoms in various stages of bloom. Some are fully open, showing five petals and prominent yellow stamens with pinkish-red centers. Others are buds or partially open. Some petals have fallen and are lying flat on the wood. The overall composition is a soft, naturalistic floral arrangement.

# Offertory Prayer

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH p. 13

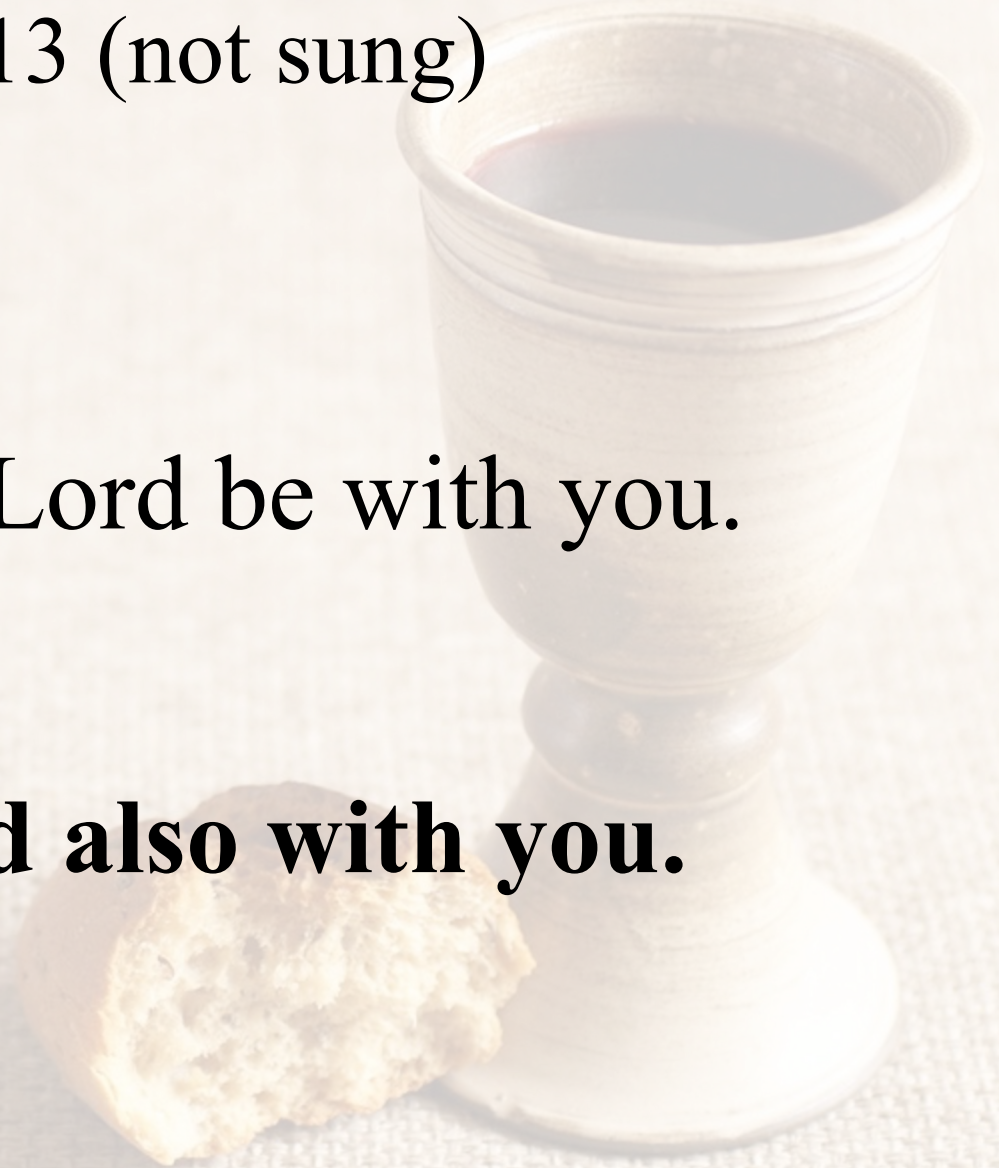


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

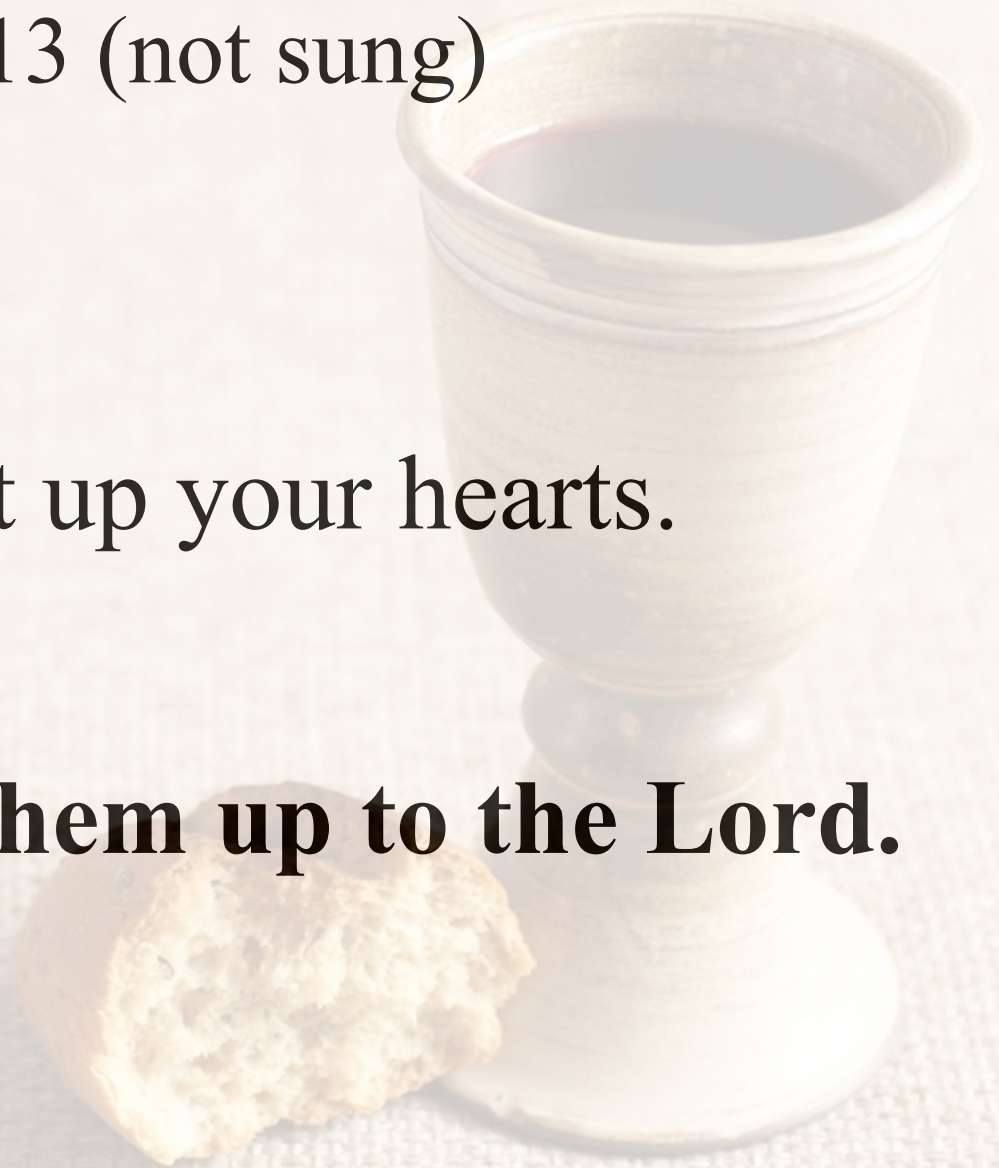


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

*Leader:* Lift up your hearts.

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

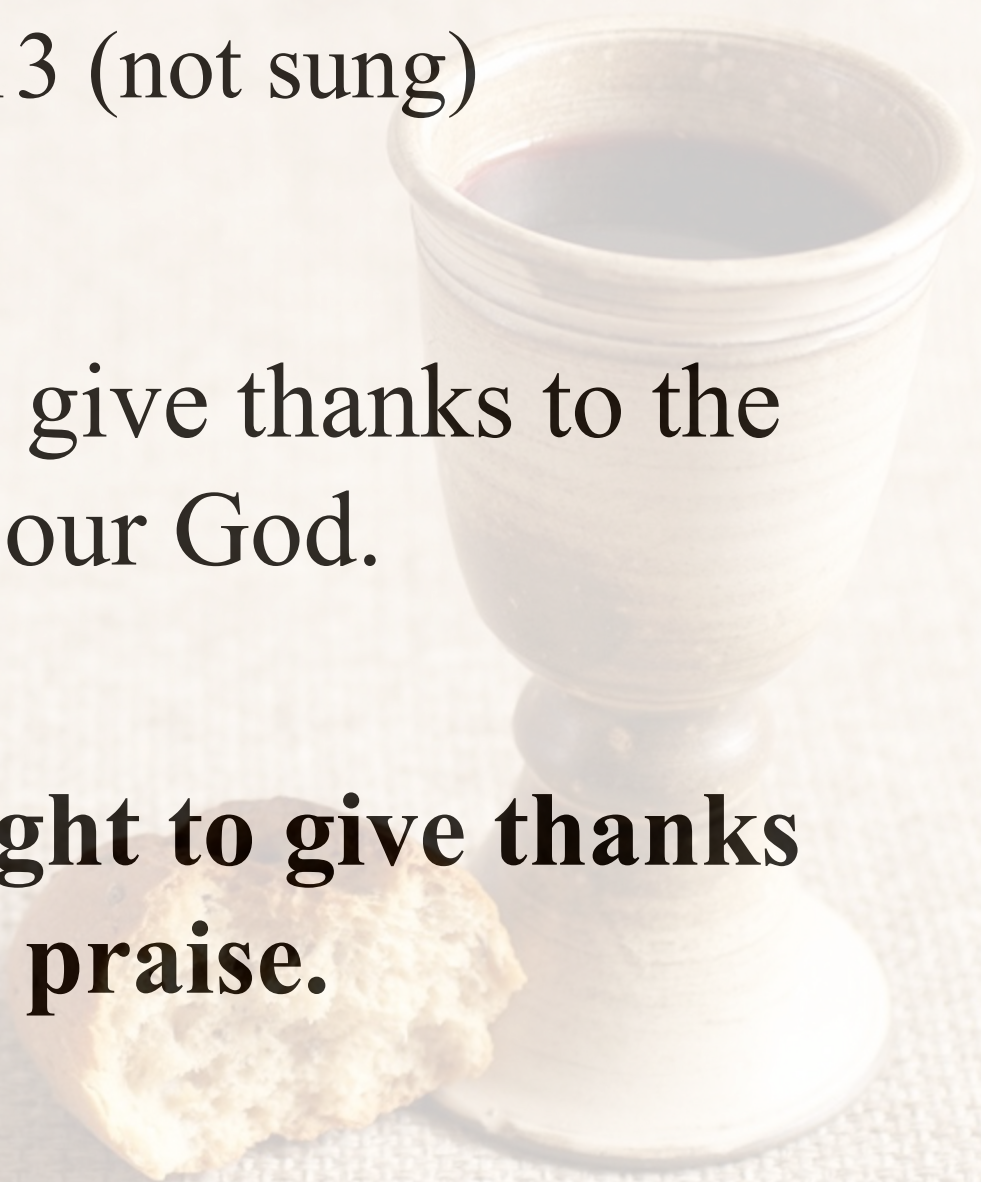


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

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

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

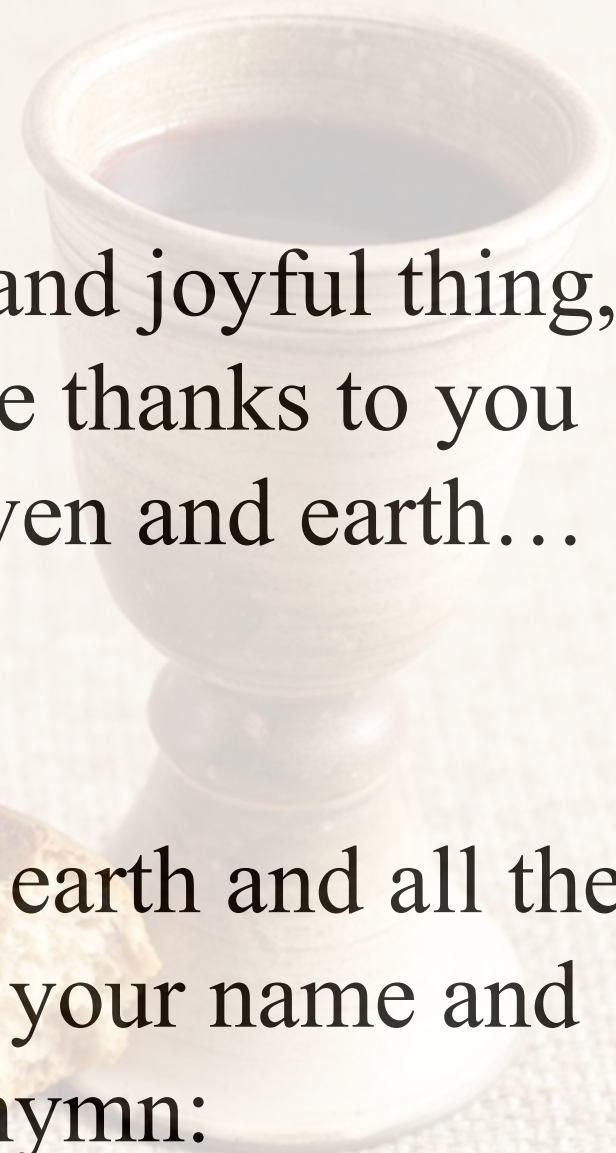


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:

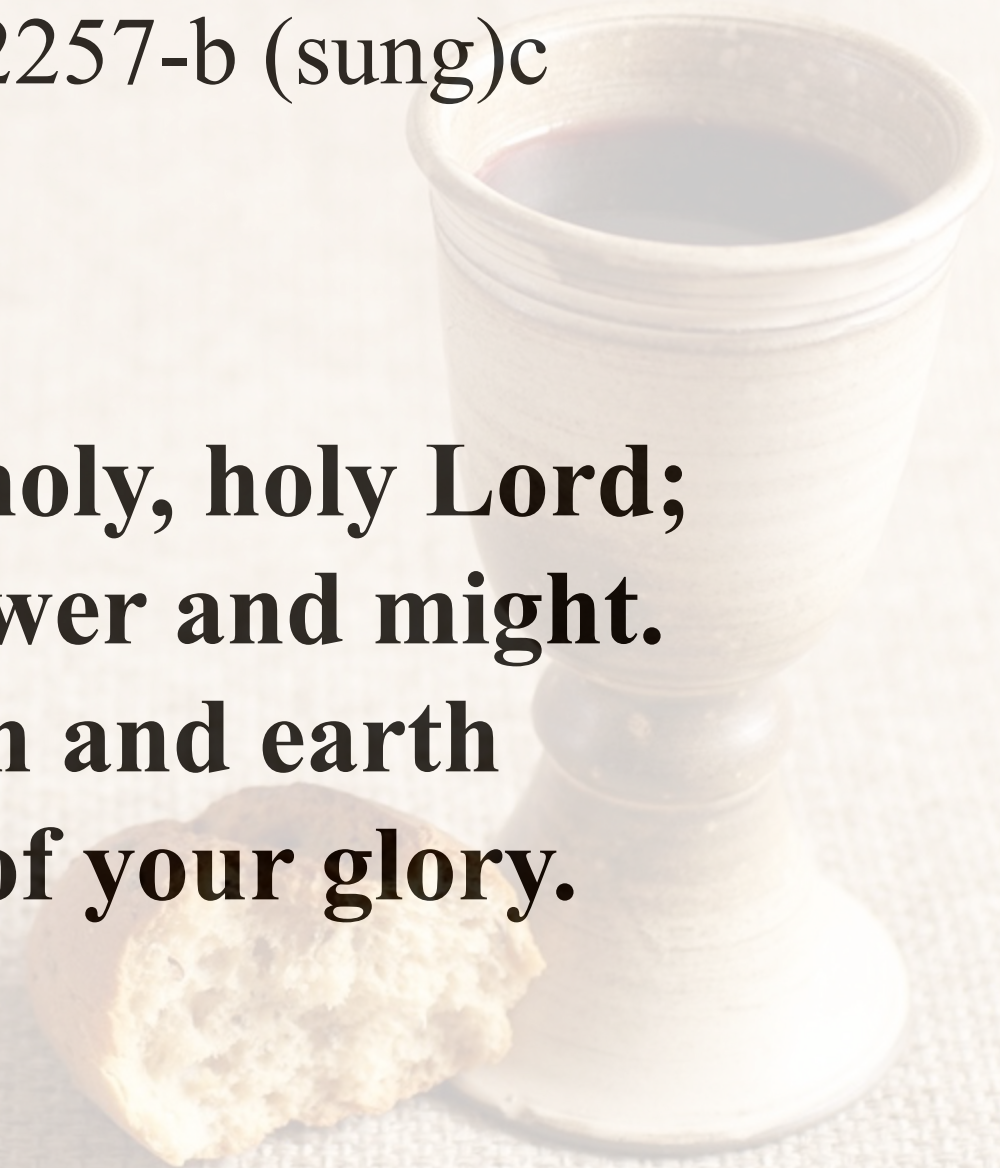




# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

TFWS #2257-b (sung)c

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

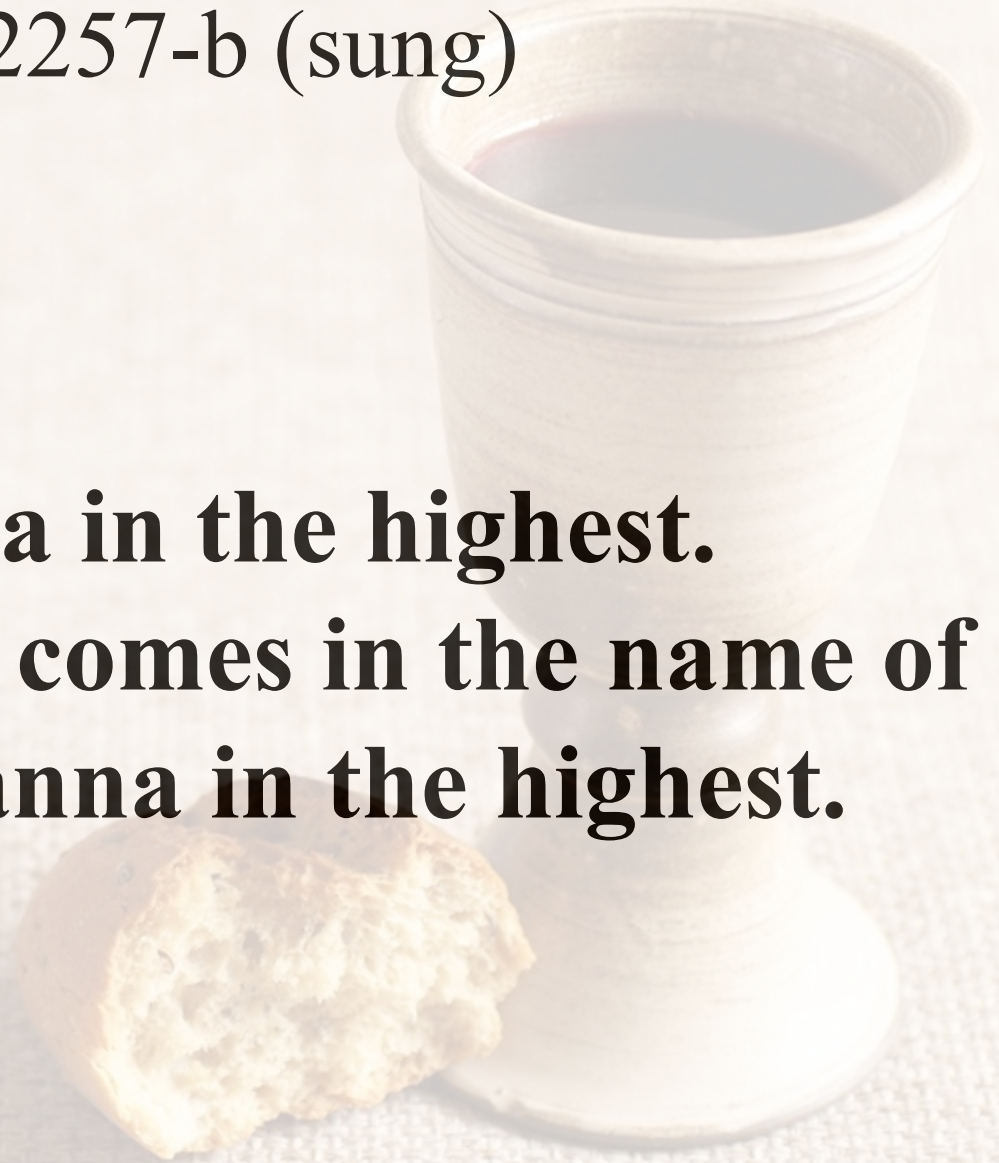


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

TFWS #2257-b (sung)

*All:* Hosanna in the highest.

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

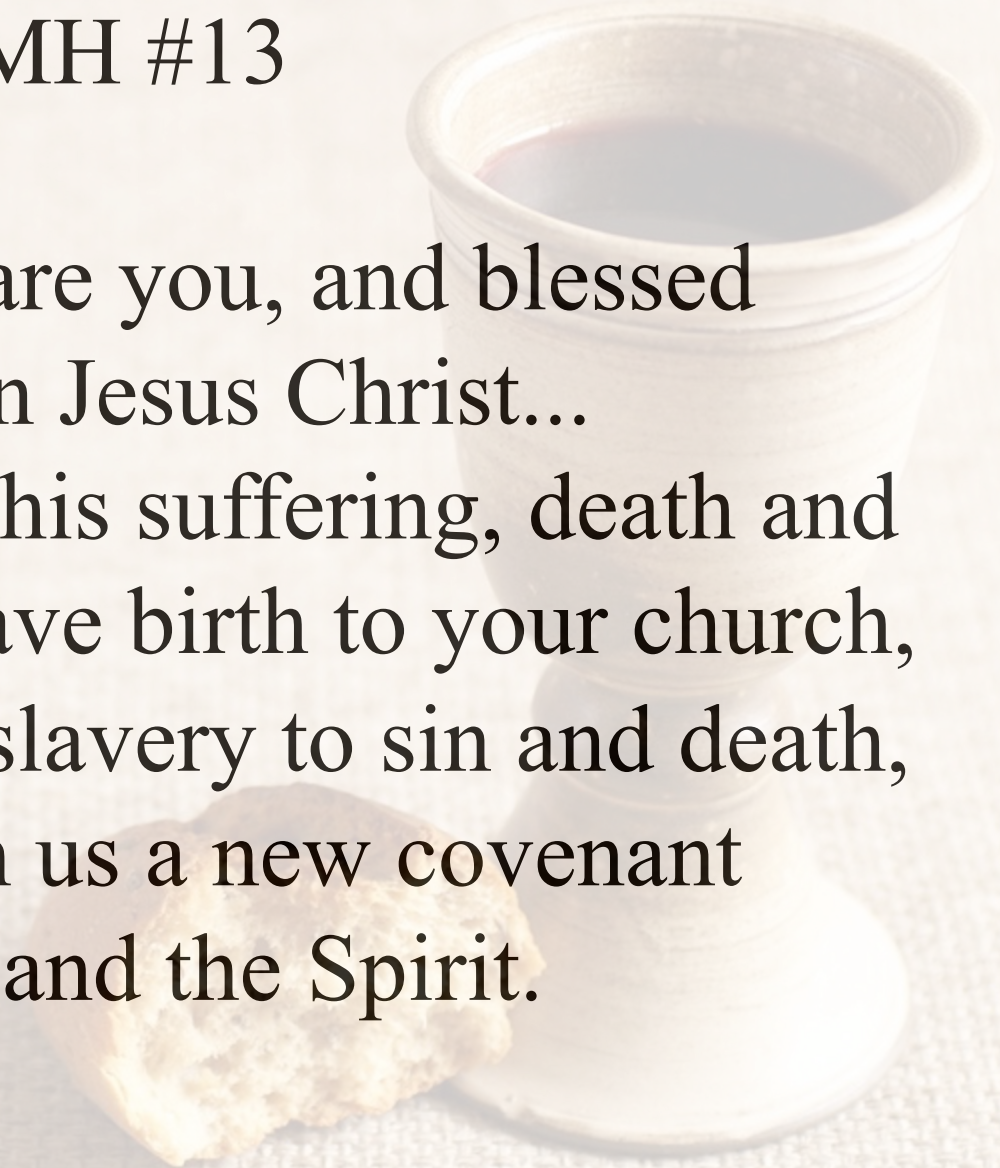


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

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

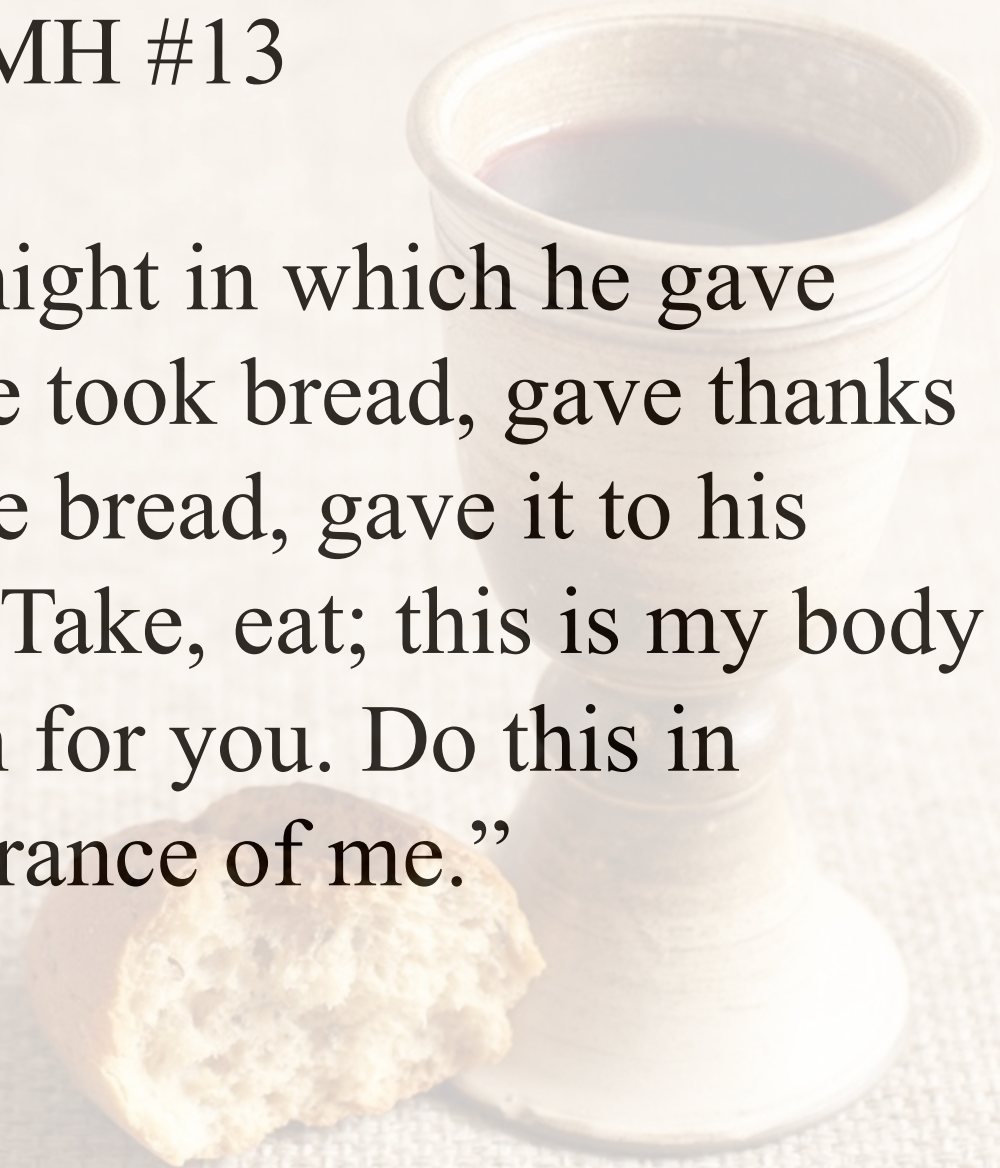
By the baptism of his suffering, death and  
resurrection you gave birth to your church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant  
by water and the Spirit.



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

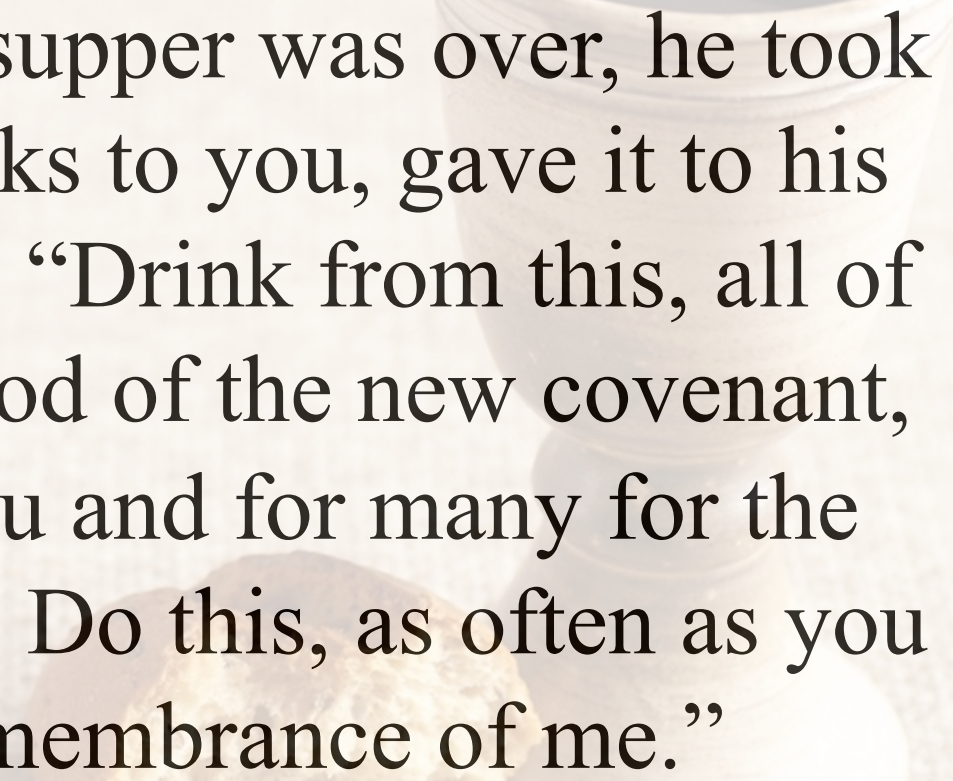
*Leader:* On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

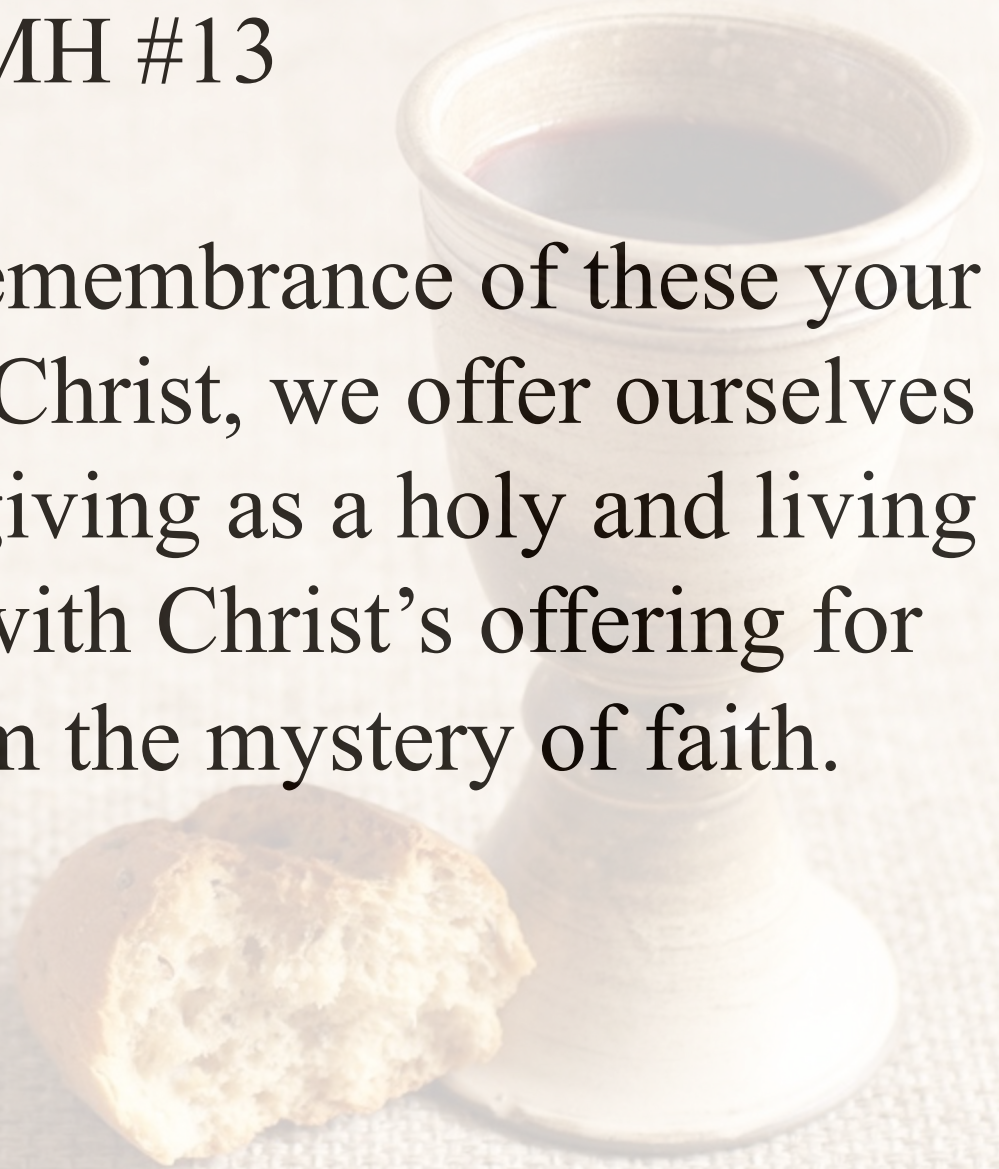
*Leader:* When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”



# 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

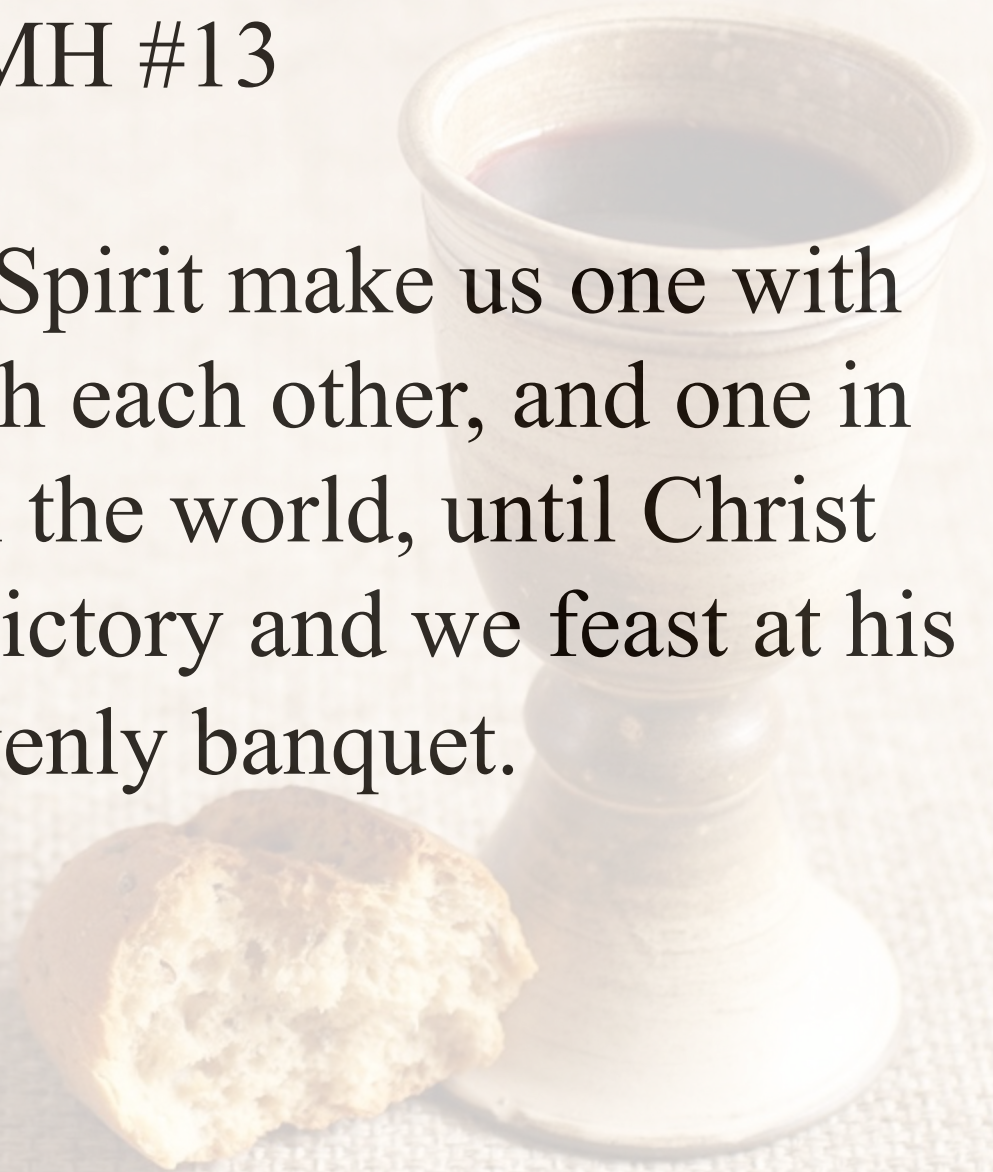
*All:* **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*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.



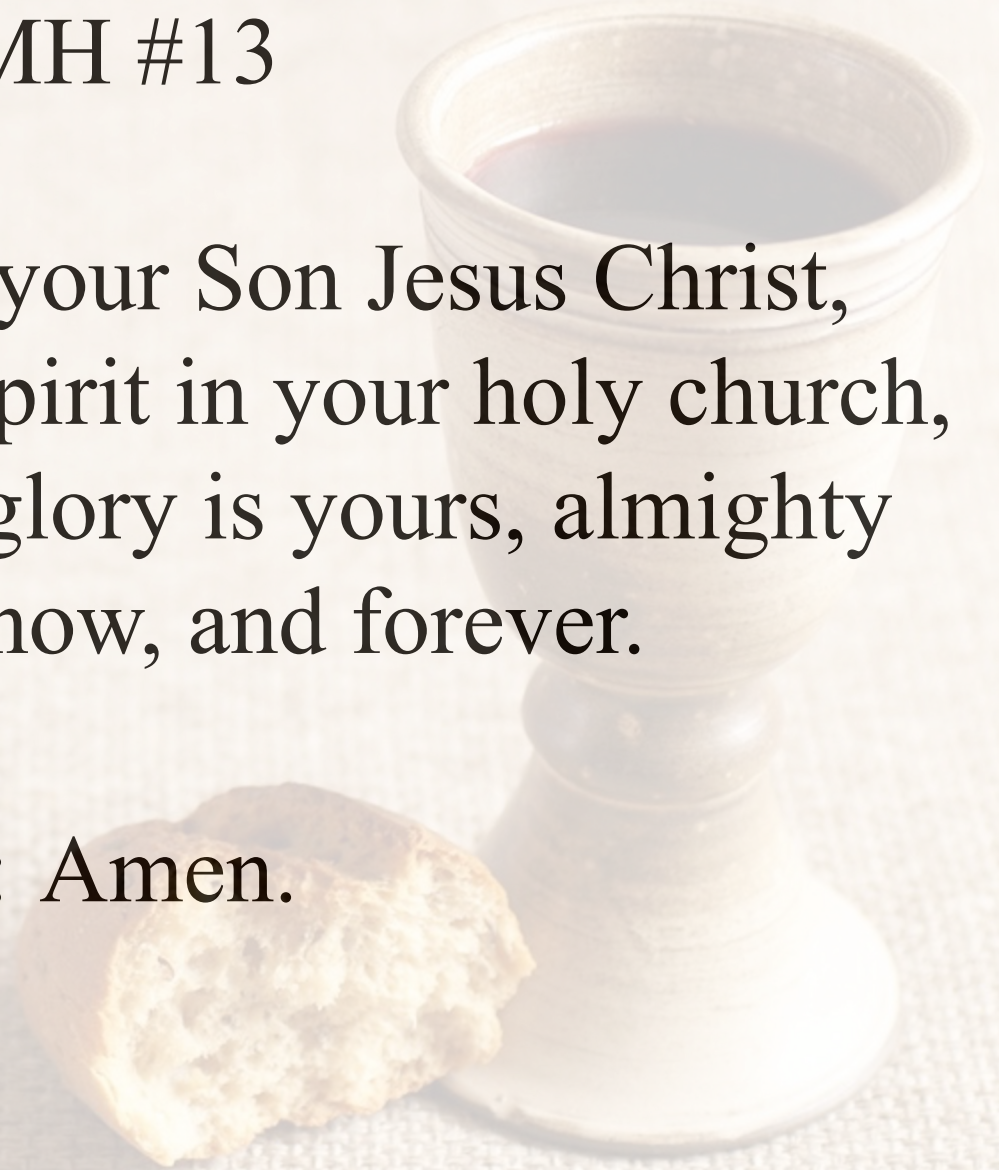


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.



*“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”* UMH 526

WORDS: Joseph M. Scriven, 1855    MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



# *“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”* UMH 526

WORDS: Joseph M. Scriven, 1855    MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,

all because we do not carry

everything to God in prayer.

# *“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”* UMH 526

WORDS: Joseph M. Scriven, 1855    MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

*“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”* UMH 526

WORDS: Joseph M. Scriven, 1855    MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer!

In his arms he'll take and shield thee;  
thou wilt find a solace there.



**BENEDICTION**

# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*


God be with you till we meet again;  
by his counsels guide, uphold you,  
with his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.



# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



Till we meet,  
till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus feet;  
till we meet,  
till we meet,

God be with you till we meet again.

# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880


*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

God be with you till we meet again;  
neath his wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



Till we meet,  
till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus feet;  
till we meet,  
till we meet,

God be with you till we meet again.

# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880


*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put his arms unfailing round you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



Till we meet,  
till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus feet;  
till we meet,  
till we meet,

God be with you till we meet again.

# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880


*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

God be with you till we meet again;  
keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
smite death's threatening wave before you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



Till we meet,  
till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus feet;  
till we meet,  
till we meet,

God be with you till we meet again.



# Question for Reflection

*How can you learn from the phrase, "...do no harm," 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.