



PRELUDE

Pastor:
Jonathan Lamb

1st Sunday after the
Epiphany

January 7th, 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

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

CALL to WORSHIP



CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

People: **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

Leader: He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

People: **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

People: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

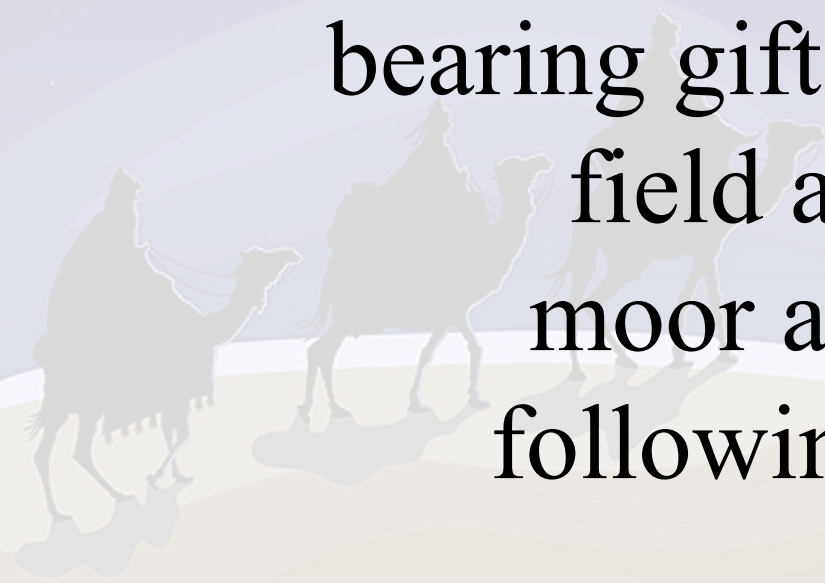


“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.



“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O-oh star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

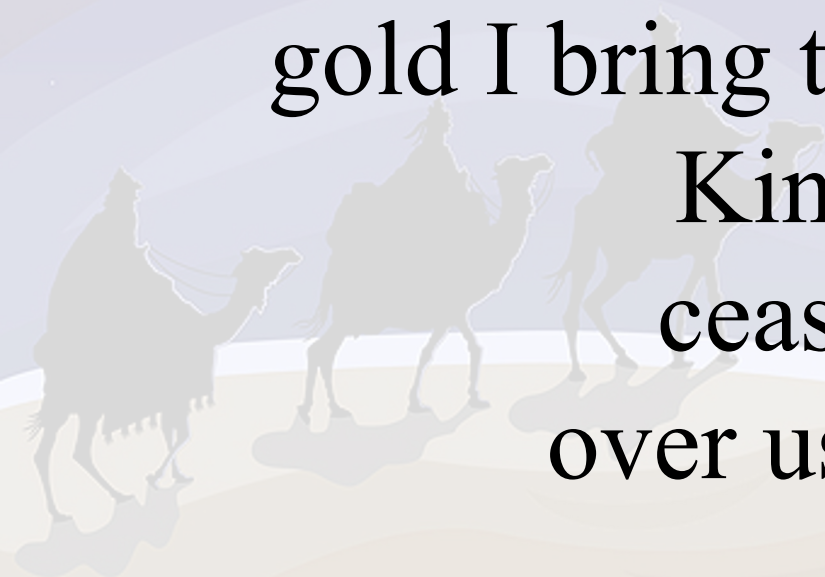


“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever,
ceasing never,
over us all to reign.




“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

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O-oh star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
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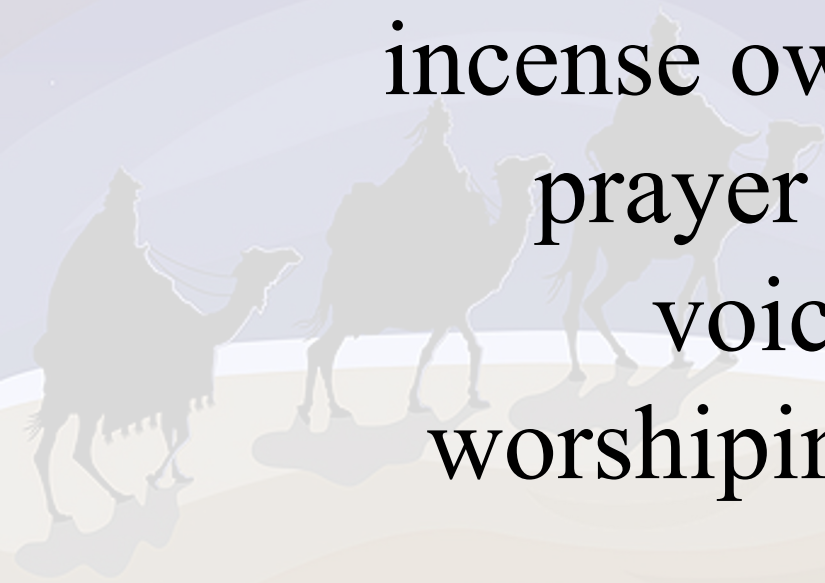
The background features a stylized illustration of the Three Kings on camels, silhouetted against a light blue sky with a bright star and a comet-like streak. The ground is depicted with rolling yellow and orange hills.

“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising,
voices raising,
worshiping God on high.




“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

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O-oh star of wonder, star of light,
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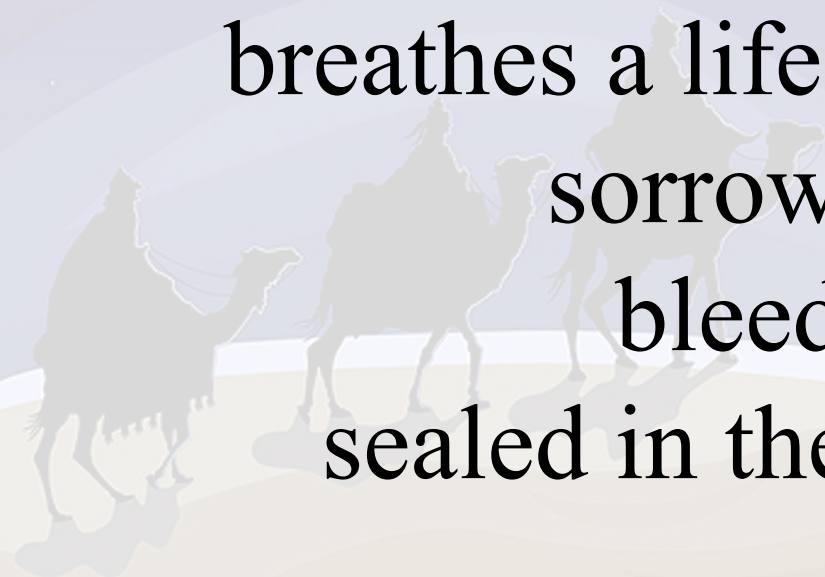
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“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.




“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

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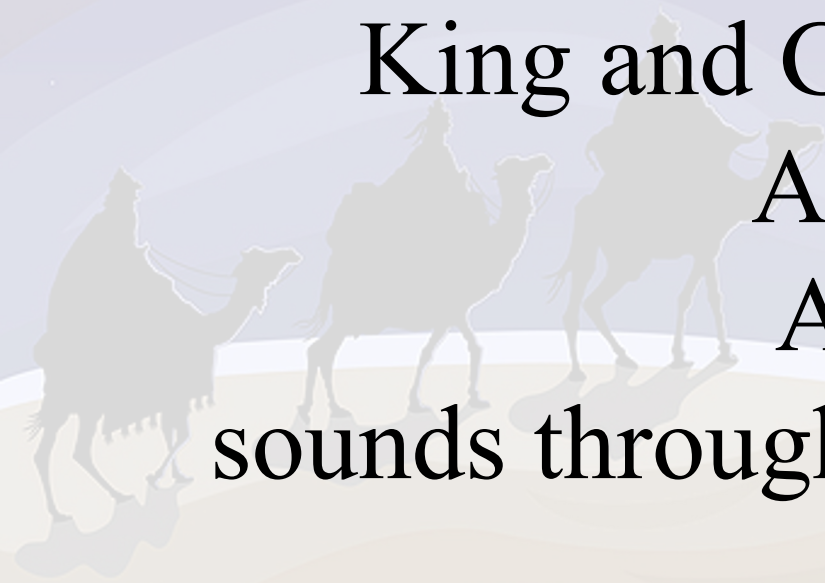
“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:

Aleleluia,
Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.



“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O-oh star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.



OPENING PRAYER

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.





Young Disciples' Message – Is Christmas Really Over?

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Eternal Light, shine into our
hearts;
Eternal Goodness, deliver us from
evil;
Eternal Power, be our support;
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the
darkness of our ignorance;
Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us,
That with all our hearts and mind
and strength
We may seek your face
And be brought by your infinite
mercy to your holy presence;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



Genesis 2: 15 - 25

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man,
“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.

²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

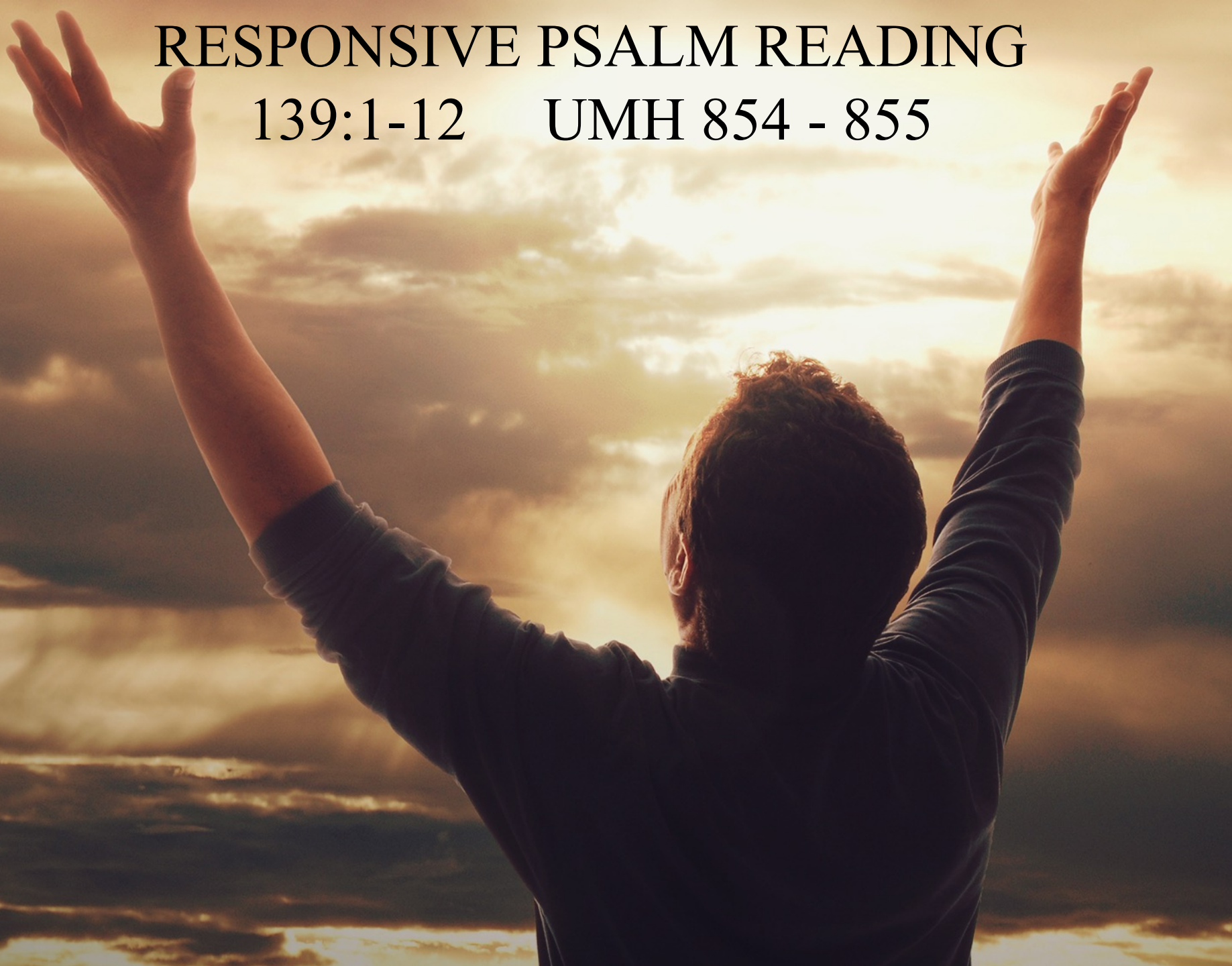
²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

139:1-12 UMH 854 - 855



RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

139:1-12 UMH 854 - 855

Leader: ¹O Lord, you have searched me
and known me!

People: ²You know when I sit down and
when I rise up; you discern my thoughts
from afar.

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

139:1-12 UMH 854 - 855

Leader: ³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

People: ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it altogether.

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

139:1-12 UMH 854 - 855

Leader: ⁵You pursue me behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

People: ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful
for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

139:1-12 UMH 854 - 855

Leader: ⁷ Whither shall I go from your spirit?

People: Or whither shall I flee from your
presence?

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

139:1-12 UMH 854 - 855

Leader: ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

People: ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
¹⁰ Even there your hand shall lead me, and
your right hand shall hold me.

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

139:1-12 UMH 854 - 855

Leader: ¹¹ If I say, “Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night,”

People: ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you, the night is brought as the day; for darkness is as light with you.

Mark 9: 14-29



¹⁴ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.

¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

¹⁶ “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.

¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

¹⁹ “O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”

²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered.

22 “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

23 “‘If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

24 Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."

²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.


²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

²⁹ He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer. "

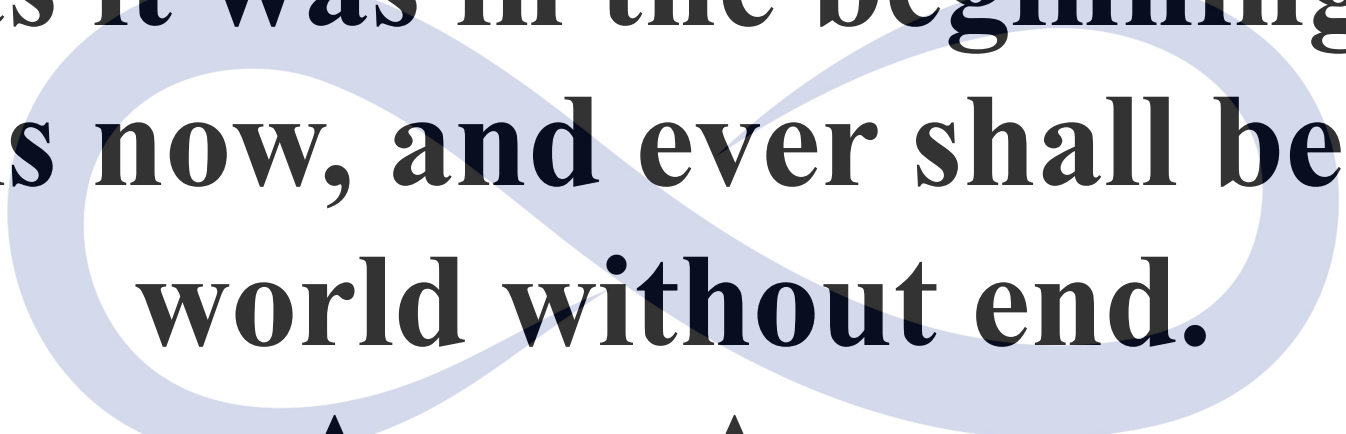
Glory Be to the Father

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

“Is There A God”



“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” UMH 251

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. By John W. Work, Jr., 1907

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. By William Farley Smith, 1986

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

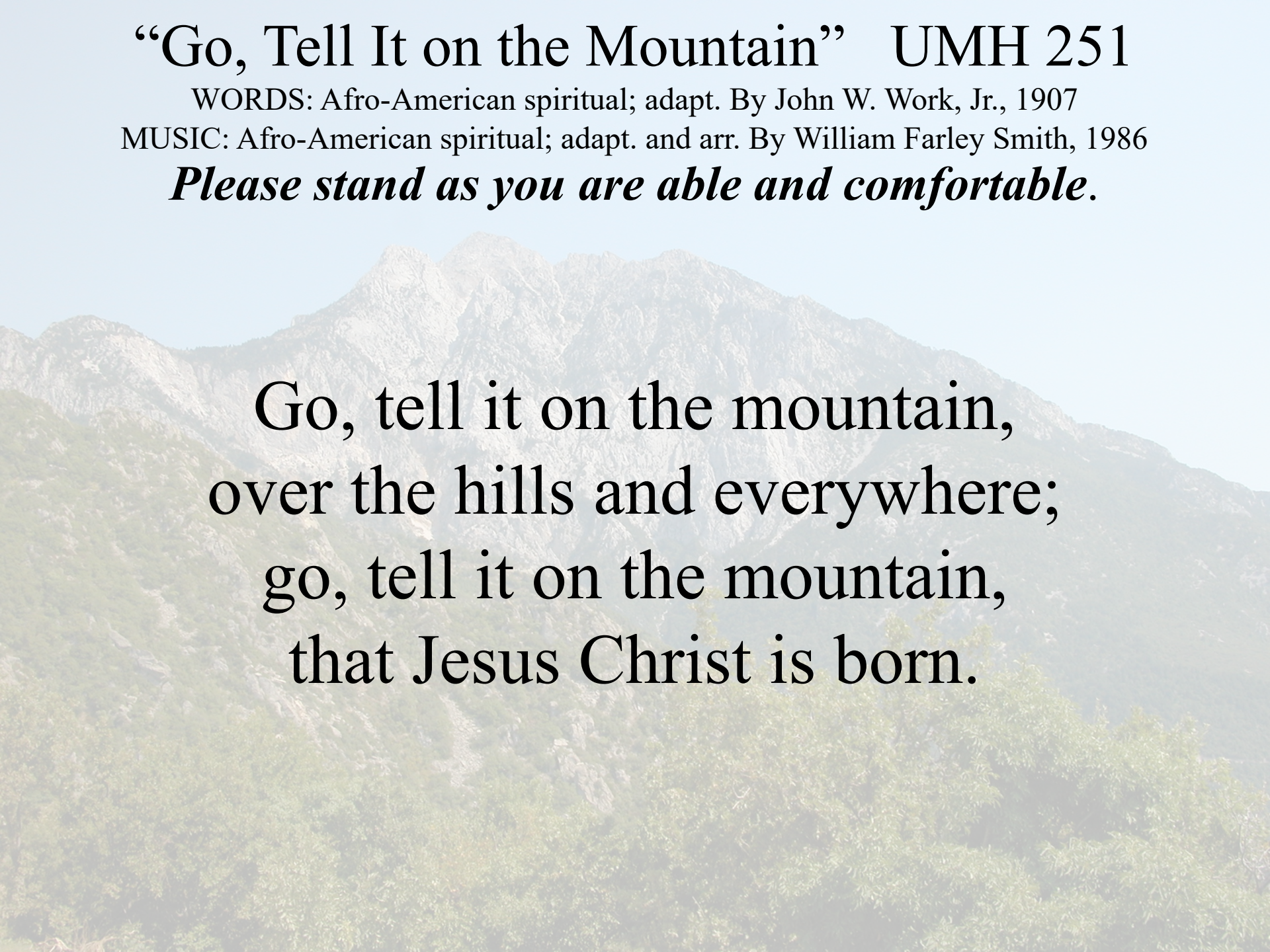


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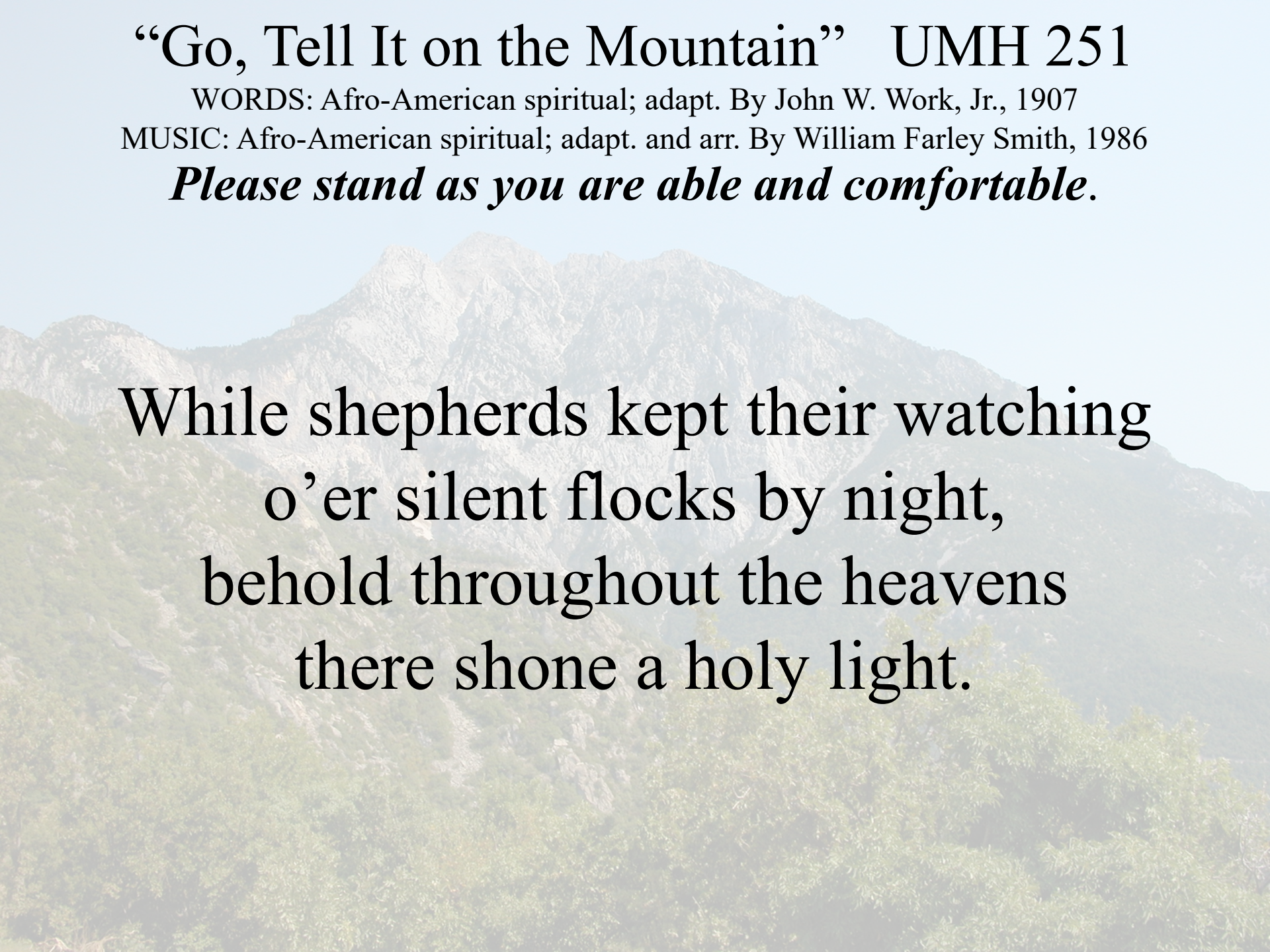
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” UMH 251

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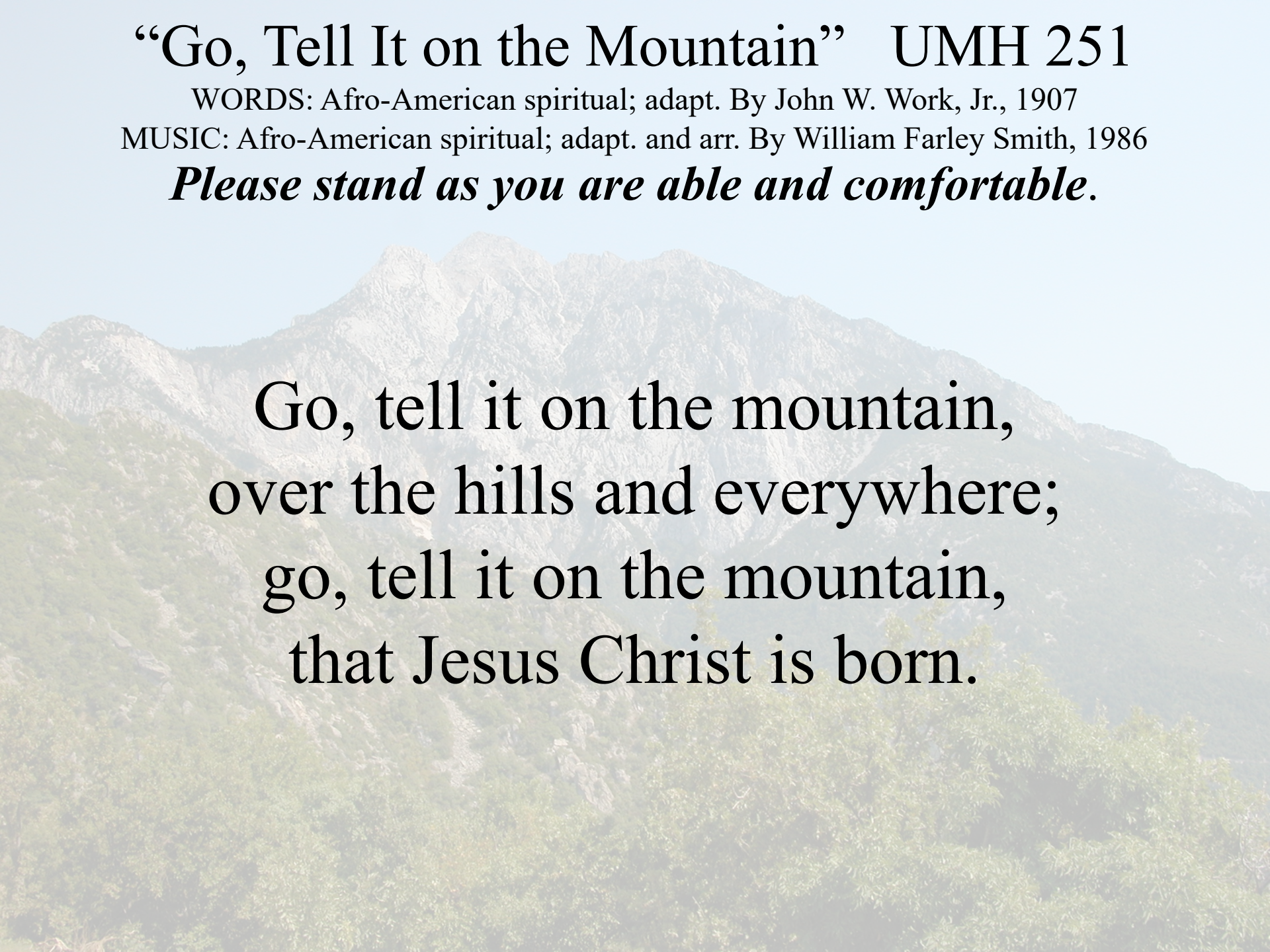
While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” UMH 251

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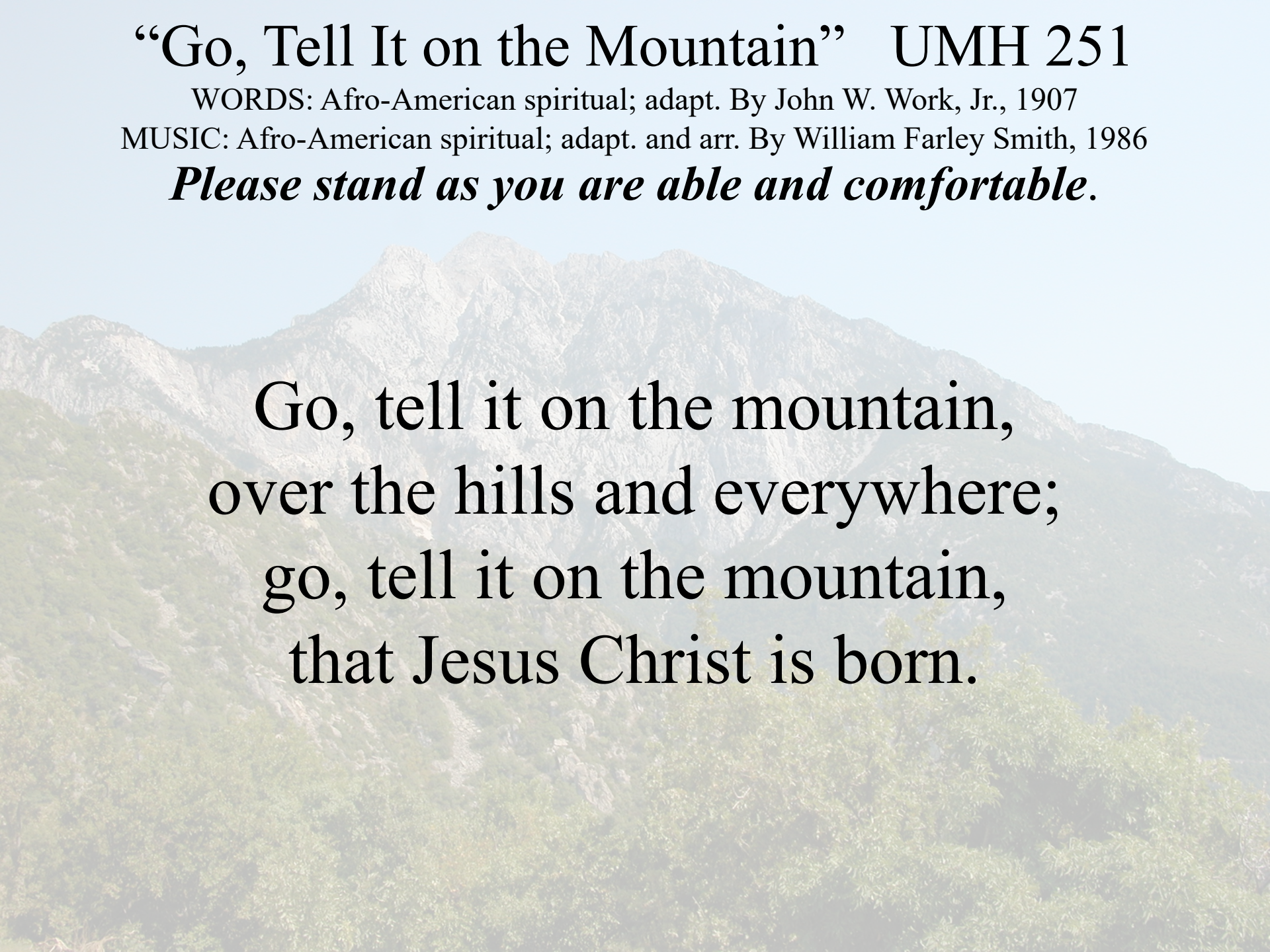
The shepherd's feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth.

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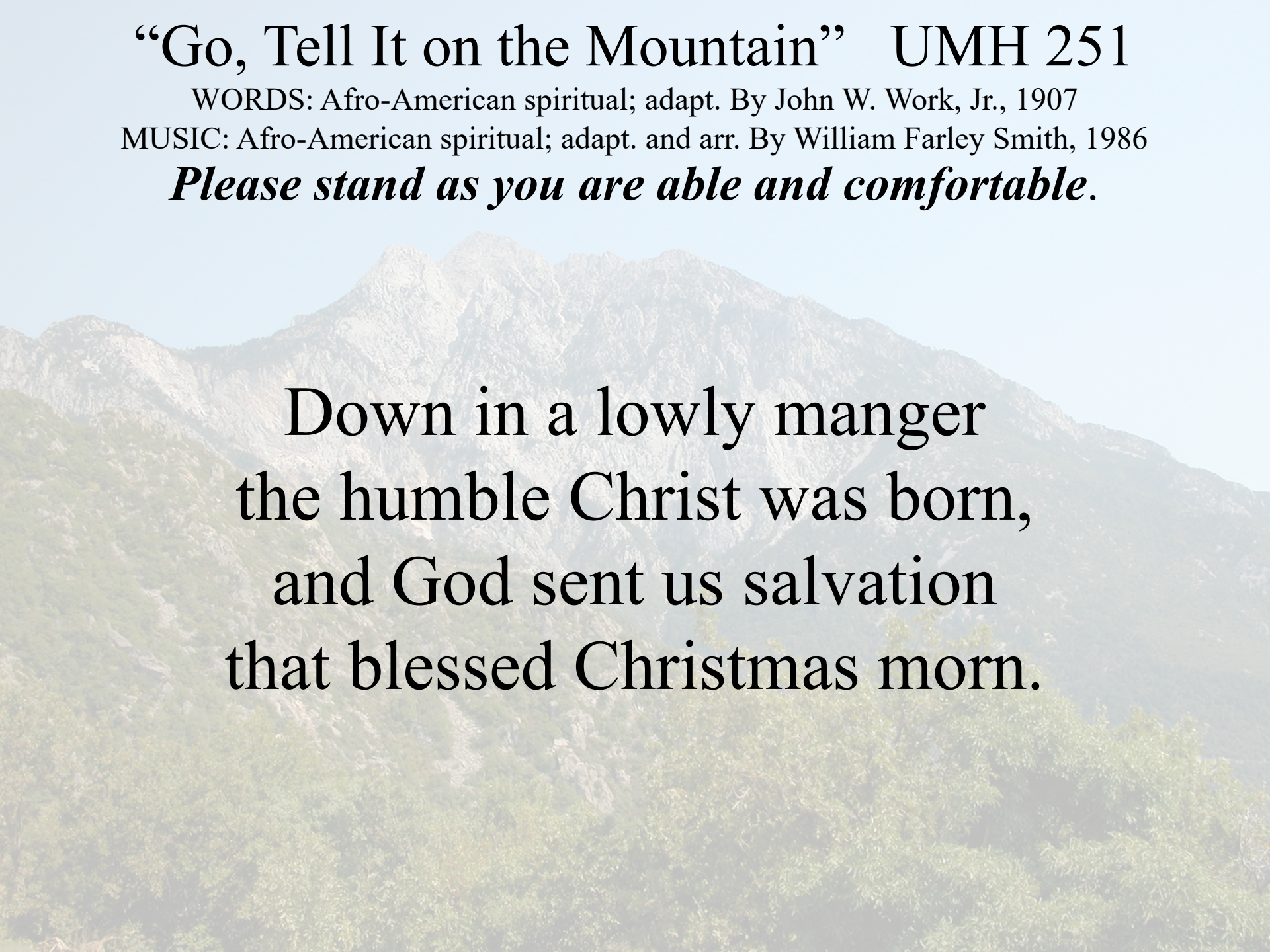
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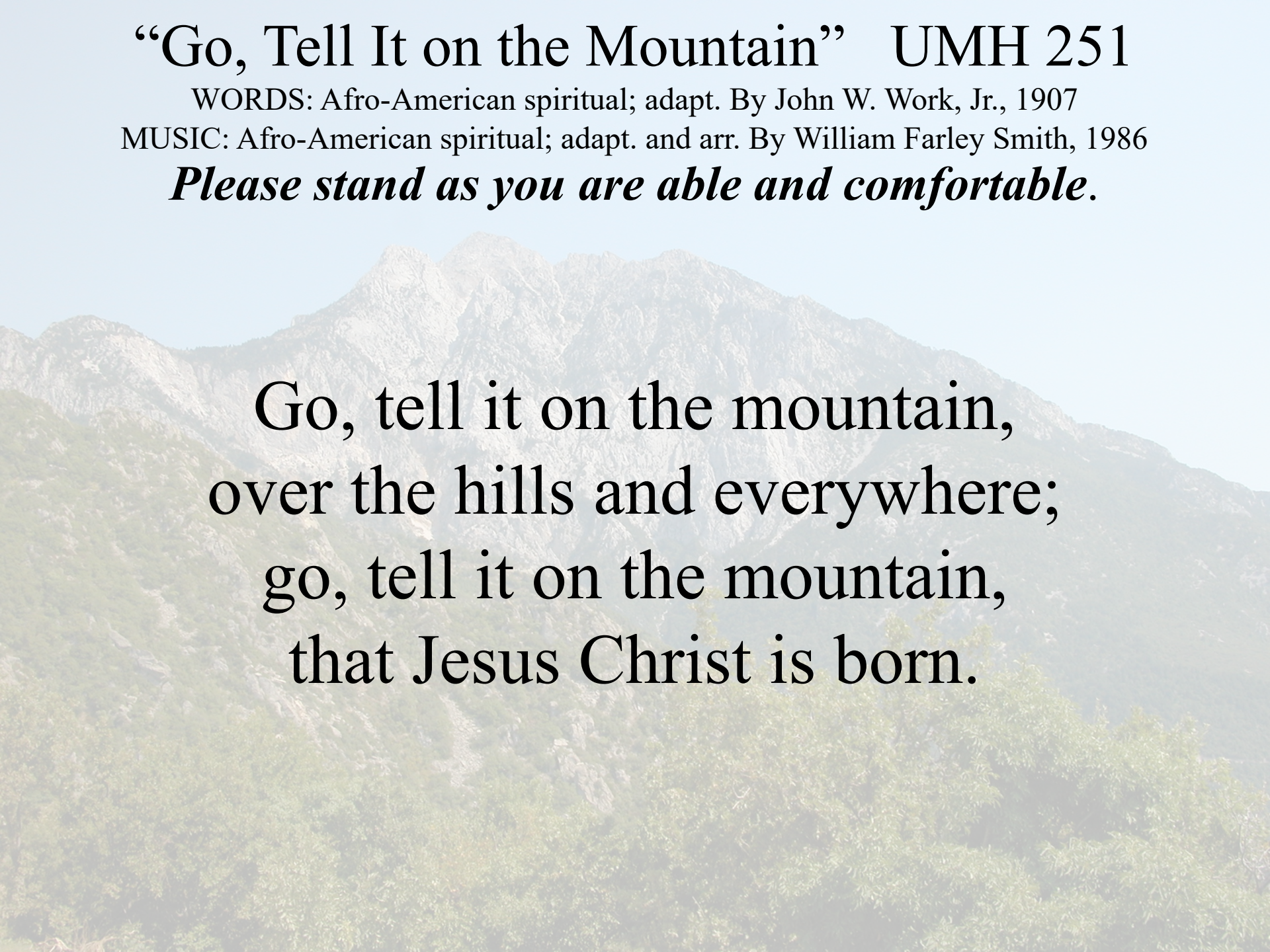
Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” UMH 251

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MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. By William Farley Smith, 1986

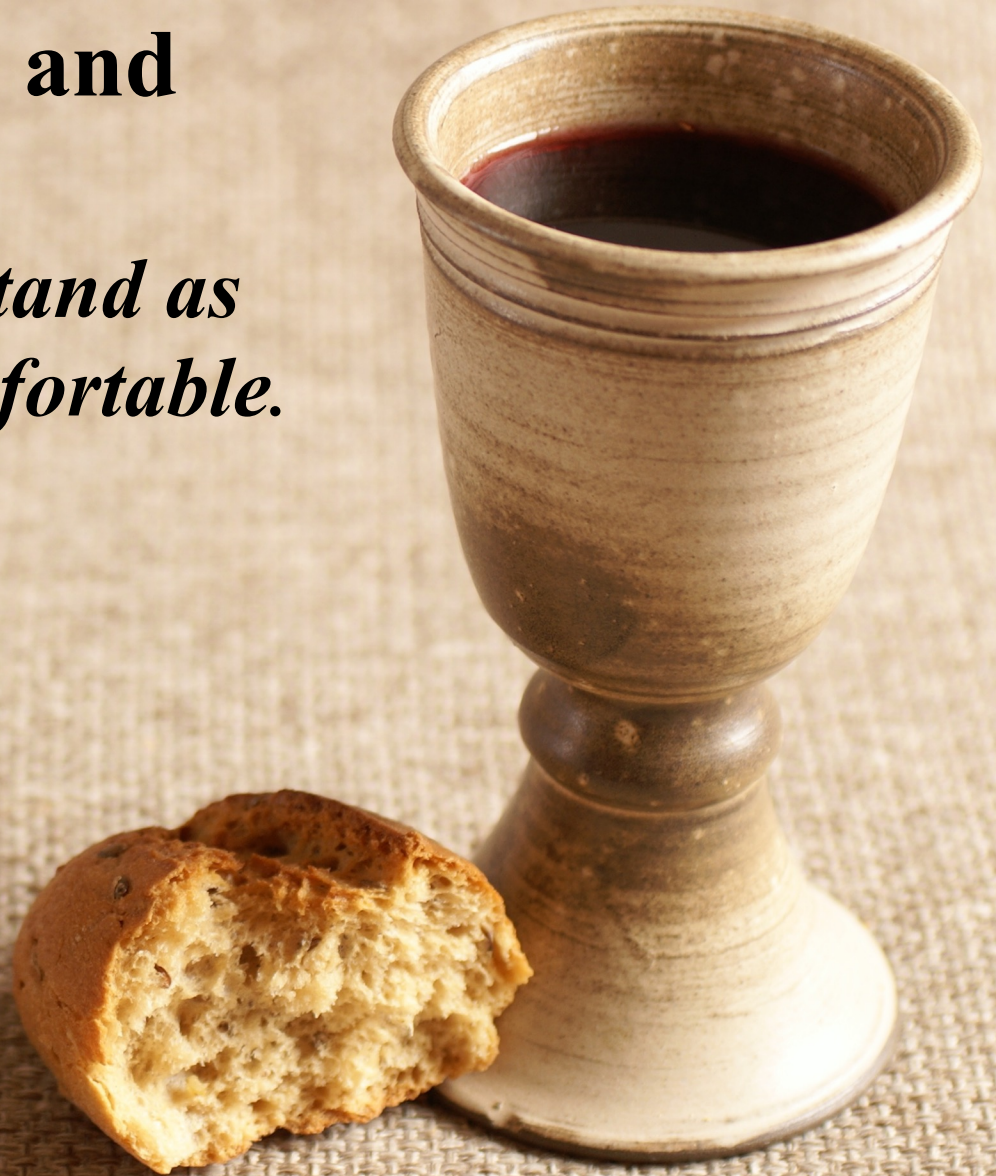
Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

**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.

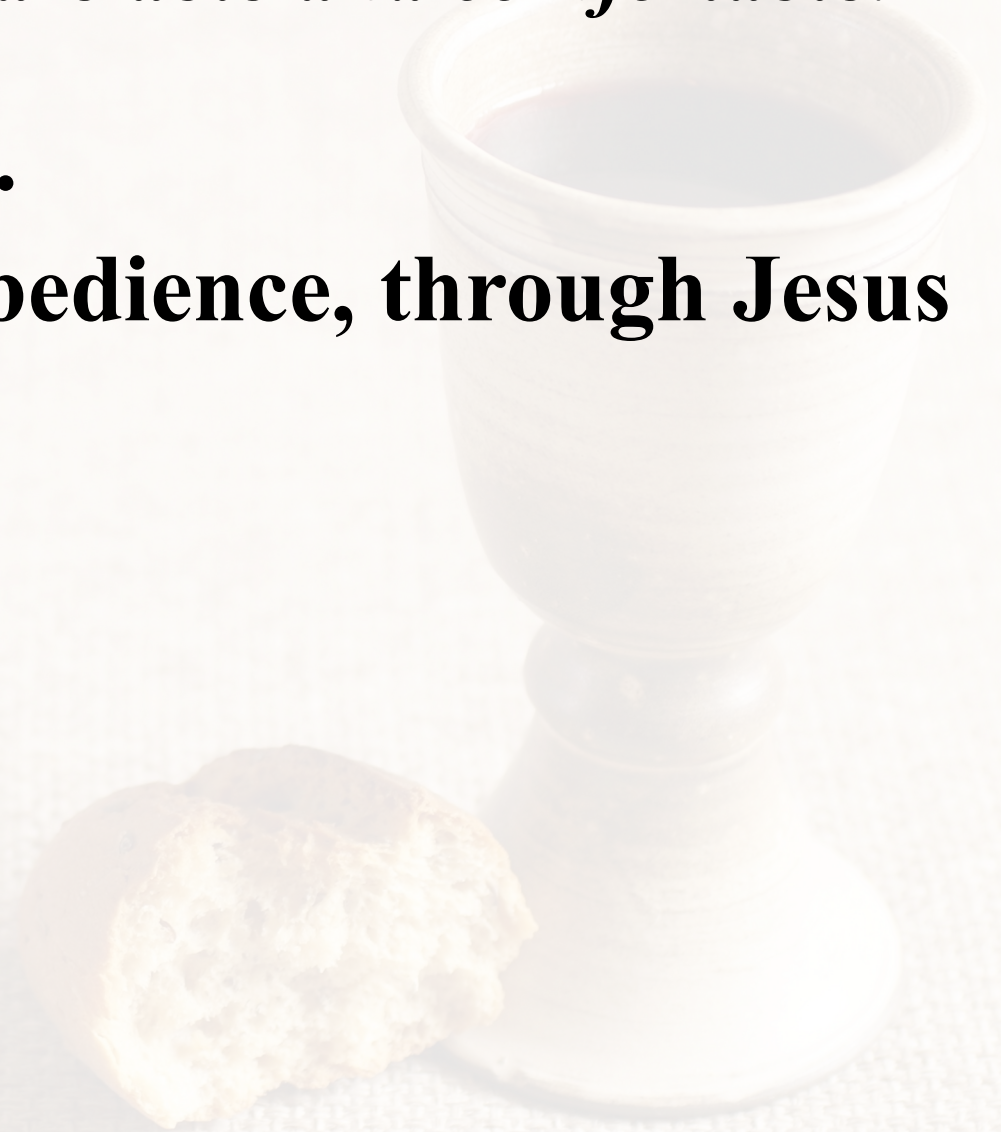
INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Forgive us, we pray.

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

Amen.



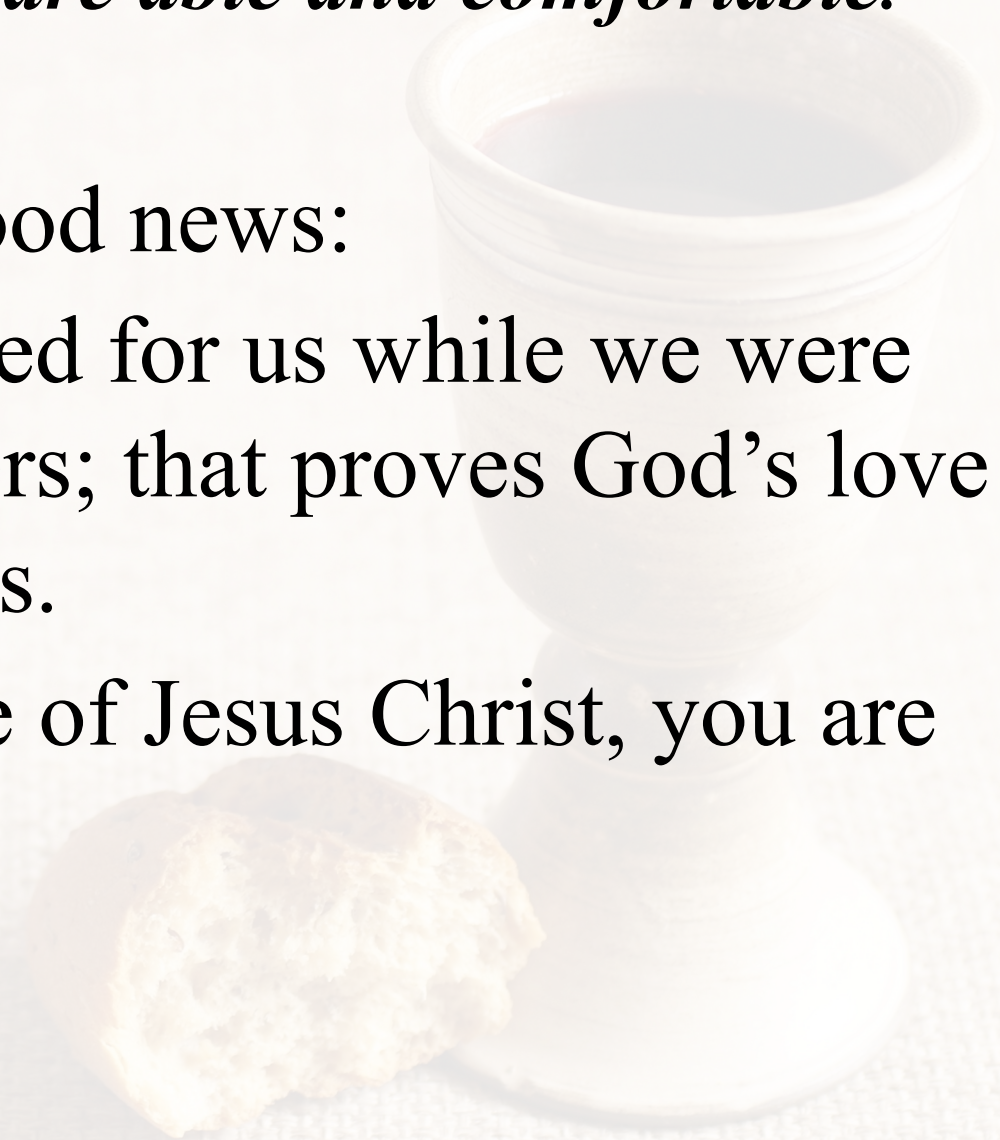
INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

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!

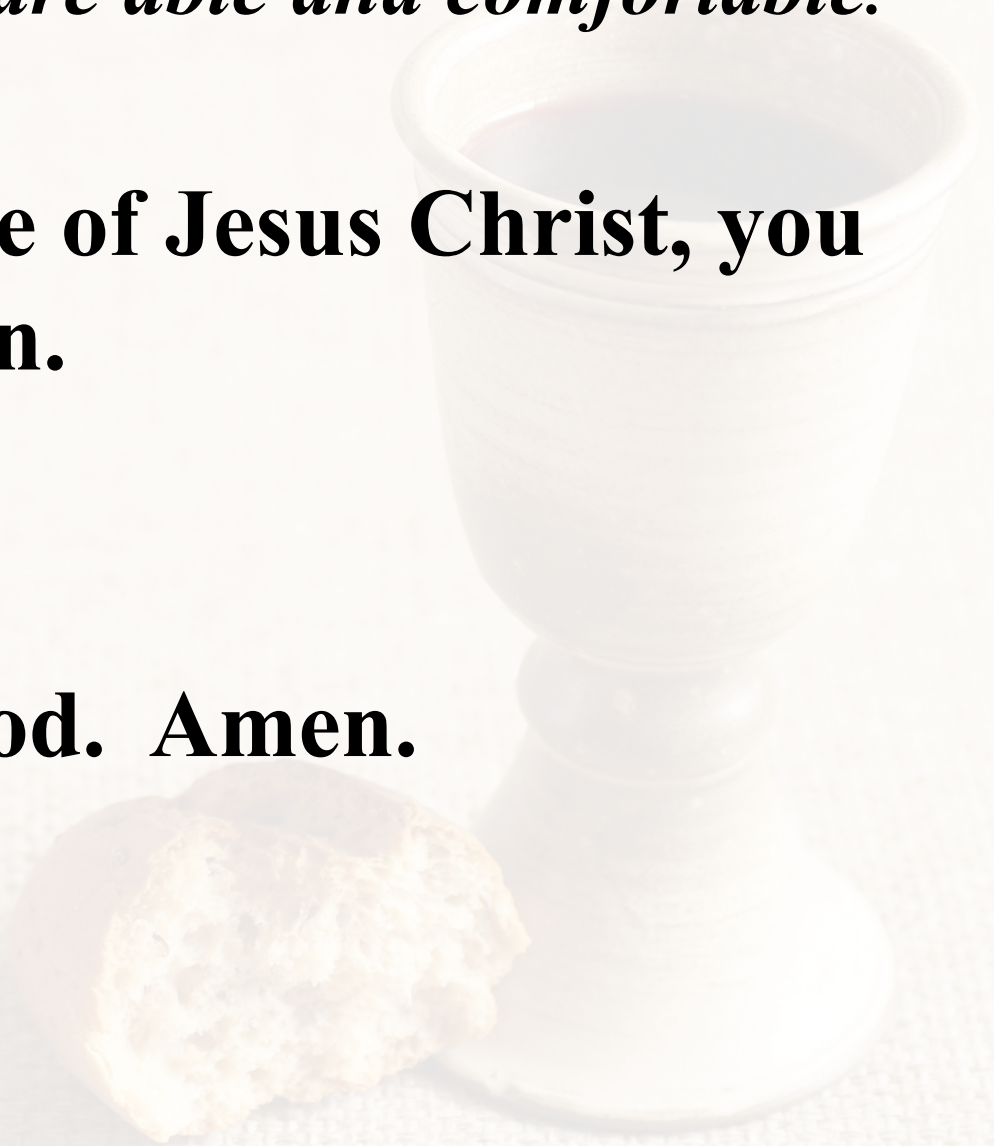


INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

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





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



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH p. 13

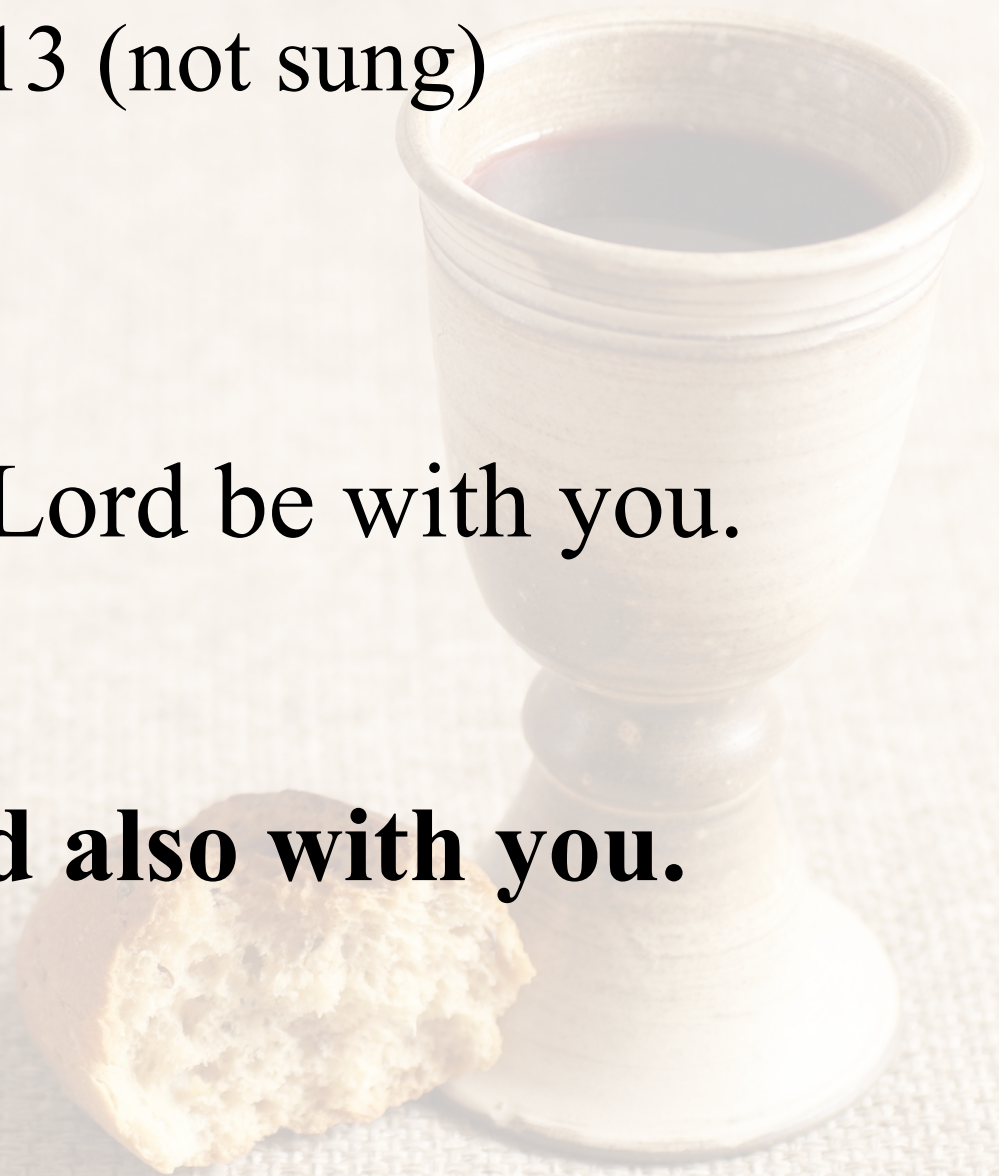


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

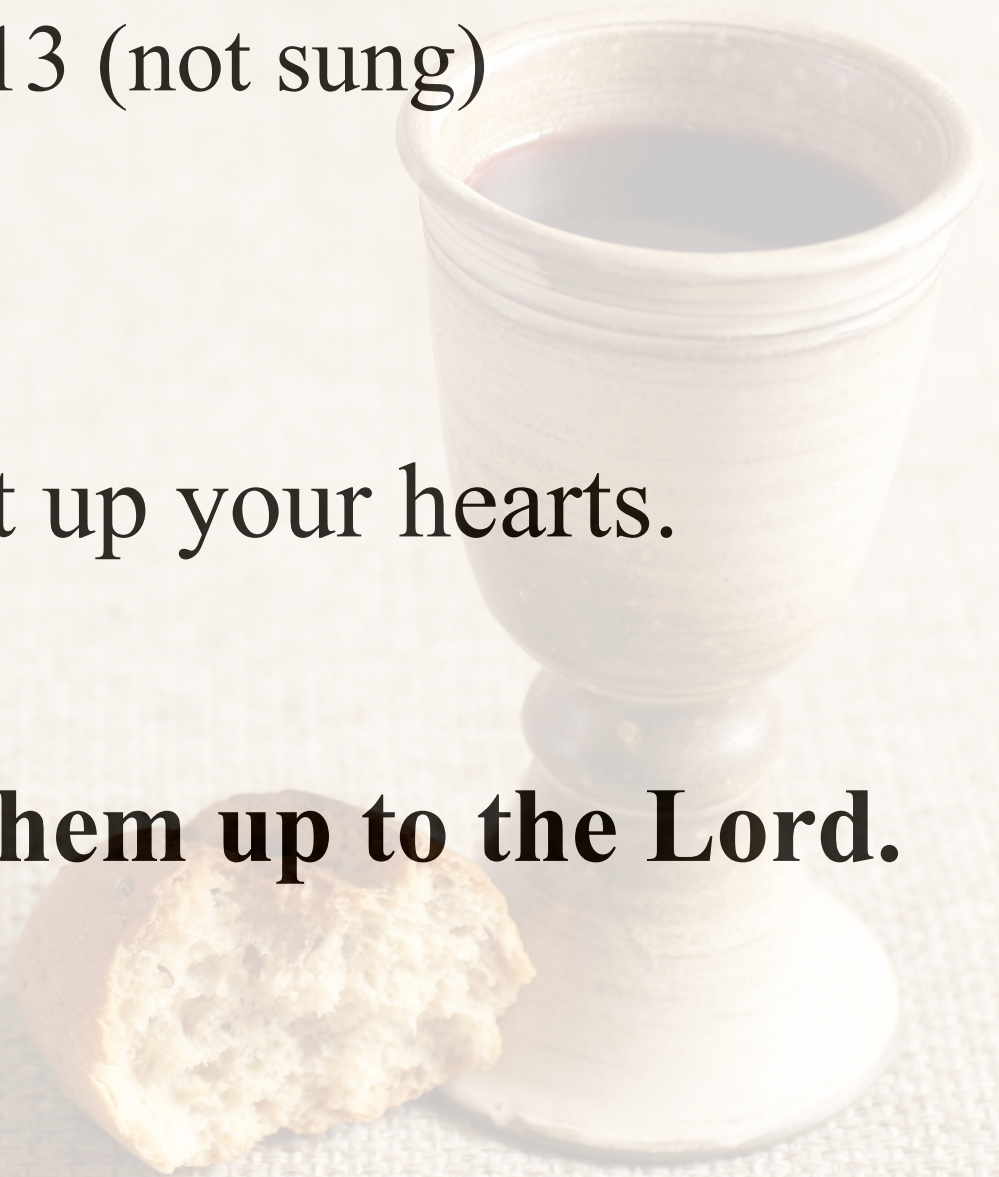


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

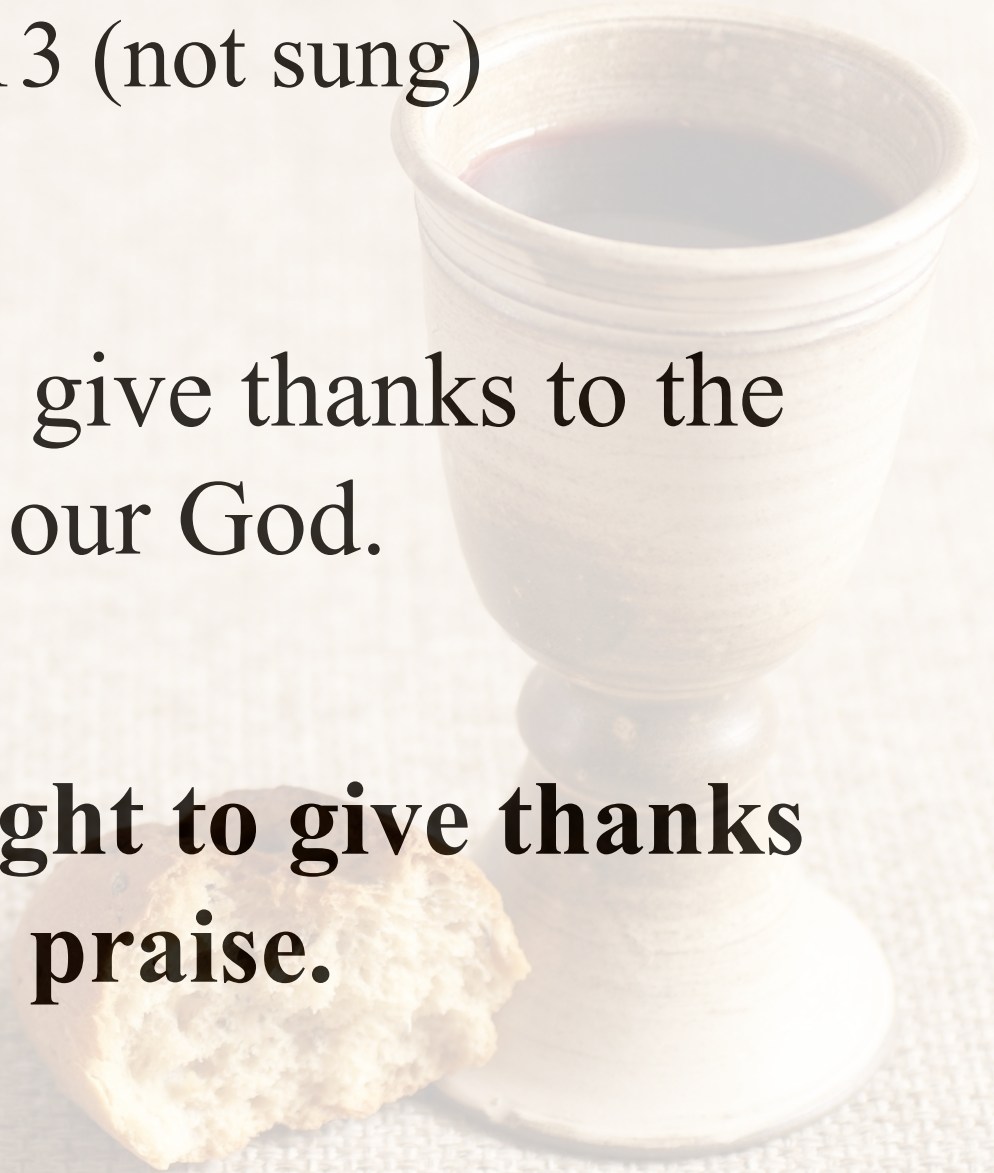


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

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

People: It is right to give thanks
and praise.

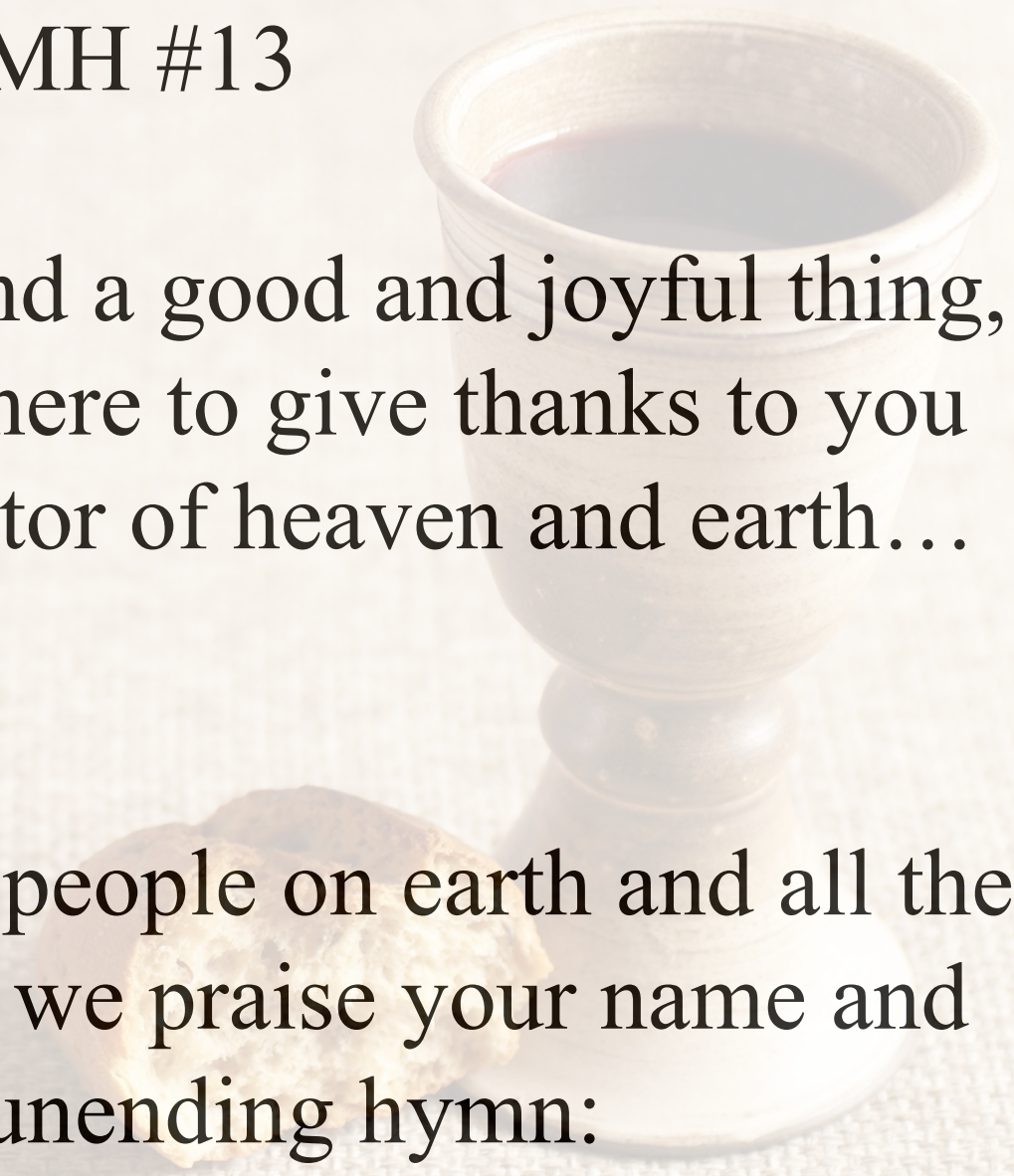


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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...

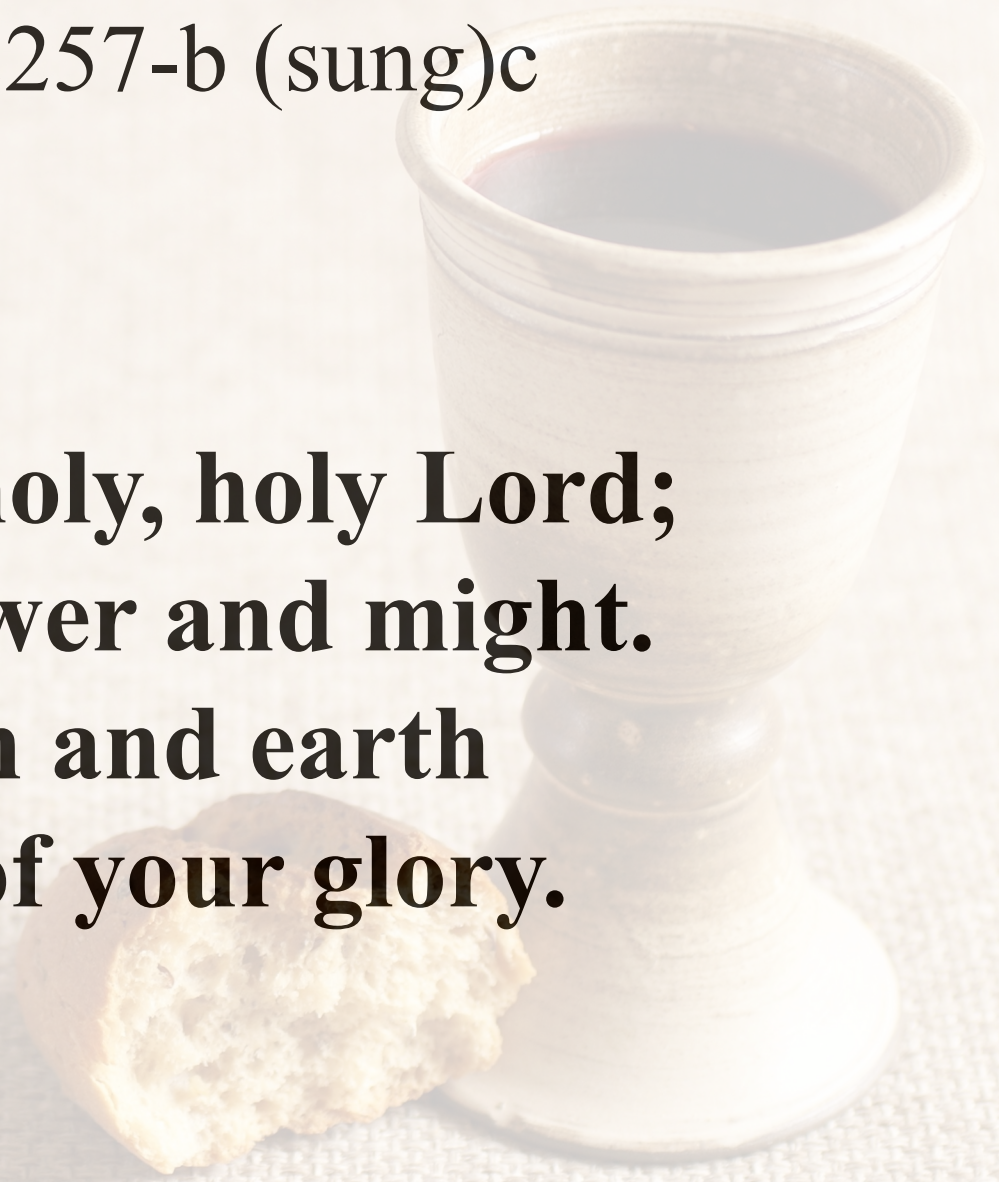
... and so, with your people on earth and all the
company of heaven we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

TFWS #2257-b (sung)c

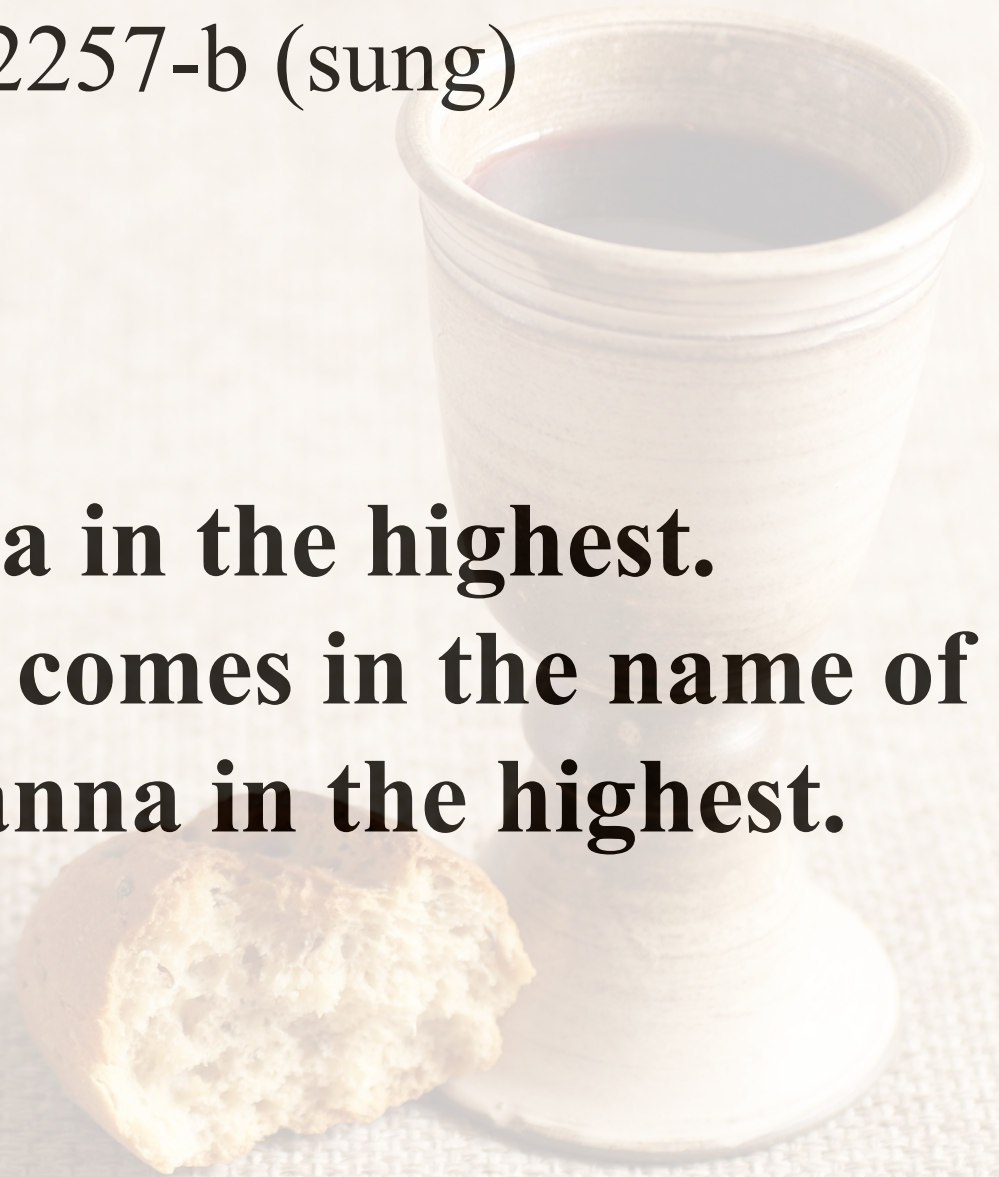
All: Holy, holy, holy Lord;
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.



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.

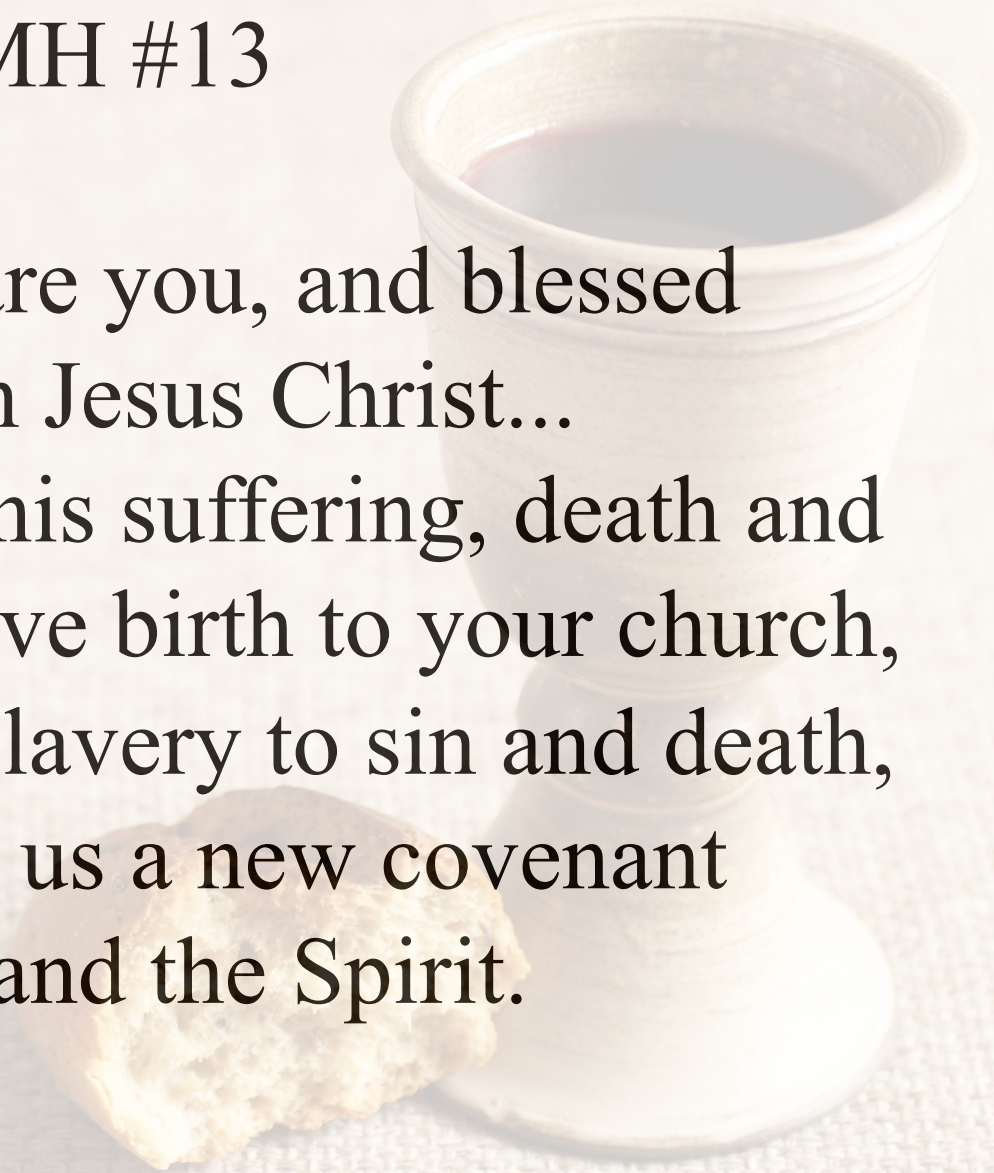


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

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

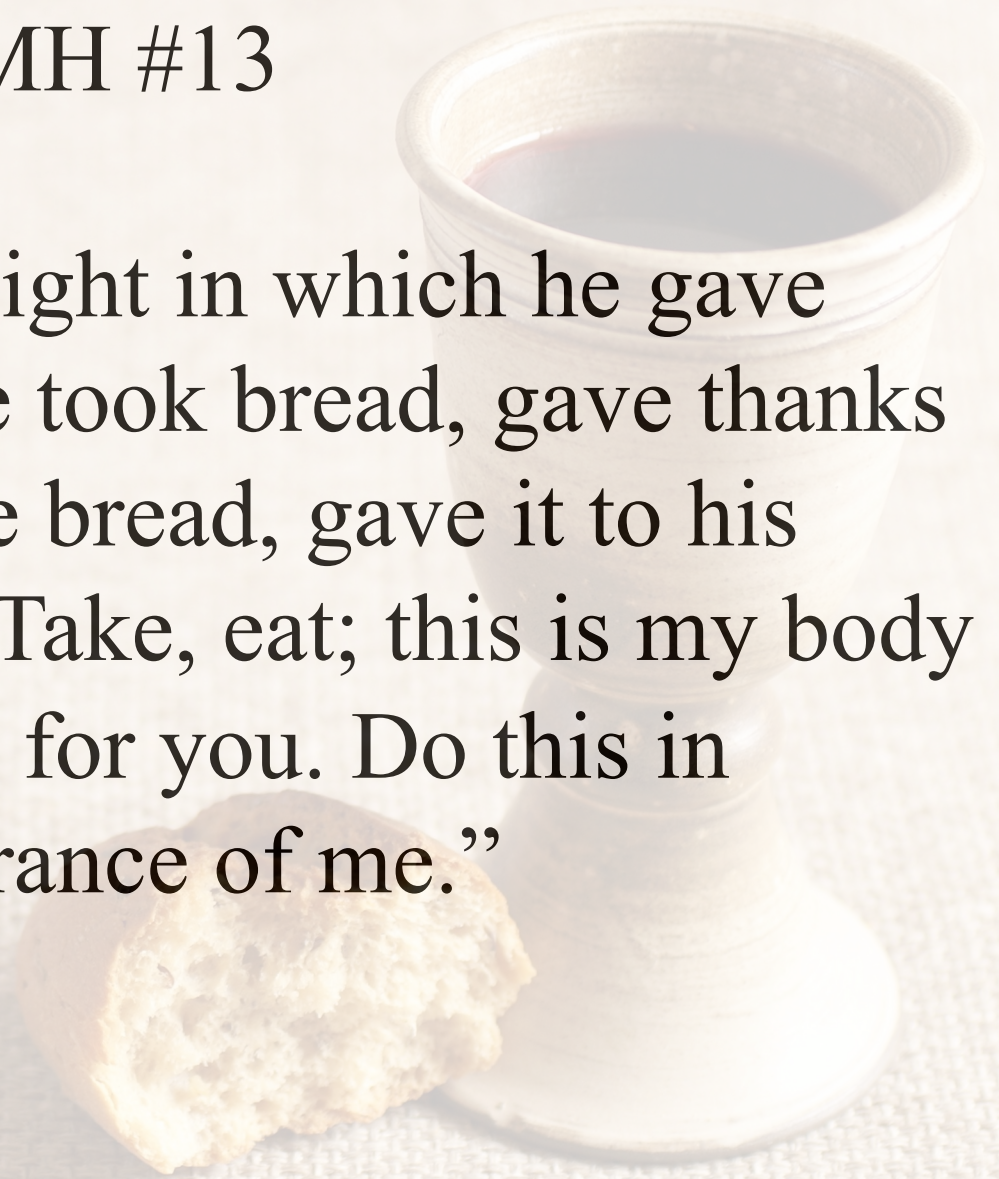
By the baptism of his suffering, death and
resurrection you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

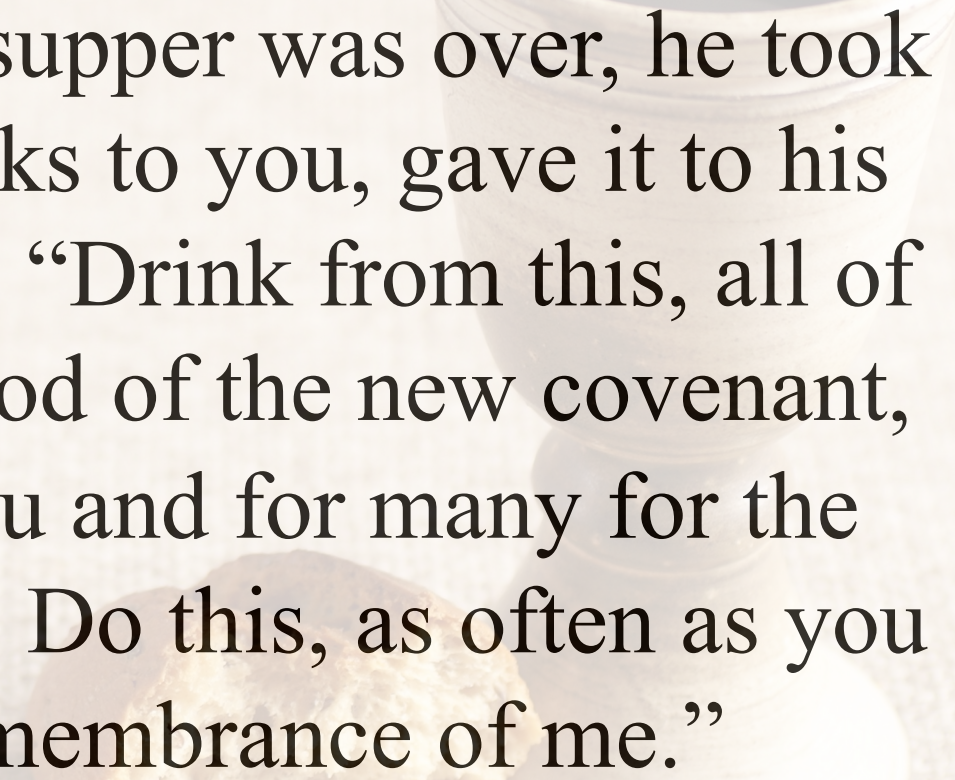
Leader: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

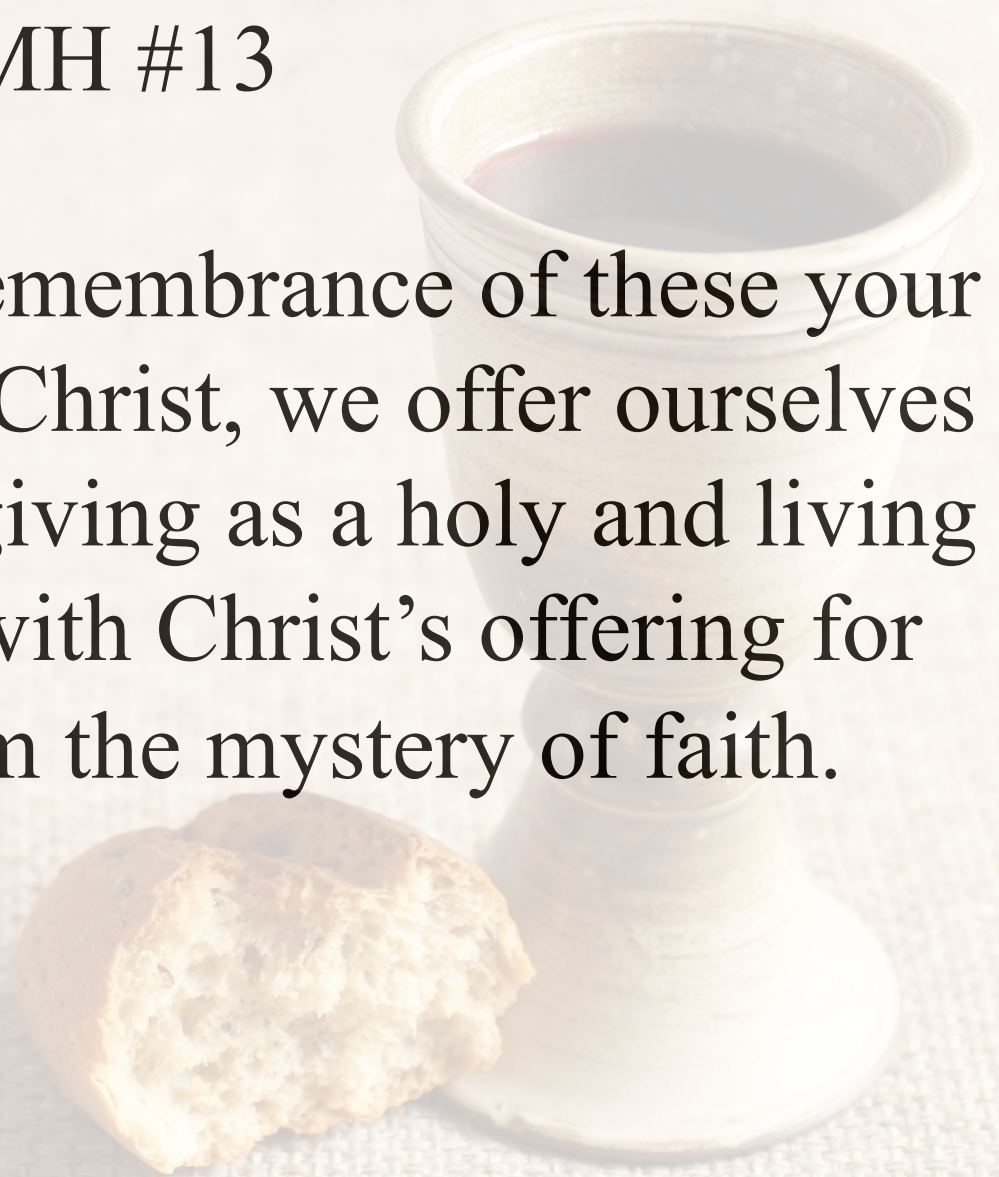
Leader: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”



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

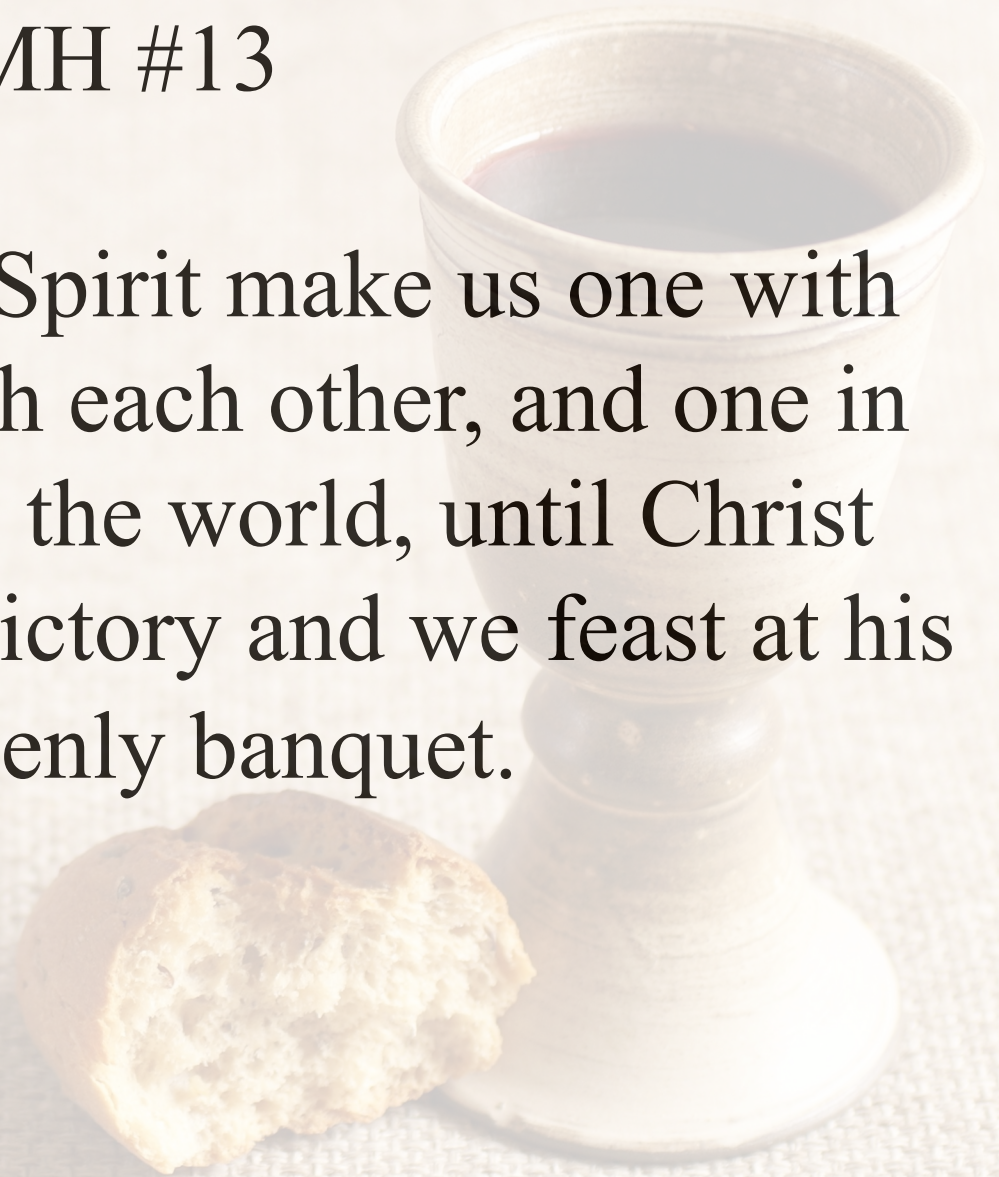
All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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.

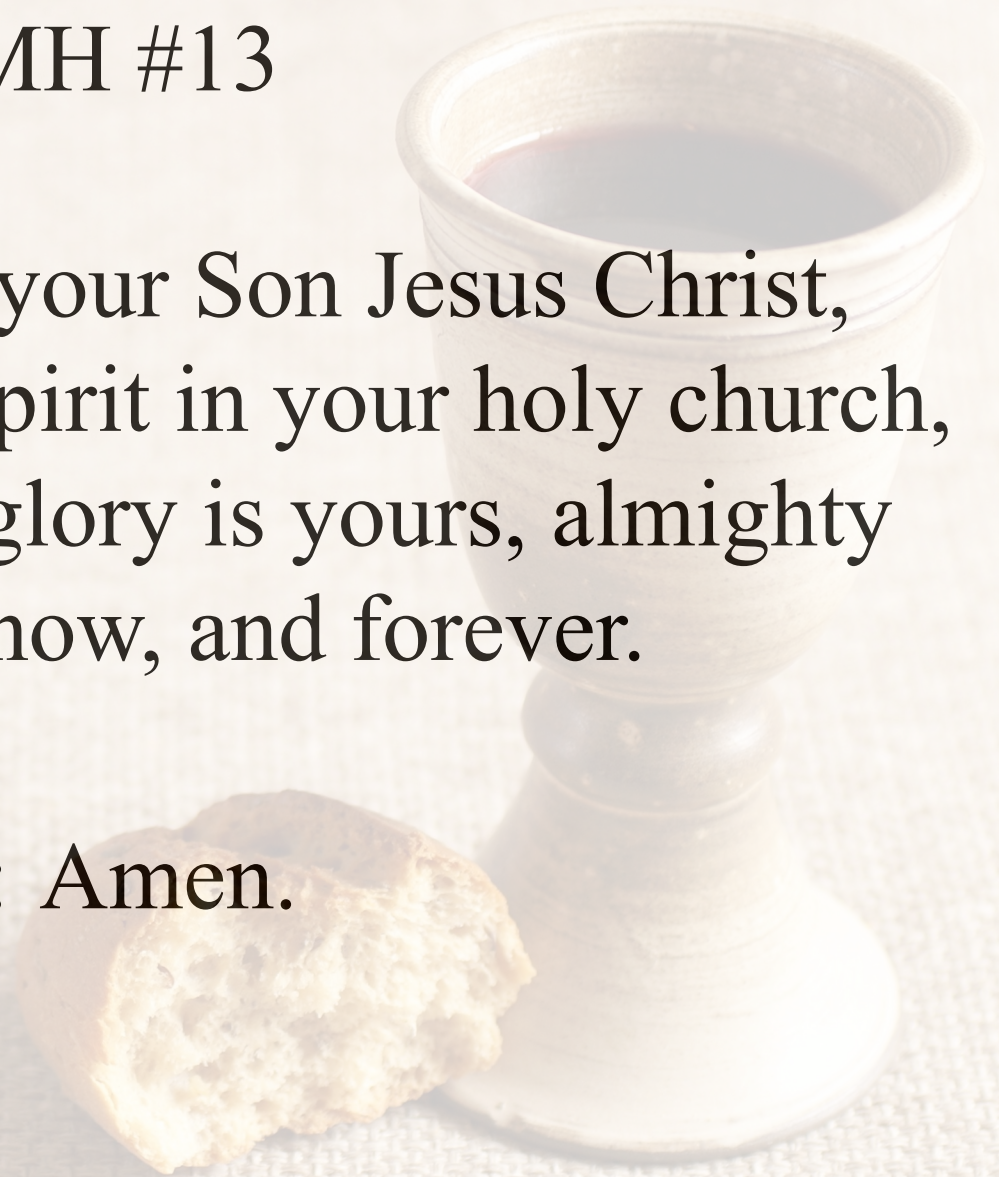


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**



“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east,
beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

And by the light of that same
star Wise Men came
from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

This star drew nigh to the north-west,
o'er Bethlehem
it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently
upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

“Awesome God” TFWS 2040

WORDS and MUSIC: Rich Mullins, 1988

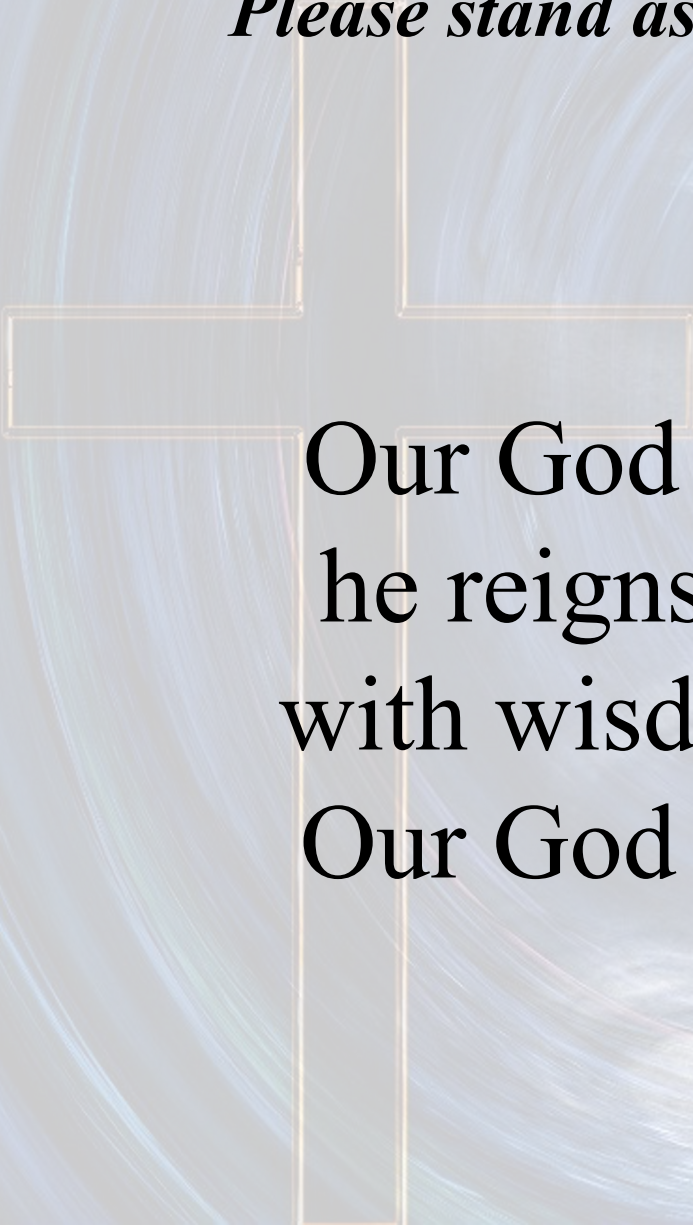
Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



“Awesome God” TFWS 2040

WORDS and MUSIC: Rich Mullins, 1988

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



Our God is an awesome God;
he reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love.
Our God is an awesome God!

“Awesome God” TFWS 2040

WORDS and MUSIC: Rich Mullins, 1988

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Our God is an awesome God;
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Our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God!

Questions for Reflection

**How can give your doubts to God
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
Prayer, Action, and Love
through Service.**