



WELCOME!

Asbury United Methodist Church

Open Doors with Loving Hearts

April 26, 2026





CENTERING SONG

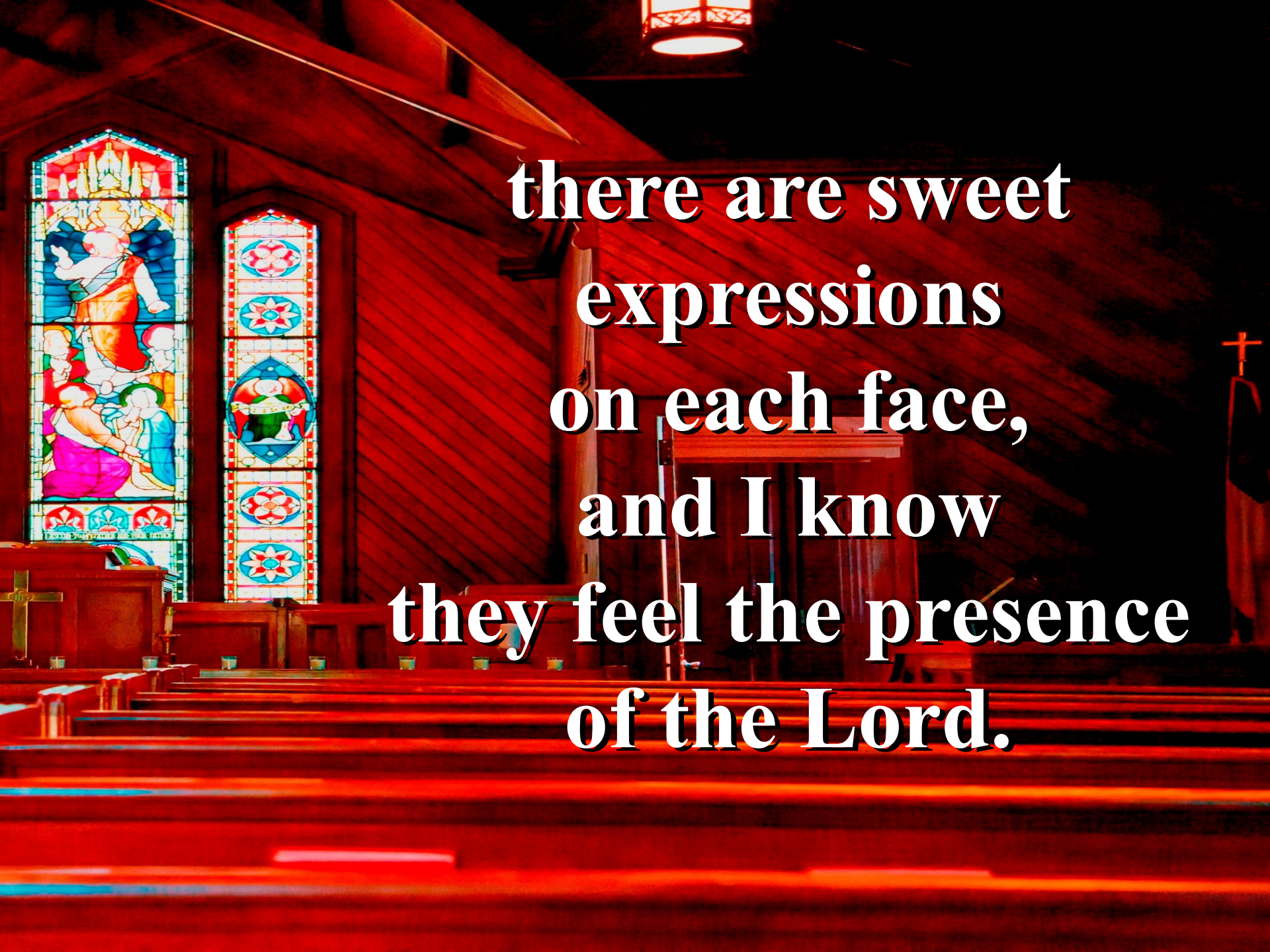
**“SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT”
UMH 334**

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

334

WORDS: Doris Akers, 1962

There's a sweet,
sweet Spirit
in this place,
and I know that it's
the Spirit of the Lord



**there are sweet
expressions
on each face,
and I know
they feel the presence
of the Lord.**

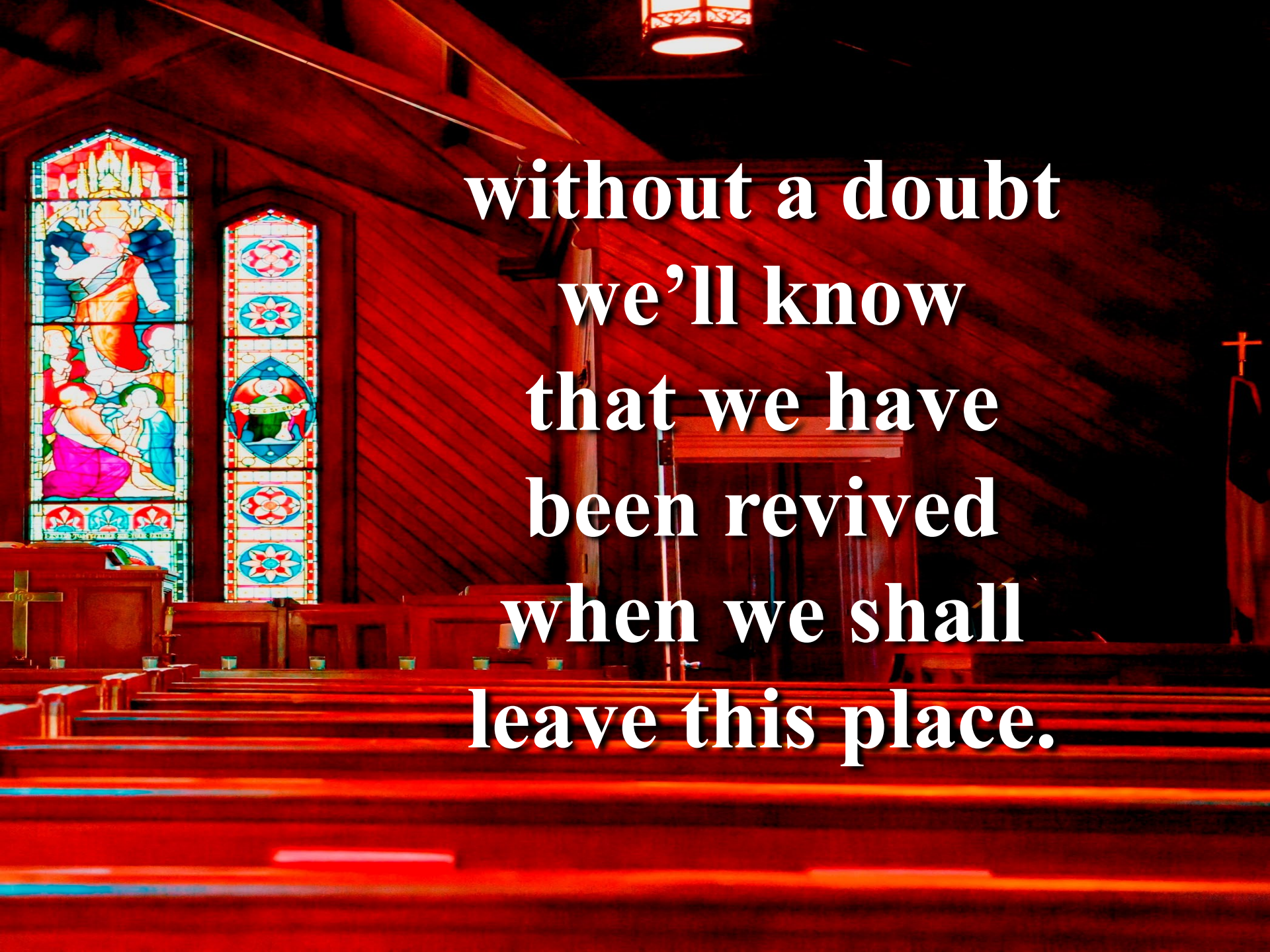
A photograph of a church interior, likely a sanctuary or choir loft. The walls are made of dark wood paneling. On the left, there are two tall, narrow stained glass windows. The larger one on the left depicts a religious scene with figures in colorful robes. The smaller one next to it has a central panel with a figure and several smaller panels with floral or geometric designs. In the foreground, rows of wooden pews are visible, receding into the distance. A wooden altar with a cross is partially visible on the far left. A hanging lantern is visible at the top center of the frame.

Refrain

**Sweet Holy Spirit,
sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us,
filling us with your love;**



**and for these blessings
we lift our hearts
in praise;**



**without a doubt
we'll know
that we have
been revived
when we shall
leave this place.**



UNITY IN THE
Body of Christ

EPHESIANS 4

“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS”

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

140

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923 (Lam. 3:22-23)

1. Great is thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
there is no shadow
of turning with thee;

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a sky filled with soft, purple and blue clouds. Below the rainbow, a mountain range is visible, with a dense forest of evergreen trees in the foreground and middle ground. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

**thou changest not,
thy compassions,
they fail not;
as thou hast been,
thou forever wilt be.**

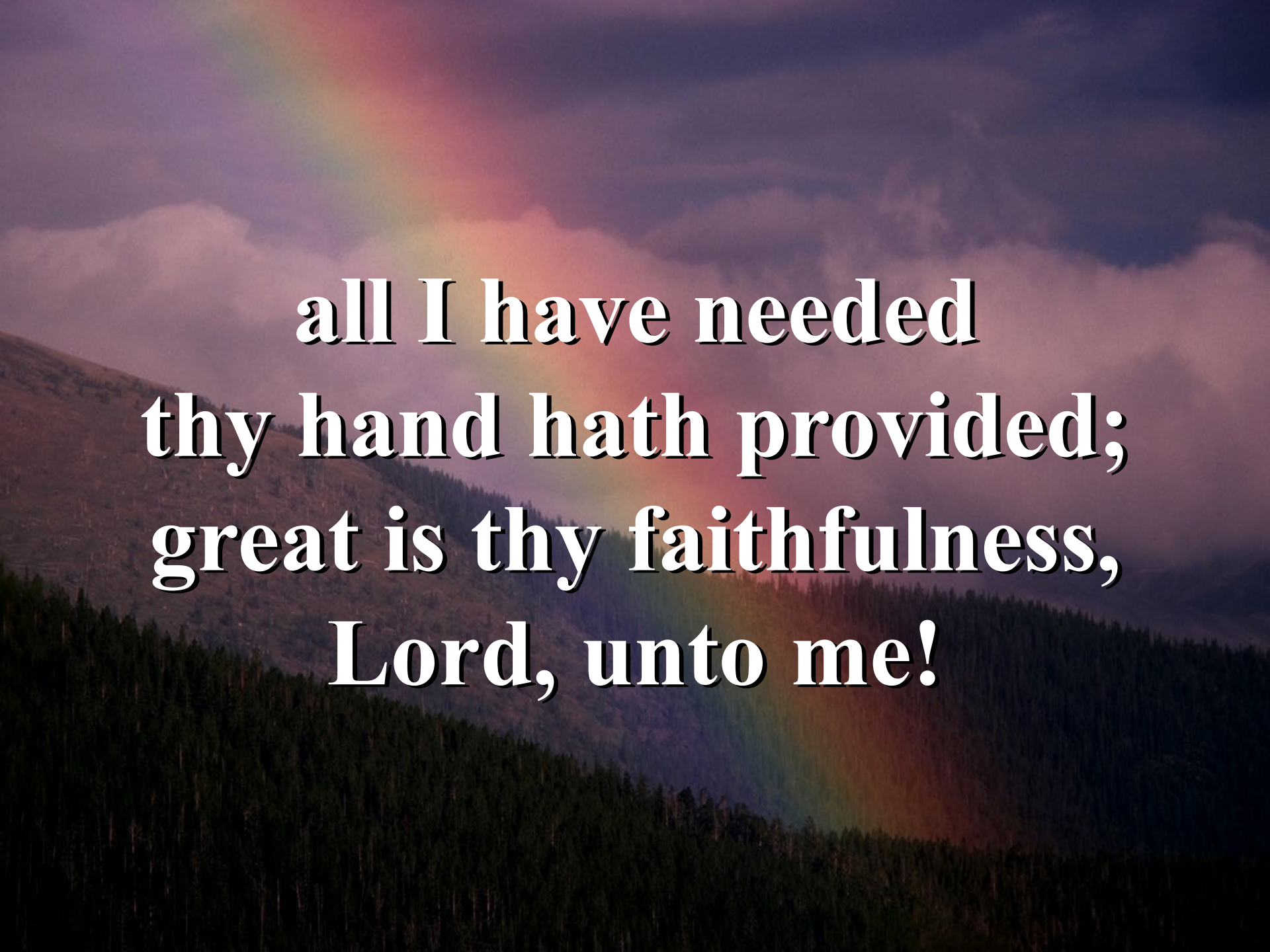
Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness!


Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning


new mercies I see;

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a cloudy sky. Below the rainbow, a dense forest of evergreen trees covers a valley, with rolling hills visible in the background. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

**all I have needed
thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!**

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a sky filled with soft, purple and blue clouds. Below the sky, a dark, dense forest of evergreen trees covers a hillside that slopes upwards from the bottom left towards the center. The overall scene is atmospheric and serene.

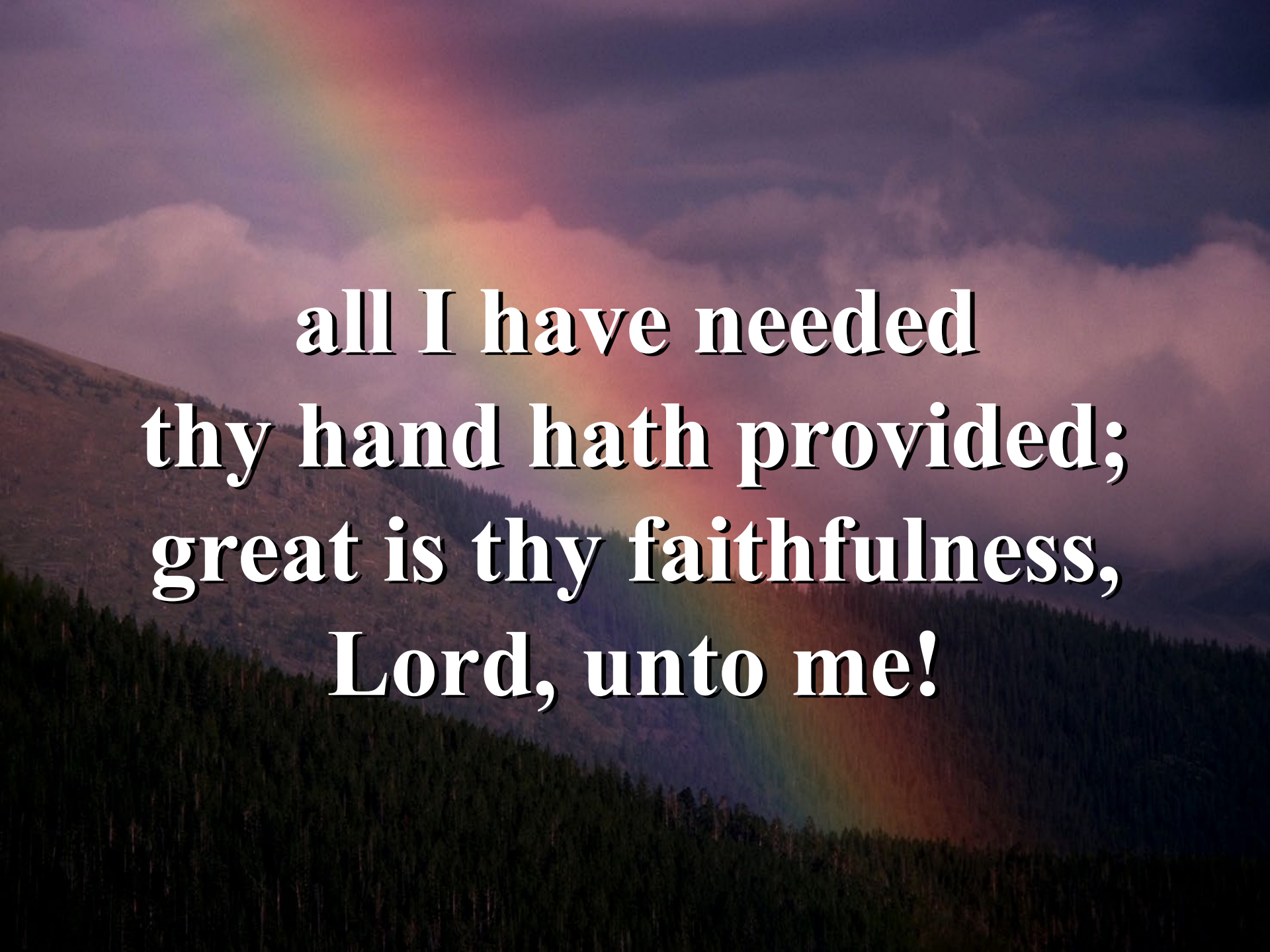
**2. Summer and winter
and springtime
and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars
in their courses above**

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a cloudy sky. Below the rainbow, a dense forest of evergreen trees covers a valley, with rolling hills visible in the background. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

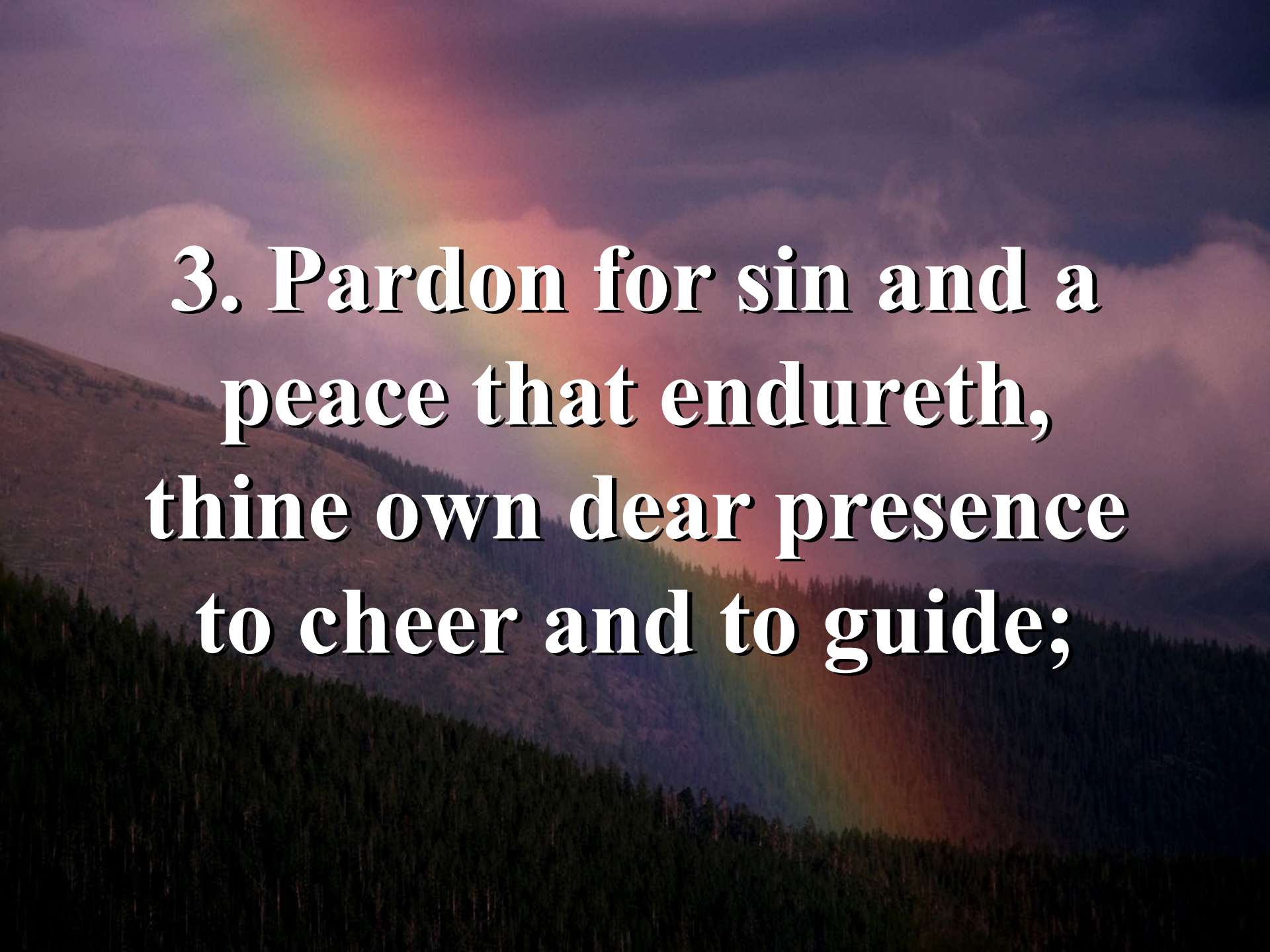
**join with all nature in
manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness,
mercy, and love.**

Refrain

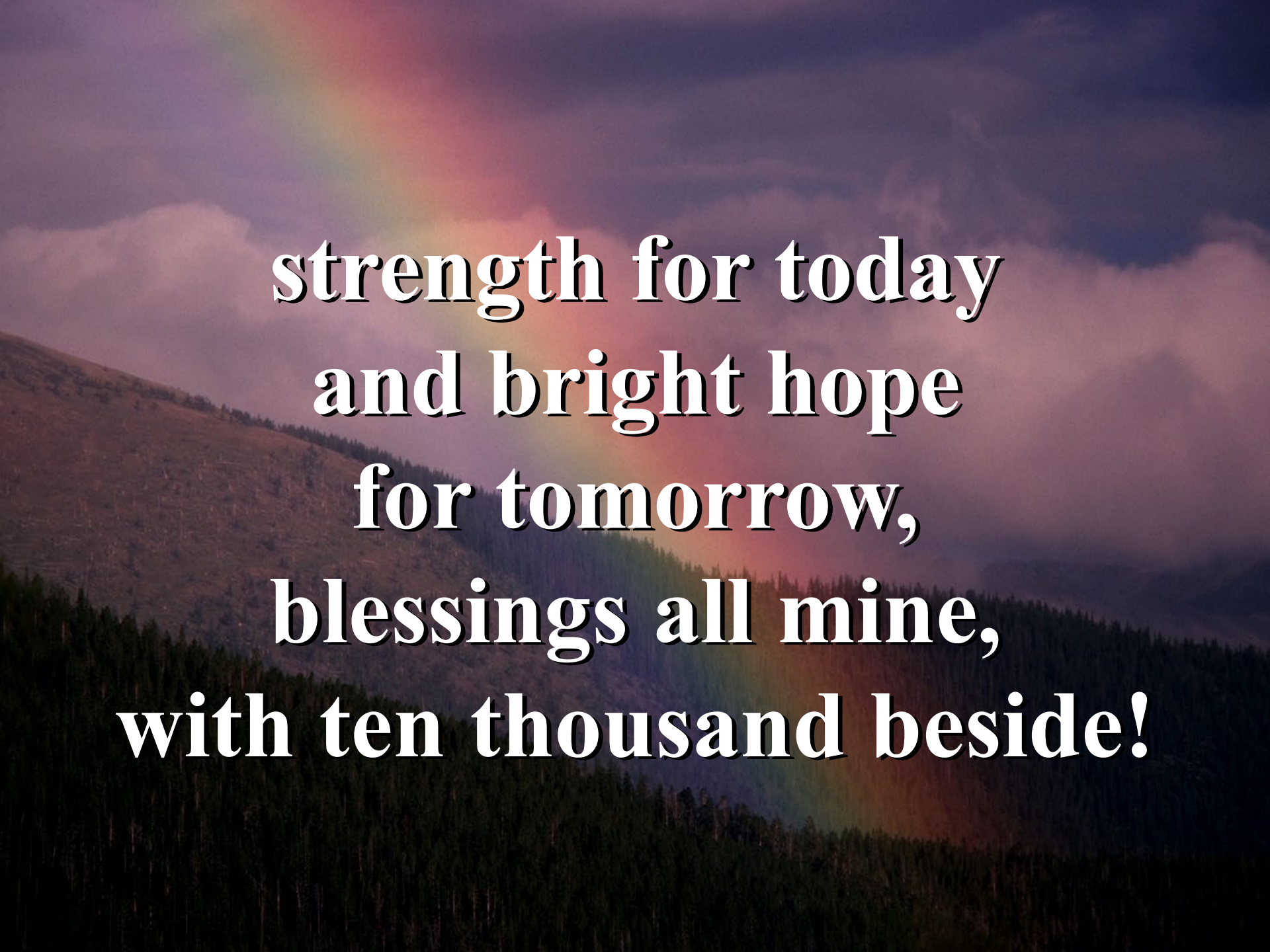
Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
new mercies I see;

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a sky filled with soft, purple and blue clouds. Below the rainbow, a dense forest of evergreen trees covers a valley, with rolling hills visible in the distance. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

**all I have needed
thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!**

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a sky filled with soft, purple and blue clouds. Below the rainbow, a dense forest of evergreen trees covers a valley, with rolling hills visible in the distance. The overall scene is serene and atmospheric.

**3. Pardon for sin and a
peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide;**

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a sky filled with soft, purple and blue clouds. Below the rainbow, a dark green forest of evergreen trees covers a hillside that slopes upwards from the bottom left towards the center. The overall scene is serene and inspirational.

**strength for today
and bright hope
for tomorrow,
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!**

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a sky filled with soft, purple and blue clouds. Below the rainbow, a dark, dense forest of evergreen trees covers a hillside that slopes upwards from the bottom left towards the center. The overall scene is serene and atmospheric.


Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning

new mercies I see;

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a cloudy sky. Below the rainbow, a dense forest of evergreen trees covers a valley, with a hillside visible on the left. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**all I have needed
thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!**

PRELUDE





UNITY IN THE
Body of Christ

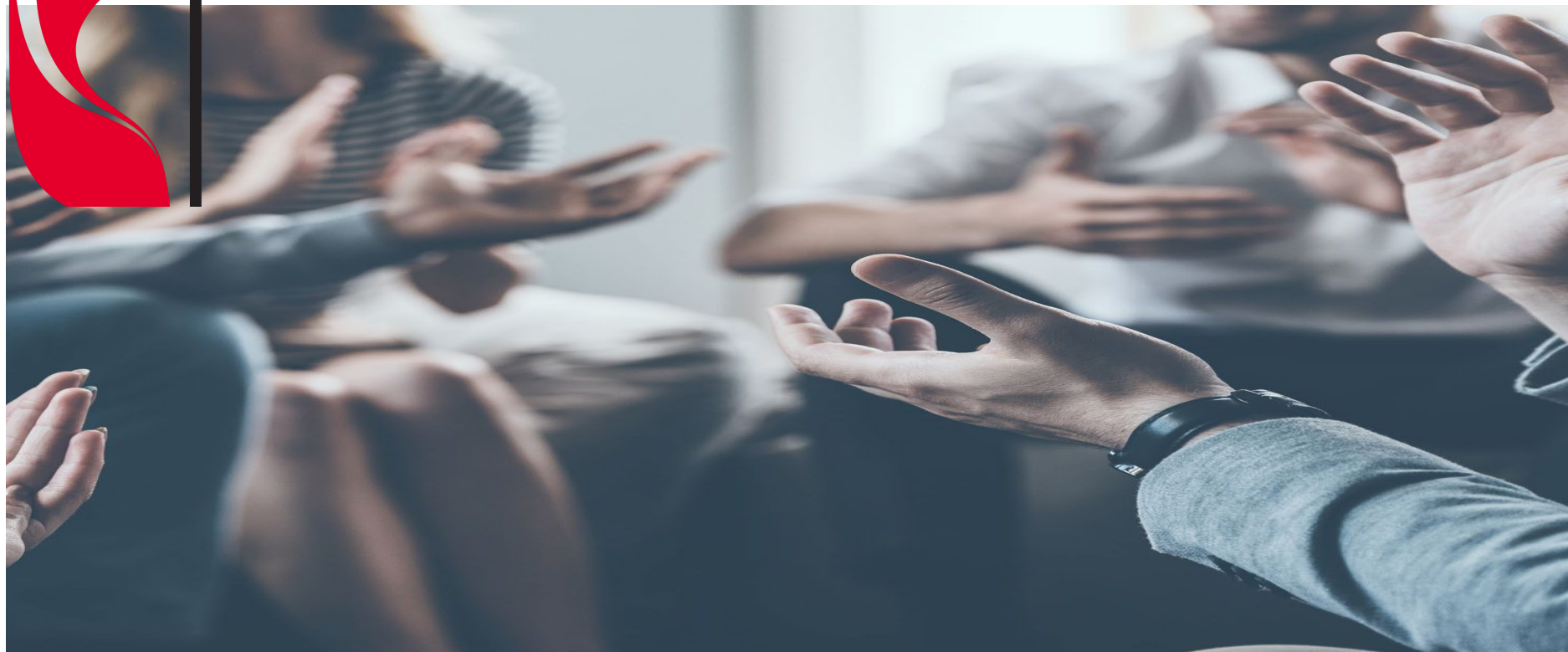
EPHESIANS 4

**WELCOME
&
ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Birthday/Anniversary

CALL TO WORSHIP



Leader: Do you need a guide?

People: The Lord is our shepherd.

Leader: Do you need a path to new life?

People: The Lord is our gate.



Leader: Do you need rest?

People: The Lord restores our souls.

All: Come, let us worship.



OPENING SONG

“BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS”

A photograph of a church interior, likely a sanctuary or choir loft, featuring dark wood paneling and several tall, narrow stained glass windows. The windows depict various religious scenes, including a central figure in a red robe and a group of people. The lighting is warm, and the overall atmosphere is solemn and reverent.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds


557

WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782

1. Blest be the
tie that binds
our hearts in
Christian love;

A photograph of a church interior, likely a sanctuary or chapel. The walls and ceiling are made of dark wood. In the foreground, several rows of wooden pews are visible. To the left, there is a pulpit with a cross on top. Behind the pews, there are two tall, narrow stained glass windows. The window on the left depicts a religious scene with figures in colorful robes. The window on the right has a more abstract, geometric design. In the background, there is an altar area with a cross on the wall. The lighting is warm and somewhat dim, creating a solemn atmosphere. Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." in a white, serif font.

the fellowship
of kindred minds
is like to that above.



**2. Before our
Father's throne
we pour our
ardent prayers;**




**our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one,
our comforts
and our cares.**




**3. We share
each other's woes,
our mutual
burdens bear;**



and often for
each other flows
the sympathizing tear.



**4. When we
asunder part,
it gives us
inward pain;**



but we shall still
be joined in heart,
and hope to
meet again.



OPENING PRAYER

Loving Shepherd, you call us as your own. When danger is close at hand, you gather us to yourself, that we might dwell secure. When evil surrounds us, you give us a home and a safe place to rest. When foes threaten our fellowship, you

rescue us from peril. Restore our souls, Gentle Savior, and lead us in the paths of righteousness, that we may walk in the ways of goodness and mercy, all the days of our lives. Amen.





“MAKE US ONE”

Make Us One

2224

Carol Cymbala (John 17:22-23)

**Make us one, Lord,
make us one;
Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love flow
so the world will know
we are one in you.**

Make Us One

2224

Carol Cymbala (John 17:22-23)

**Make us one, Lord,
make us one;
Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love flow
so the world will know
we are one in you.**



OFFERING:

Praising God with Our Gifts
Open Doors with Loving Hearts





“DOXOLOGY”

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

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.



“CHILDREN’S MESSAGE”



“PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION”

Lord, open our hearts 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.



H E I S
R I S E N
C E L E B R A T E T H E S A V I O R



SCRIPTURE
JOHN 10:1-10

1 “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them



out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees



did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through



me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture.
10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.





I am the door: by me if any man enter in,
he shall be saved, and shall go in and out,
and find pasture.

John 10:9

OnFireForGod.today

SERMON

“A Faithful Gatekeeper”



“PRAYER OF CONFESSION”

Loving Shepherd, even when we stray, we long to be gathered to your side. Even when we strive to find our own way, we yearn to return to your fold and rest secure in your gentle arms. Even



“PRAYER OF CONFESSION”

**when we bleat our resistance,
we seek your guidance and
direction in our lives. Be our
gate, our way to safe havens,
where we can always find our
way home and dwell secure in
your love. Amen.**



“WORDS OF ASSURANCE”

The Good Shepherd anoints our heads with oil, nourishes us with living waters, delivers us from evil, and watches over us day and night. Because of our Shepherd, we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



PRAYERS

OF THE

PEOPLE



The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in
heaven, hallowed be thy
name thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from
evil, for thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.**



CLOSING SONG

**“GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE
MEET AGAIN”**

**God Be with You
till We Meet Again**

672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880

**1. 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.**

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,)

till we meet,

(till we meet again)

at Jesus' feet; (till we meet)

till we meet, (till we meet,)

till we meet,

(till we meet again)

God be with you

till we meet again.

**2. 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.**

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,)

till we meet,

(till we meet again)

till we meet

at Jesus' feet; (till we meet)

till we meet, (till we meet,)

till we meet, (again)

God be with you

till we meet again.

**3. 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.**

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,)

till we meet,

(till we meet again)

till we meet

at Jesus' feet; (till we meet)

till we meet, (till we meet,)

till we meet,

(till we meet again)

God be with you

till we meet again.

**4. 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.**

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,)

till we meet,

(till we meet again)

till we meet

at Jesus' feet; (till we meet)

till we meet, (till we meet,)

till we meet,

(till we meet again)

God be with you

till we meet again.



BENEDICTION

**The Lord is our shepherd.
We shall not want. In
pastures green, we rest
secure. By still waters, we
rest secure. Go with the
blessings of our shepherd.**



564 Threefold Amen

Walter Henry Hall (1862-1935)

A-men, A-men, A - - - men.

CARRY OUT THE LIGHT

