



Prelude

Guest:
Bobby Ford

*21st Sunday after
Pentecost*

October 13th ,
2024

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3430384-01-1829



Bringing In The Light of Christ



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.

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: *Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.*

People: **For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Leader: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

People: **We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

People: **Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. AMEN.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, when we
wander to distant places,
you watch the road to
greet us when we finally
come home. Whenever we
are far from you,**



OPENING PRAYER

**remind us that we are
your beloved children,
the longing of your
heart, and give us the
strength and courage to
return to your open arms.**



OPENING PRAYER

**When we have sinned
against heaven and before
you,
forgive us, for we are
coming home! Amen.**



A photograph of two children walking away from the camera on a paved path in a park. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of late afternoon or early morning, with long shadows cast on the ground. The background is filled with trees and foliage, some of which are out of focus, creating a bokeh effect. The overall mood is peaceful and nostalgic.

Young Disciples' Message

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me,
use me.**

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**





2 Corinthians 5: 16 -21

NRSVUE

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way.

17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

PSALM READING

Psalm 32 UMH 766

Leader: ¹ Blessed are those
whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

People: ² Blessed are those whom
the Lord does not hold guilty, and
in whose spirit there is no deceit.

PSALM READING

Psalm 32 UMH 766

Leader: ³When I did not declare
my sin, my body wasted away through
my groaning all day long.

People: ⁴For day and night your hand
was heavy upon me; my strength was
dried up as by the heat of summer.

PSALM READING

Psalm 32 UMH 766

Leader: ⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity...

People: I said, “I will confess my
transgressions to the Lord”; then
you forgave the guilt of my sin.

PSALM READING

Psalm 32 UMH 766

Leader: ⁶Therefore let those who
are godly offer prayer to you...

People: at a time of distress, the rush
of great waters shall not reach them.

PSALM READING

Psalm 32 UMH 766

Leader: ⁷You are a hiding place for me, you preserve me from trouble; you encompass me with deliverance.

People: ⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

PSALM READING

Psalm 32 UMH 766

Leader: ⁹Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle.

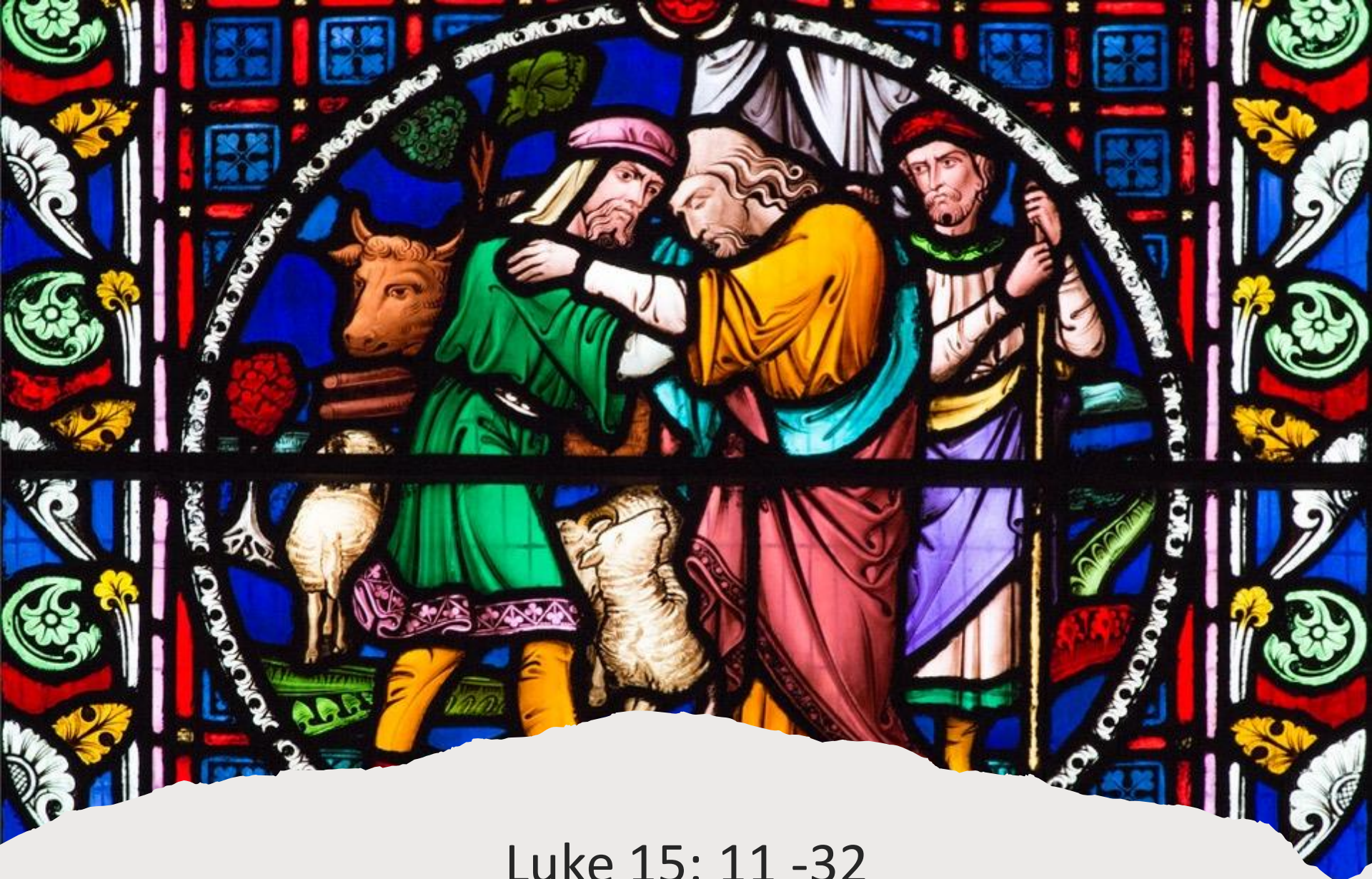
People: ¹⁰Many are the pangs of the wicked; but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

PSALM READING

Psalm 32 UMH 766

Leader: ¹¹Be glad in the Lord,
and rejoice, O righteous...

People: shout for joy, all
you upright in heart!



Luke 15: 11 -32

NRSVUE

11 Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them.

13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living.

14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

16 He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything.

17 But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." '

20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'¹

22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 And get the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate,

24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’

28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

29 But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!

31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

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.**



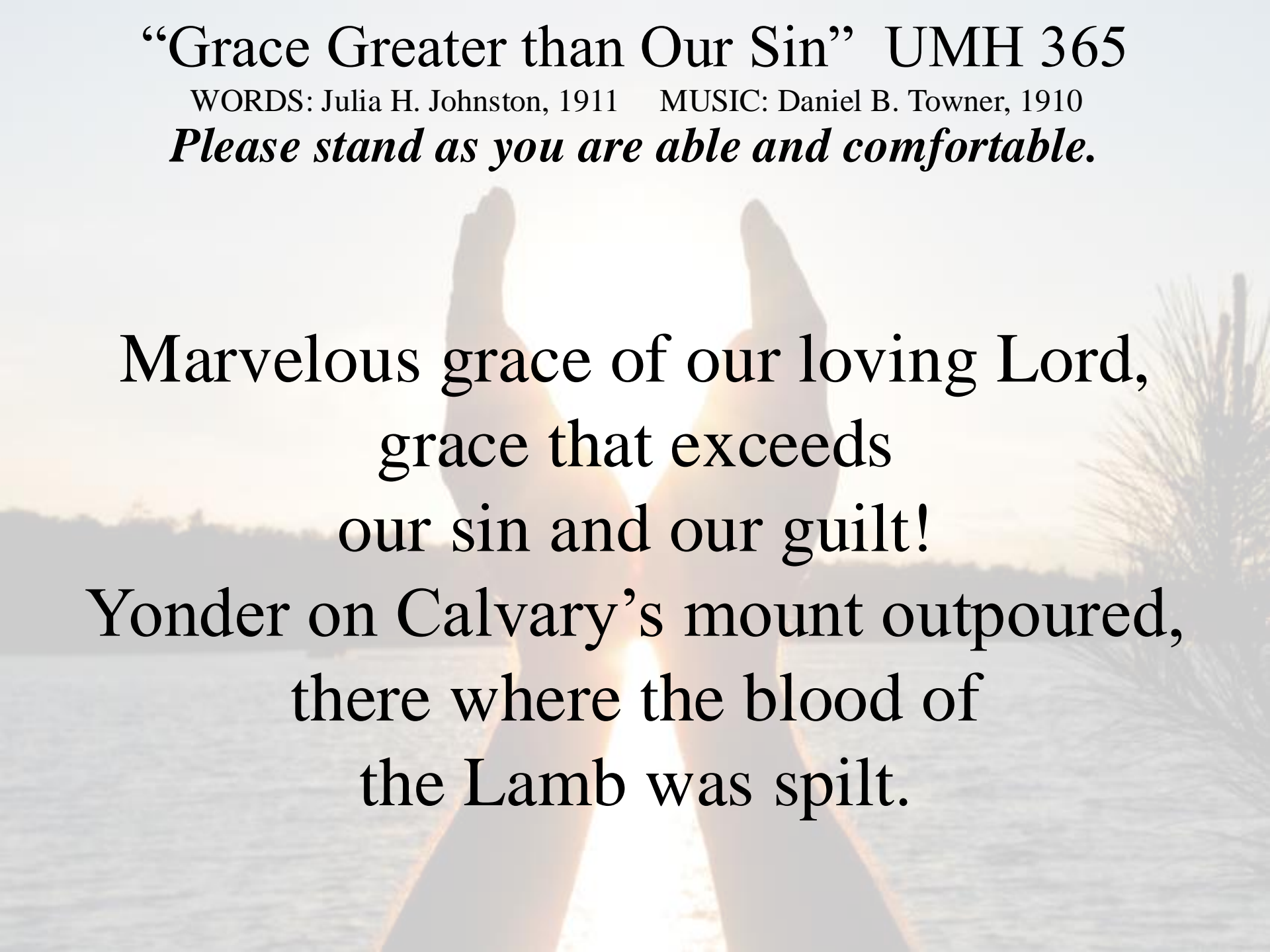
Sermon

“The Prodigal and
the Cornfield”

“Grace Greater than Our Sin” UMH 365

WORDS: Julia H. Johnston, 1911 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner, 1910

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

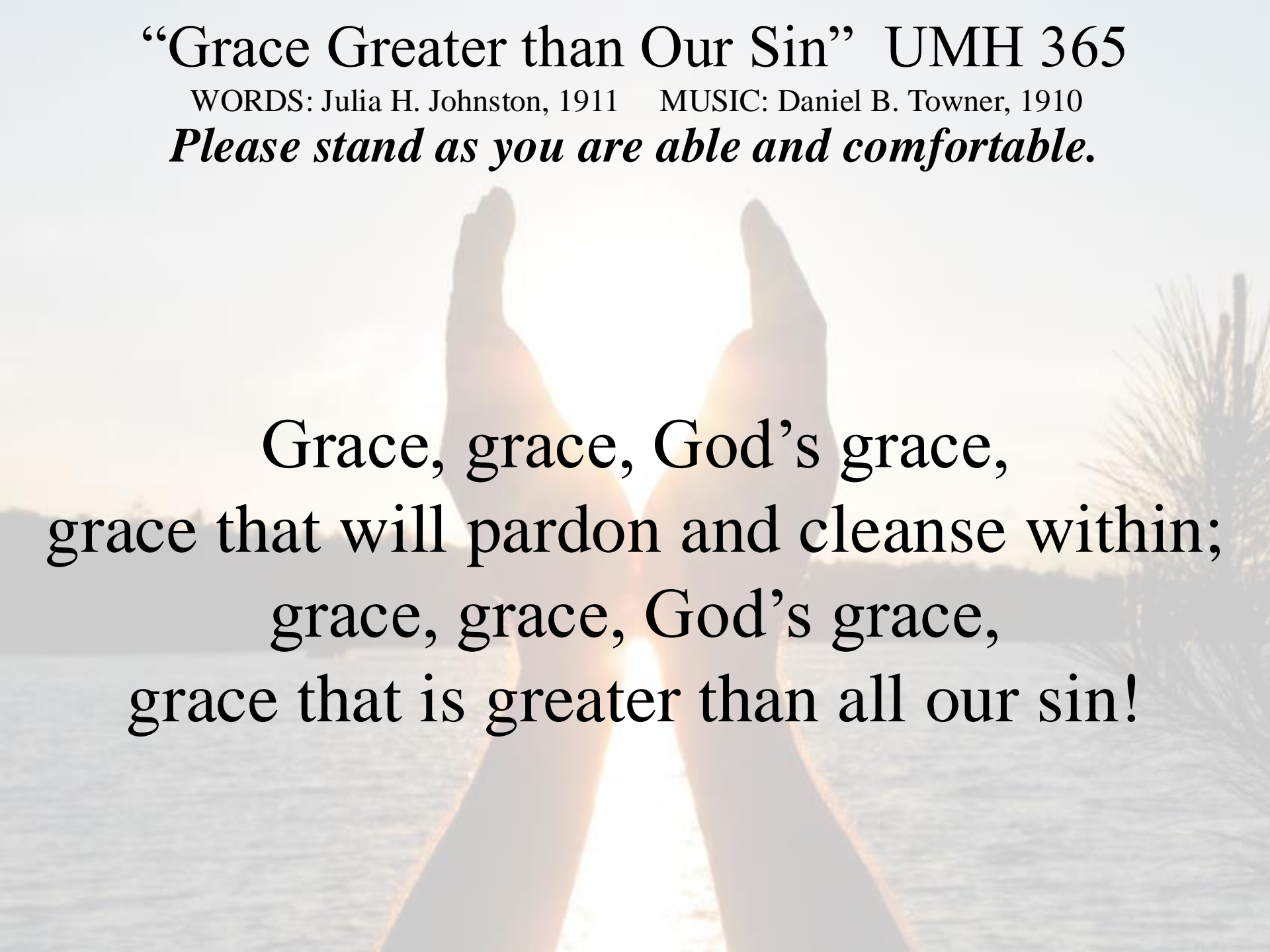


Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
grace that exceeds
our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
there where the blood of
the Lamb was spilt.

“Grace Greater than Our Sin” UMH 365

WORDS: Julia H. Johnston, 1911 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner, 1910

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

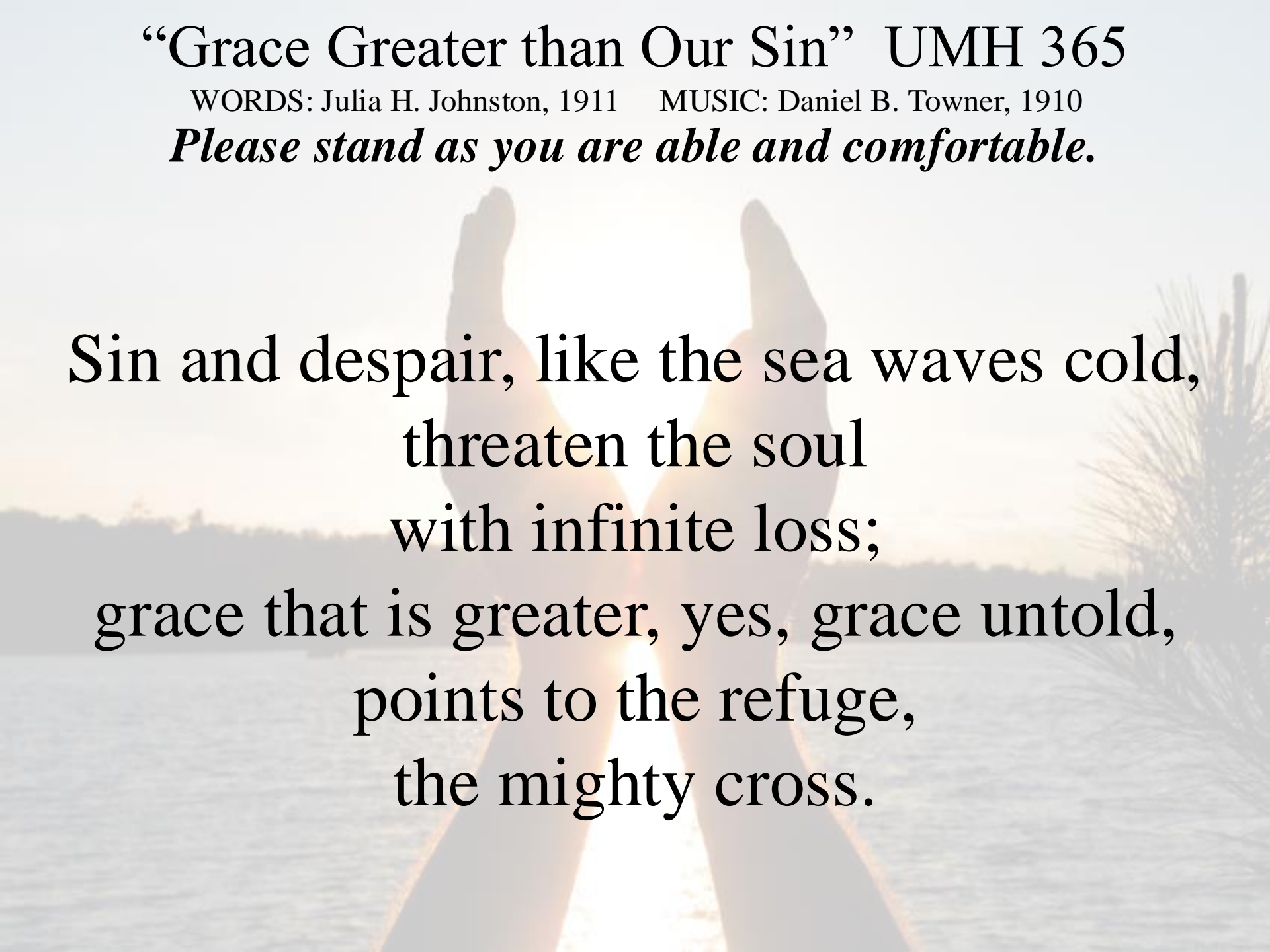


Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin!

“Grace Greater than Our Sin” UMH 365

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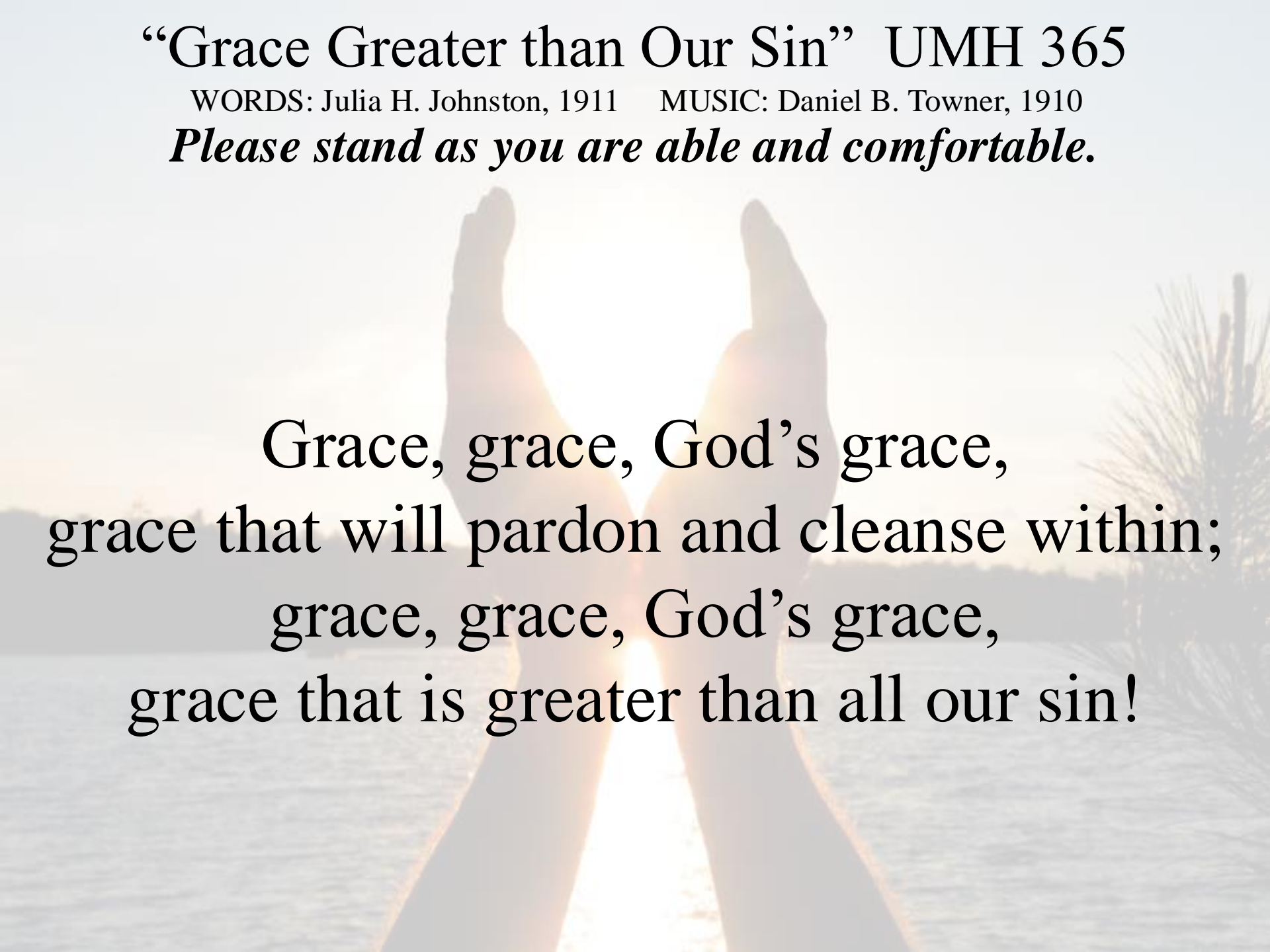


Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,
threaten the soul
with infinite loss;
grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
points to the refuge,
the mighty cross.

“Grace Greater than Our Sin” UMH 365

WORDS: Julia H. Johnston, 1911 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner, 1910

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Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin!

“Grace Greater than Our Sin” UMH 365

WORDS: Julia H. Johnston, 1911 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner, 1910

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.

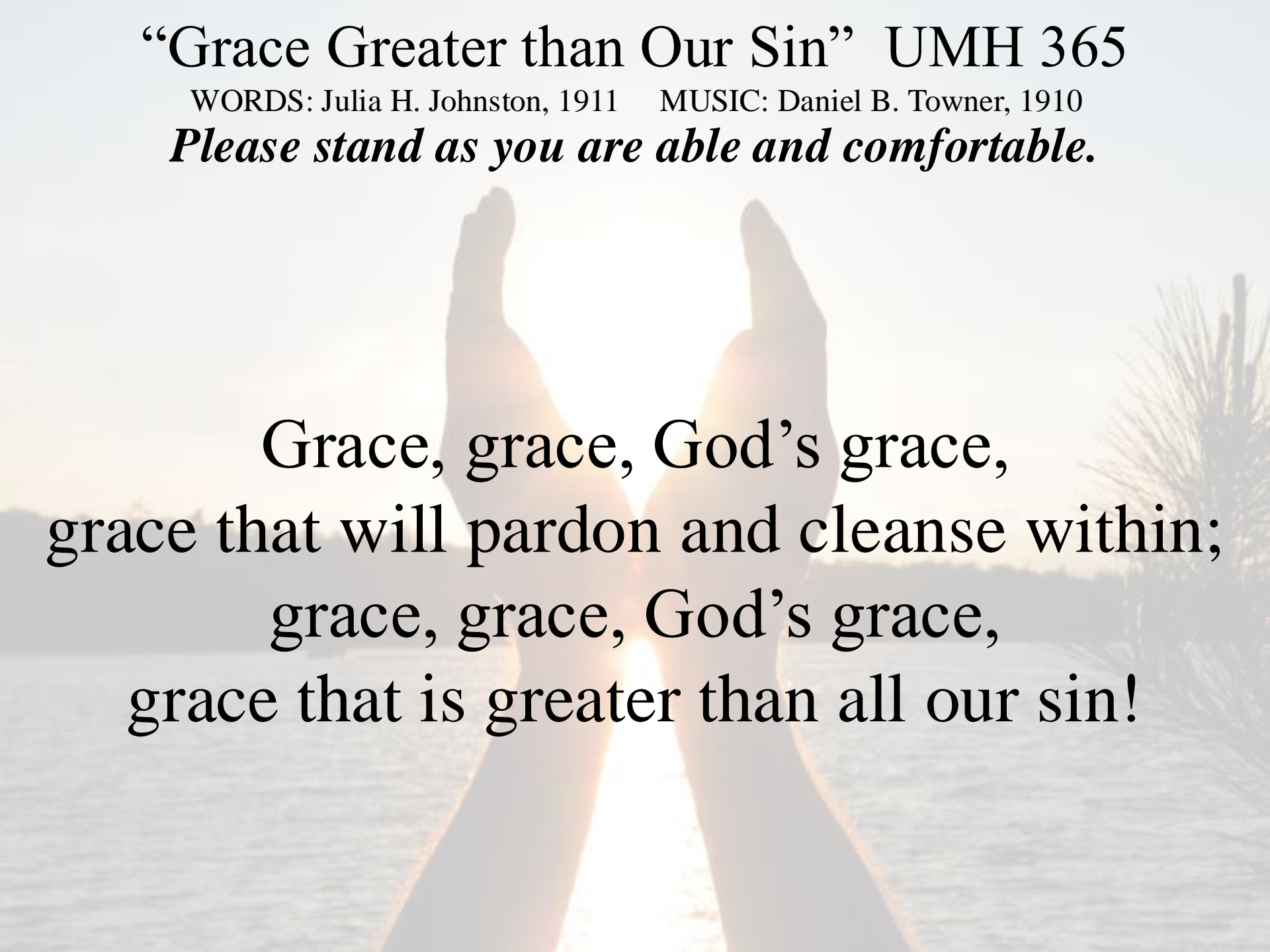
What can avail
to wash it away?

Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,
brighter than snow you
may be today.

“Grace Greater than Our Sin” UMH 365

WORDS: Julia H. Johnston, 1911 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner, 1910

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

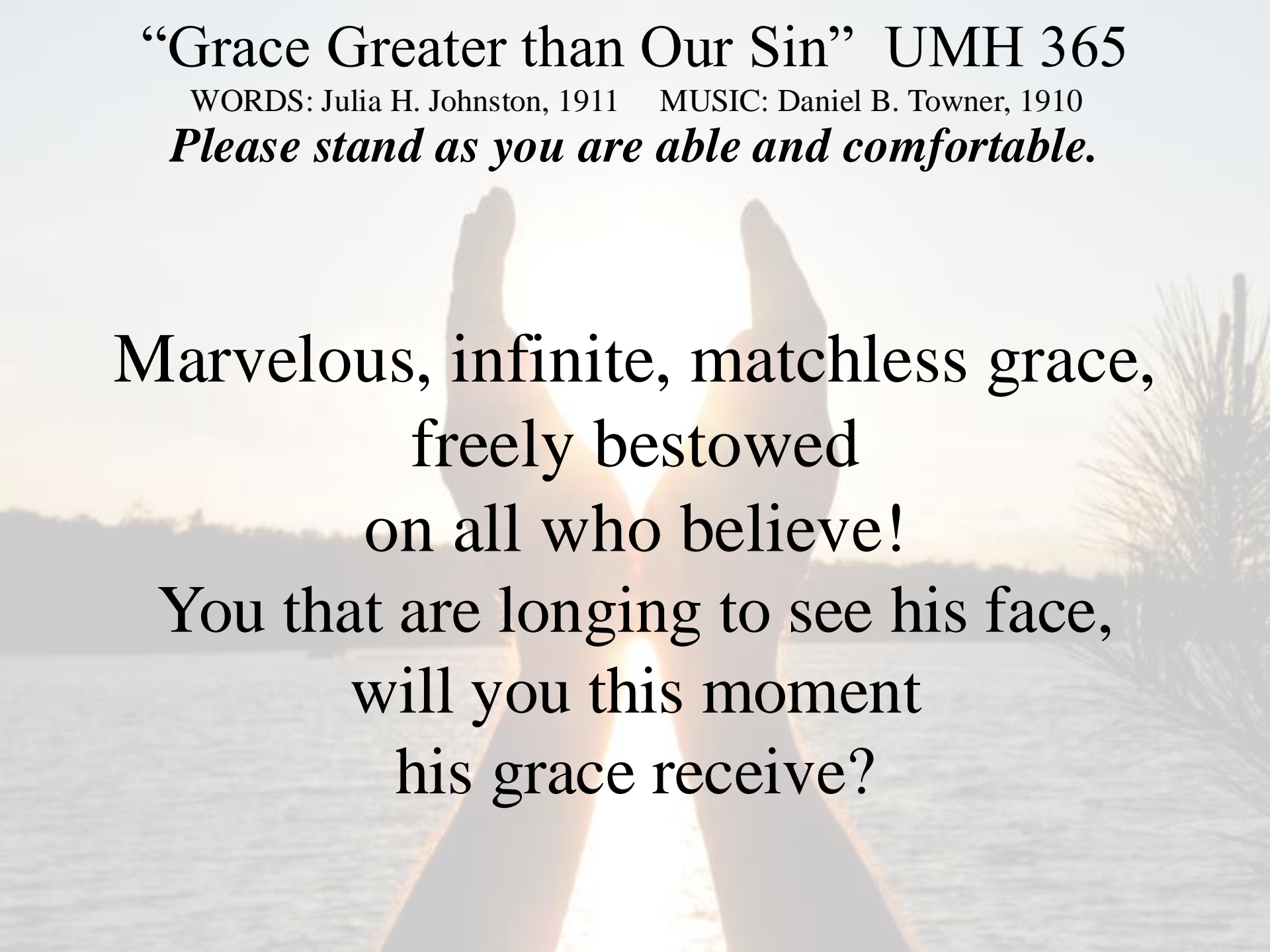


Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin!

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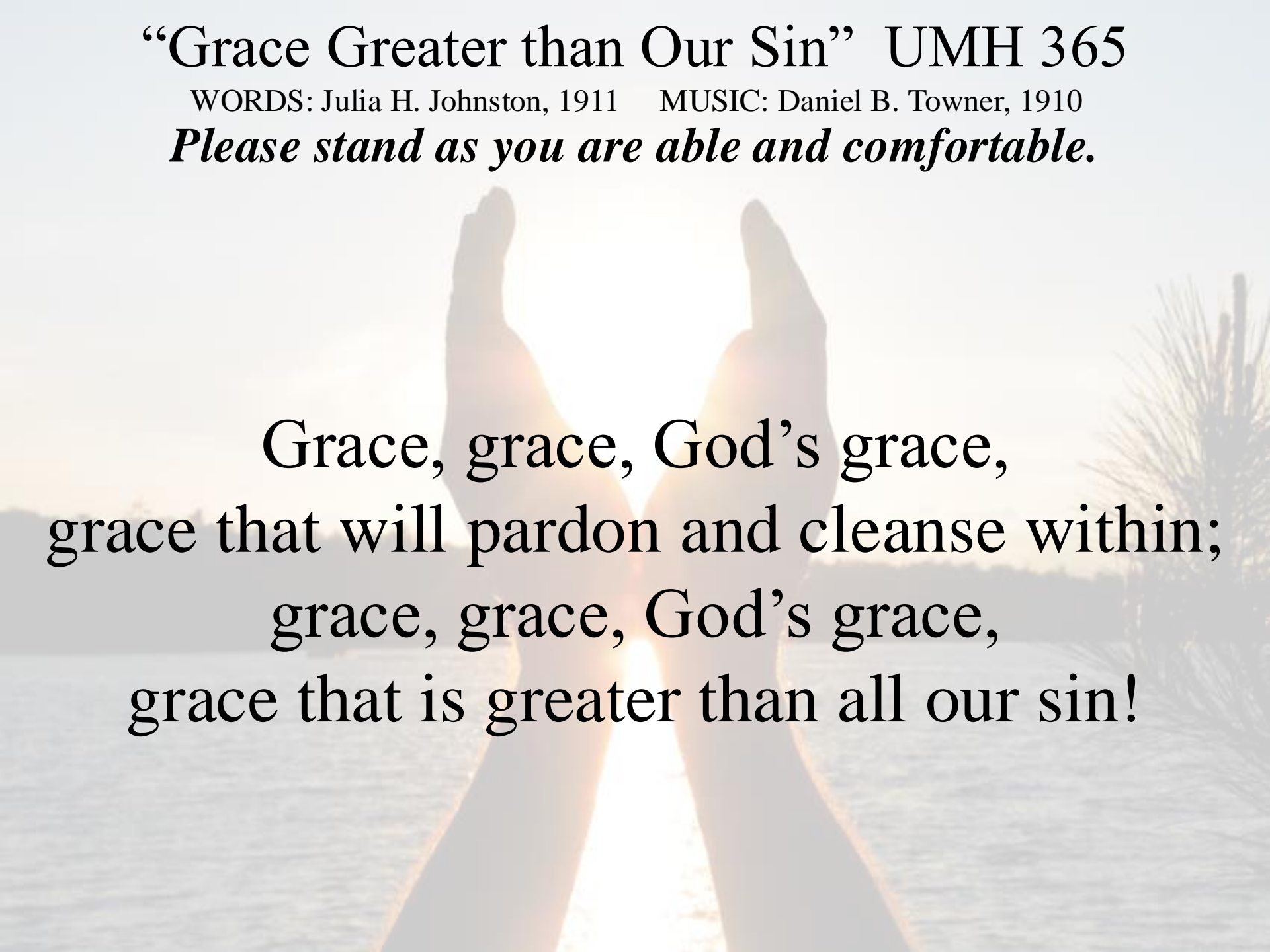


Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
freely bestowed
on all who believe!
You that are longing to see his face,
will you this moment
his grace receive?

“Grace Greater than Our Sin” UMH 365

WORDS: Julia H. Johnston, 1911 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner, 1910

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

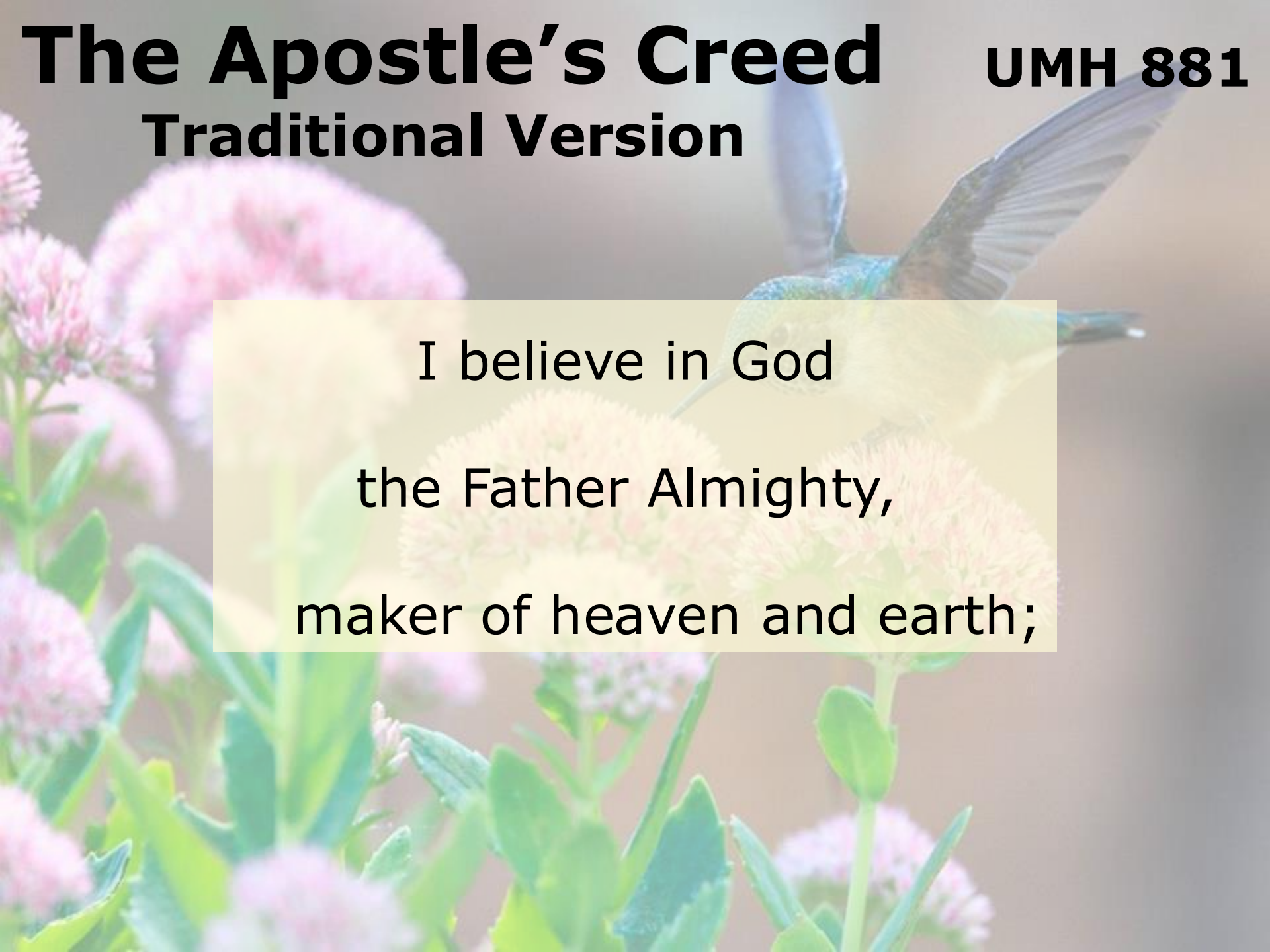


Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin!

The Apostle's Creed

Traditional Version

UMH 881

A hummingbird with iridescent green and blue feathers is hovering over a cluster of pink, spherical flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown.

I believe in God
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

The Apostle's Creed

Traditional Version

UMH 881

And 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, dead, and buried;

The Apostle's Creed

Traditional Version

UMH 881

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the

Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick

and the dead.

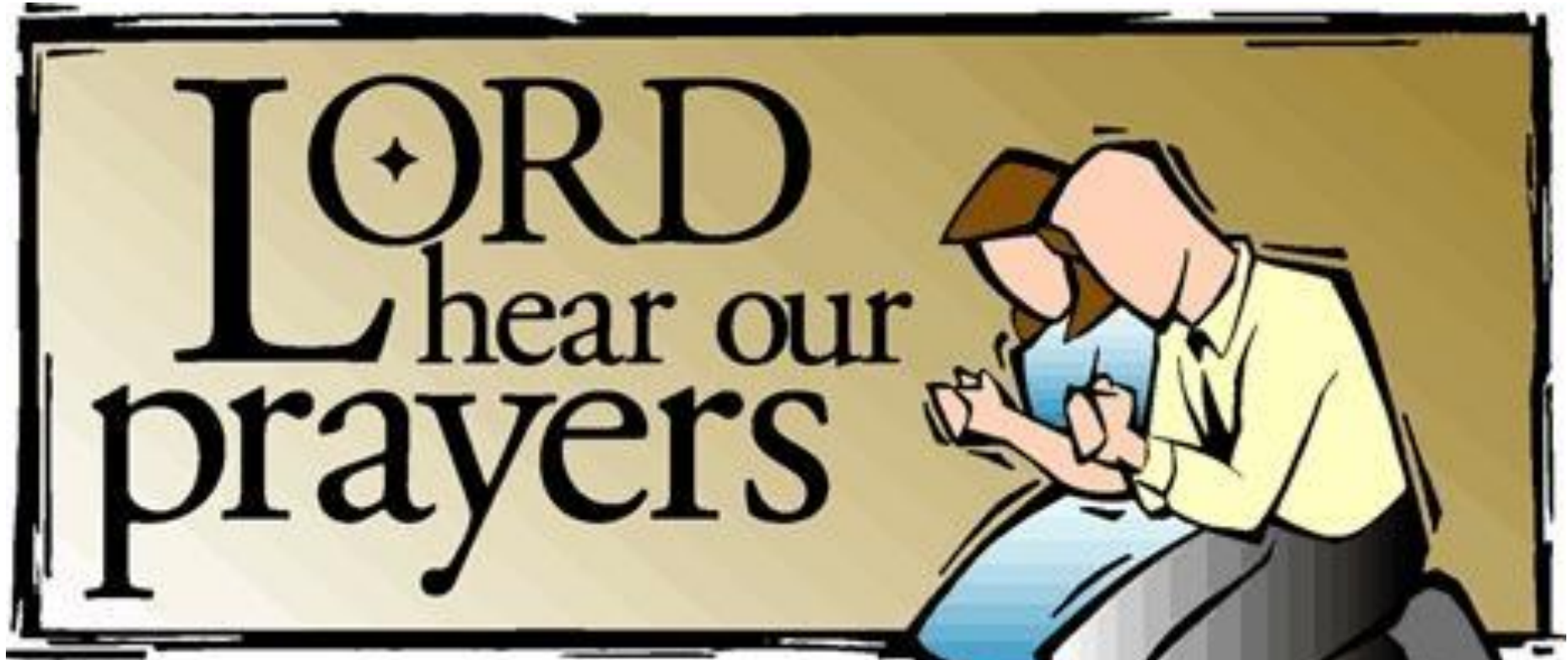
The Apostle's Creed

Traditional Version

UMH 881

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



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



Pastoral Prayer

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



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!



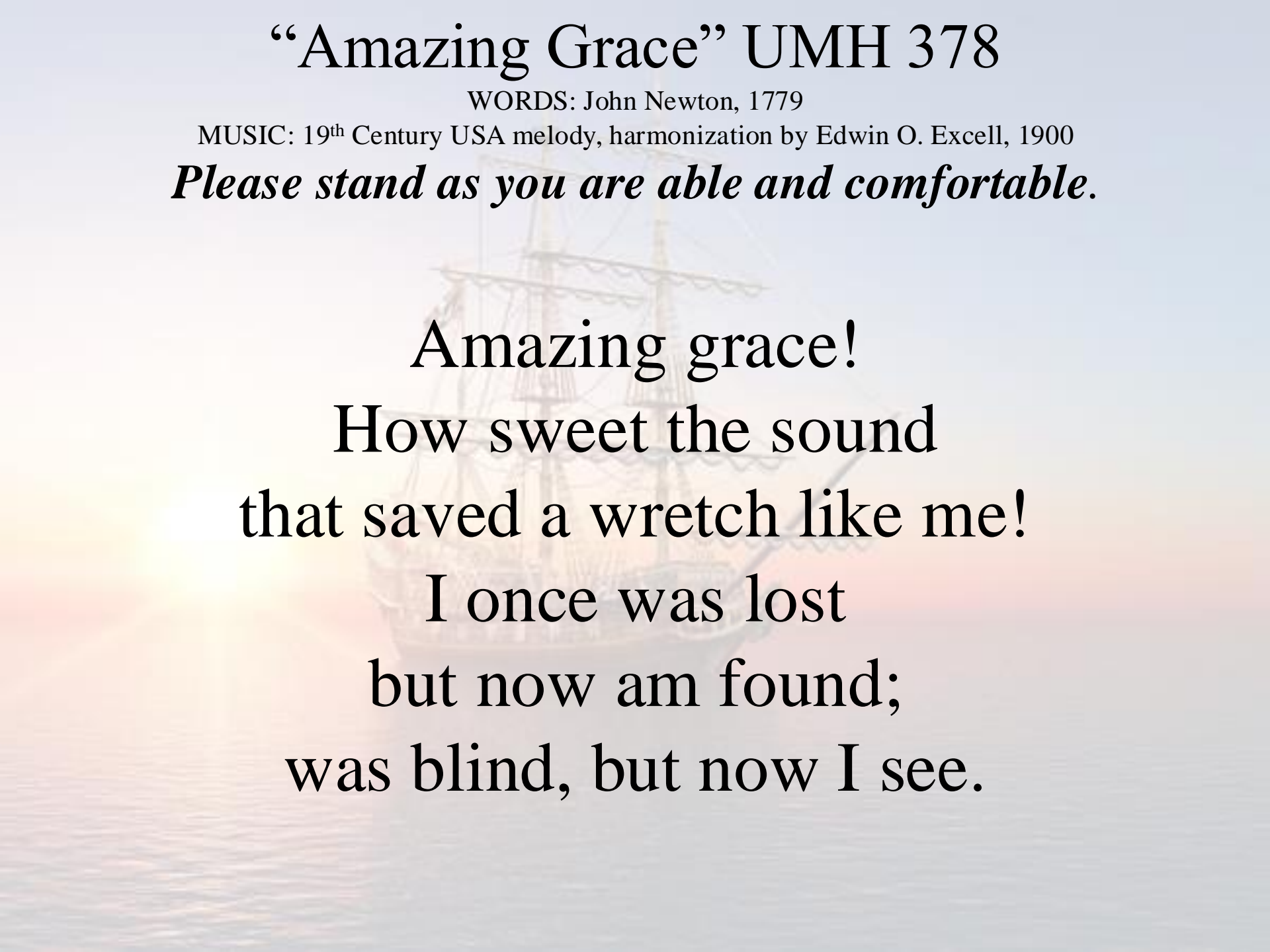
Offertory Prayer

“Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19th Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



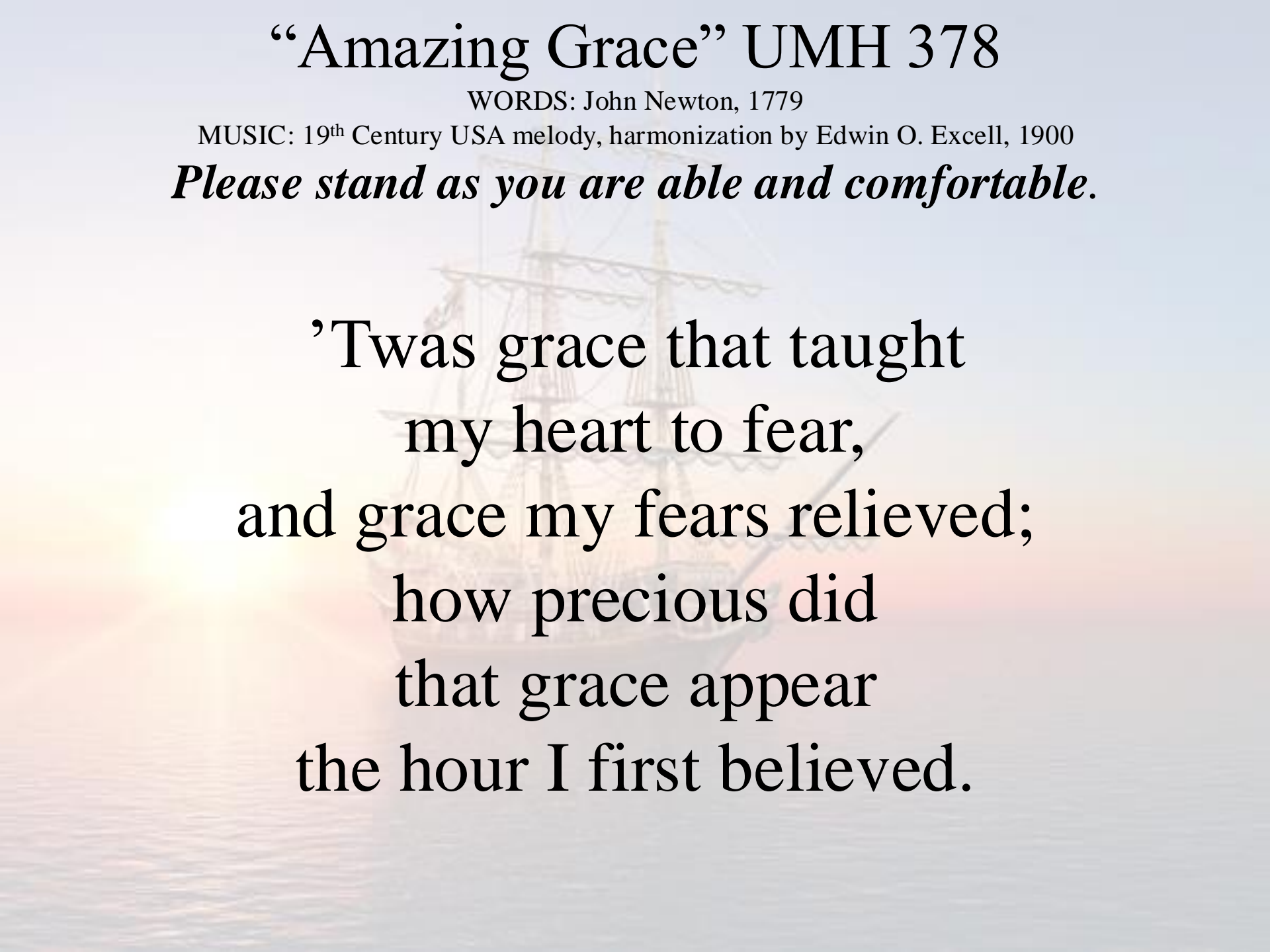
Amazing grace!
How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost
but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

“Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19th Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

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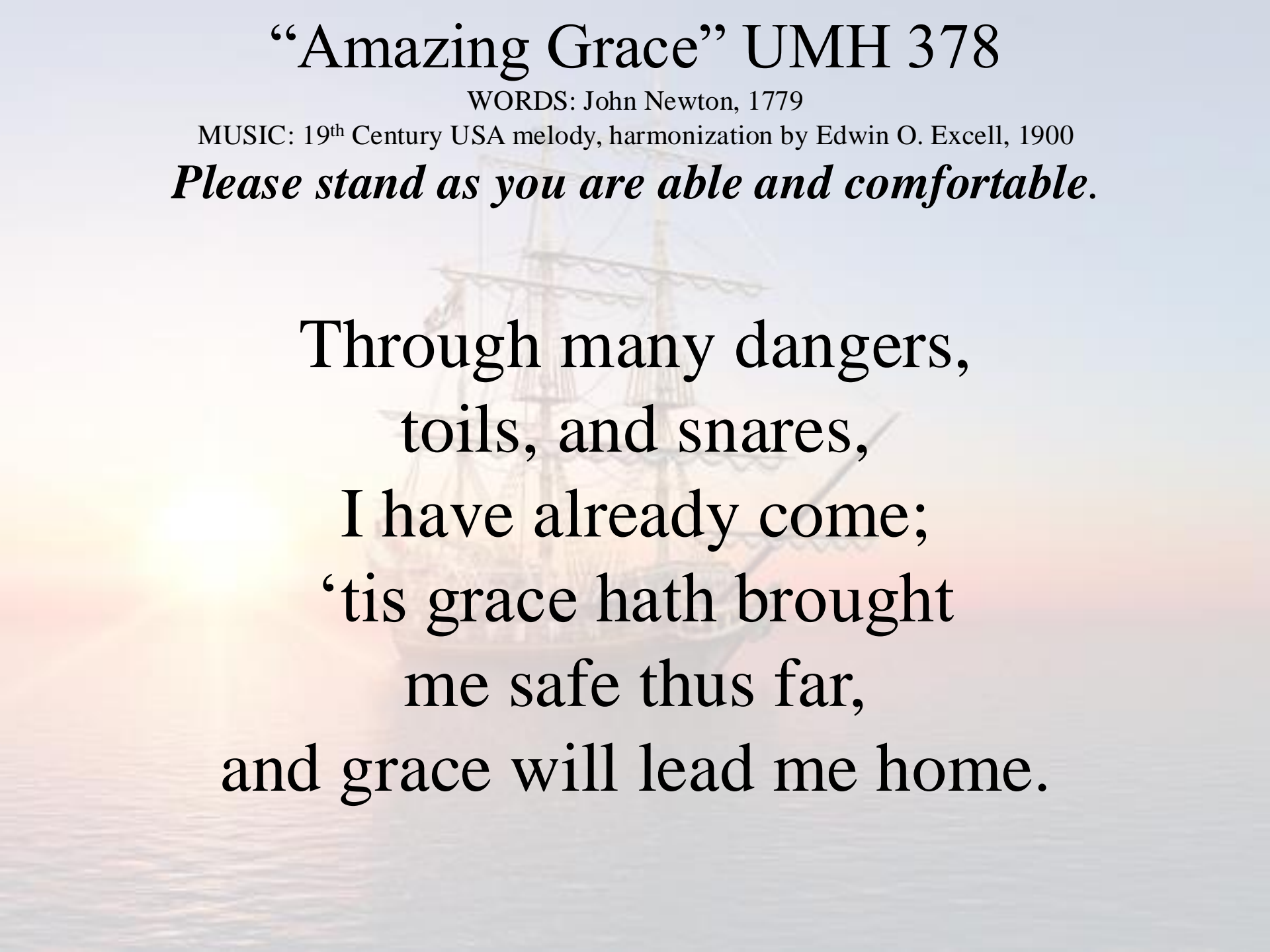
'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did
that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

“Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19th Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

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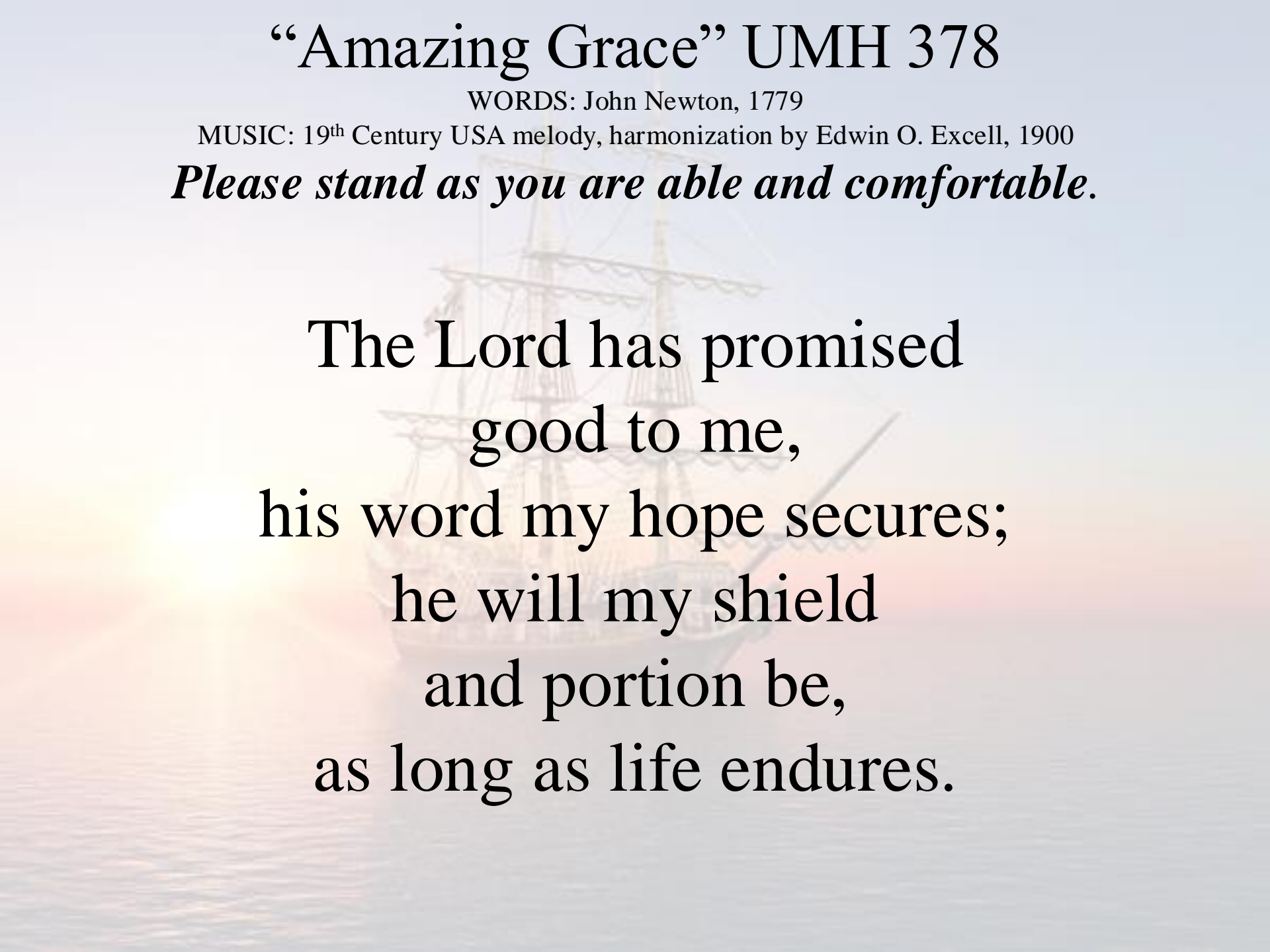
Through many dangers,
toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought
me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

“Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19th Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

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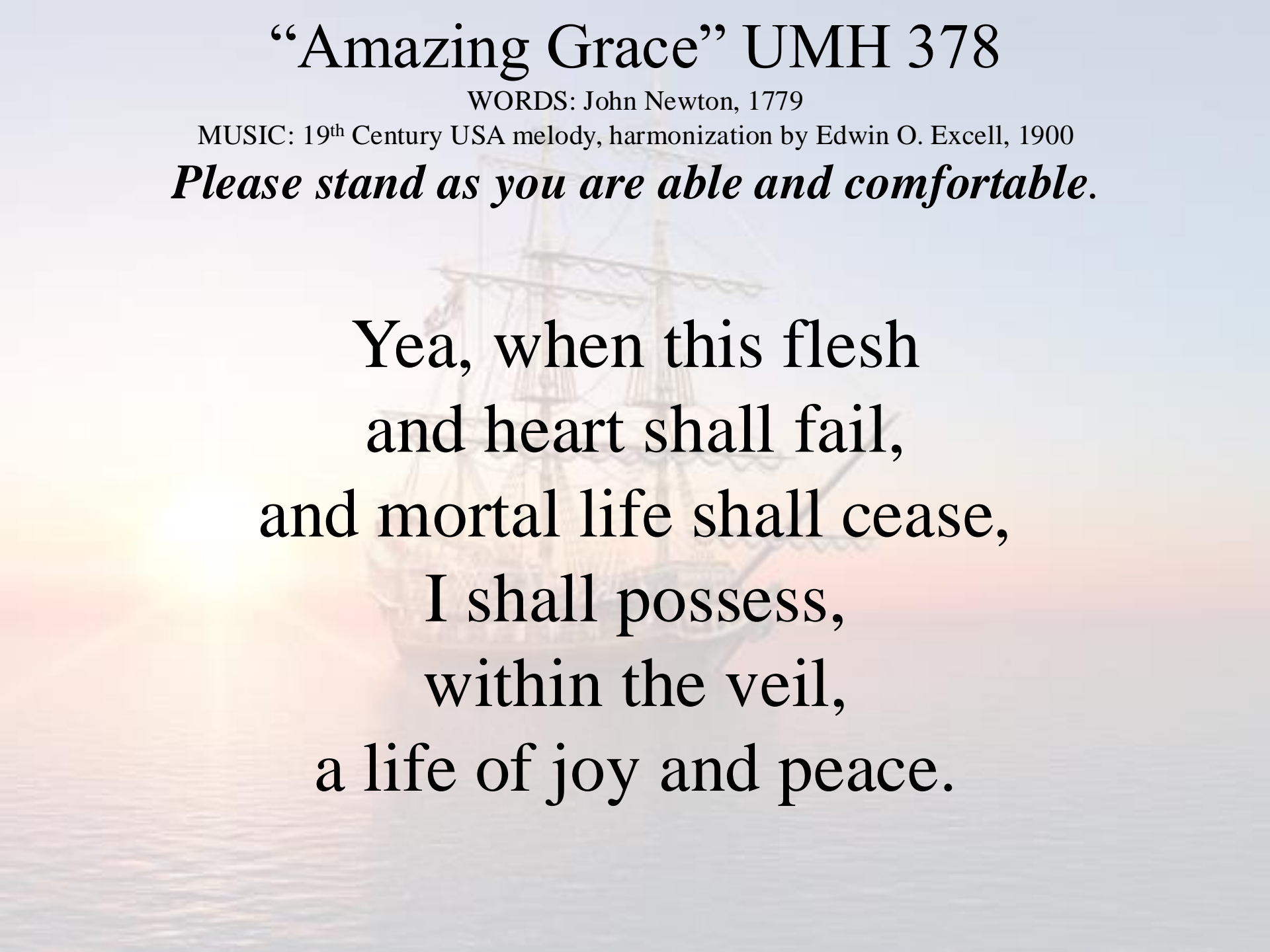
The Lord has promised
good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield
and portion be,
as long as life endures.

“Amazing Grace” UMH 378

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MUSIC: 19th Century USA melody, harmonization by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

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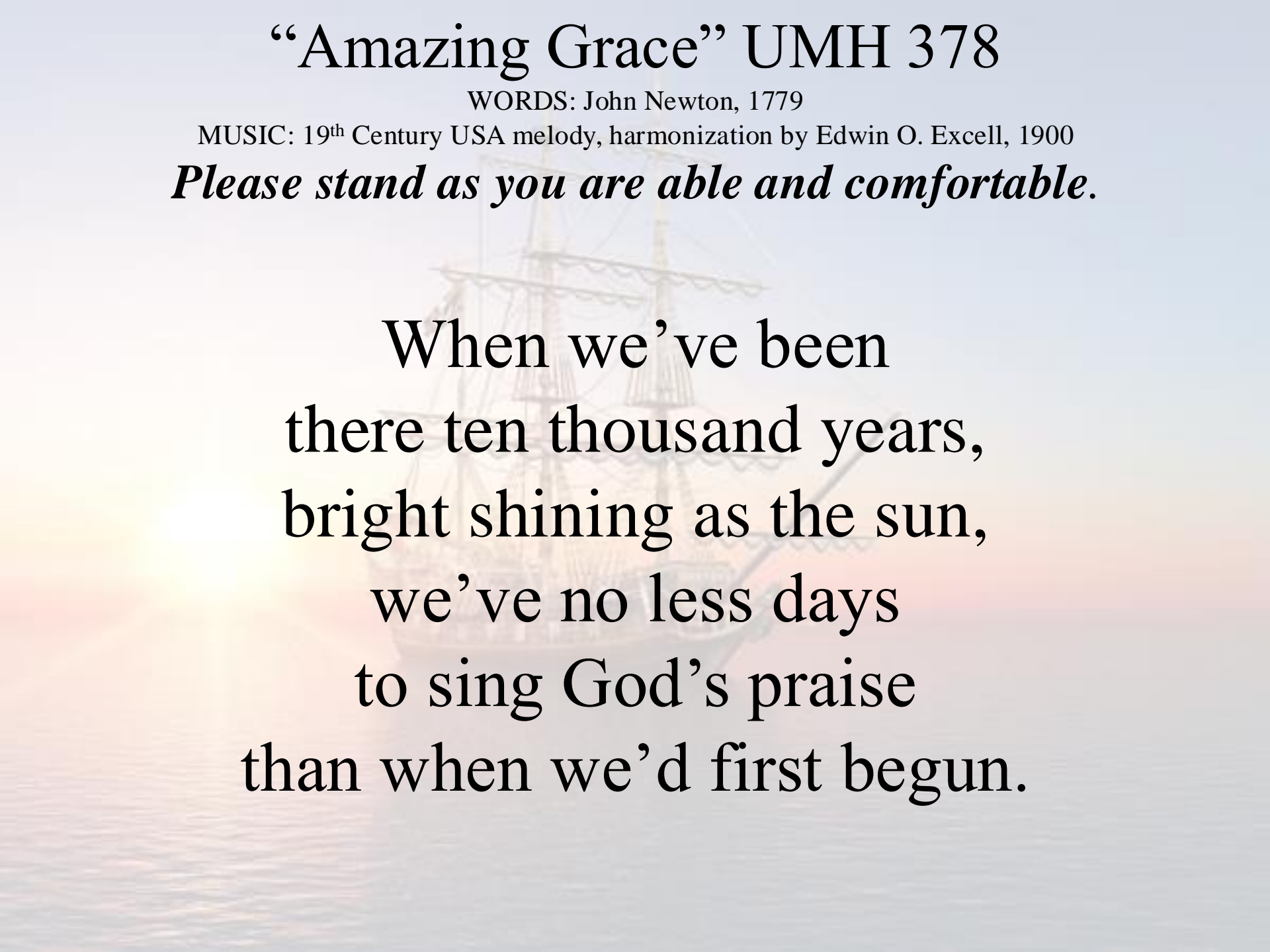
Yea, when this flesh
and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess,
within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

“Amazing Grace” UMH 378

WORDS: John Newton, 1779

MUSIC: 19th 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.



Benediction

A scenic landscape featuring a mountain range under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with dense trees displaying vibrant autumn foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow. In the distance, a blue lake is visible on the left side. The word "POSTLUDE" is centered in a white rectangular box with a thin black border.

POSTLUDE

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, **A**ction, and **L**ove
through **S**ervice.