



WELCOME!
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OPEN DOORS WITH LOVING HEARTS
MAY 10, 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.**

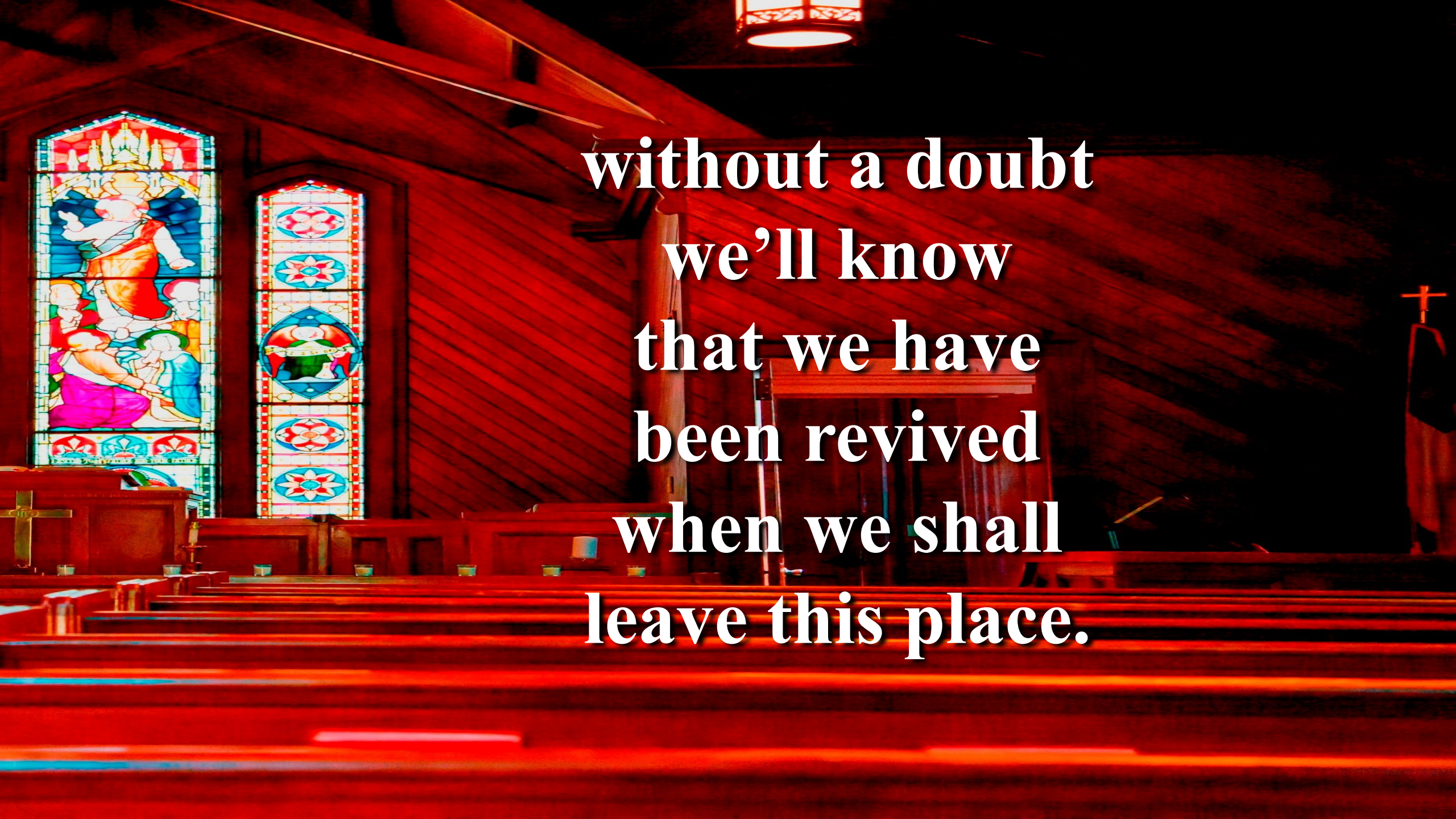
The image shows the interior of a church with dark wood paneling and pews. A large stained glass window on the left depicts the Pentecost, with the Holy Spirit as a dove and tongues of fire. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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.**

GATHERNING SONG



“Spirit of The Living God”

Spirit of the Living God

393

WORDS: Daniel Iverson, 1926 (Acts 11:15)

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.**





PRELUDE



**WELCOME
&
ANNOUNCEMENT**



Birthday/Anniversary



CALL TO WORSHIP



Leader: Gather us in, O God.

People: Amidst fire and storm, make us whole.

Leader: Bring us into your presence, Holy One.

People: From suffering and pain, save us.



Leader: Shelter us in your loving arms,
Precious Lord.

People: On the highways of life, guide us.

Leader: Make us your disciples, Great
Spirit.

All: As we worship this day, lead us
home.



OPENING SONG
“Because He Lives”

Because He Lives

364

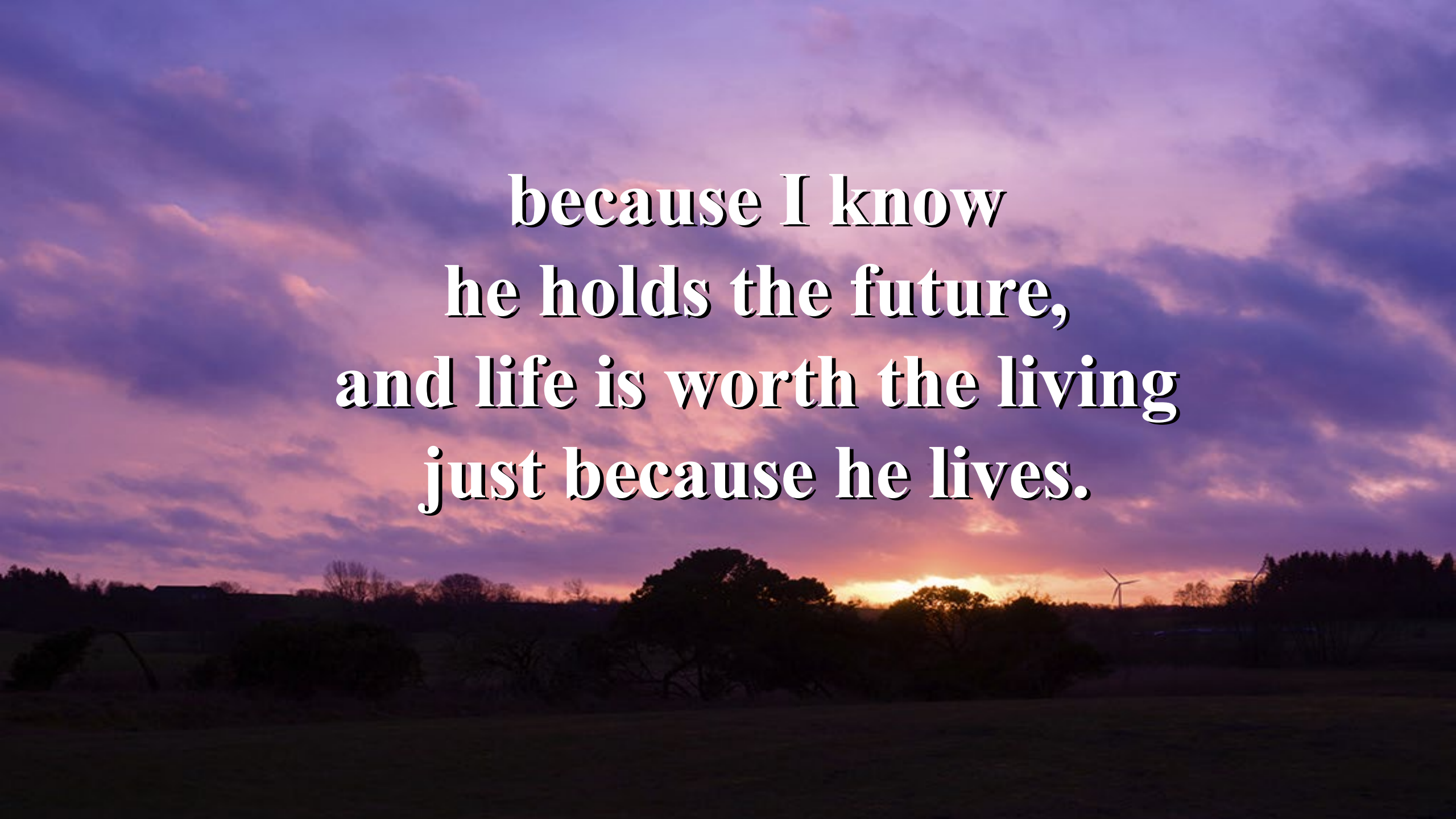
WORDS: Gloria and William J. Gaither, 1971

1. 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.**

Refrain

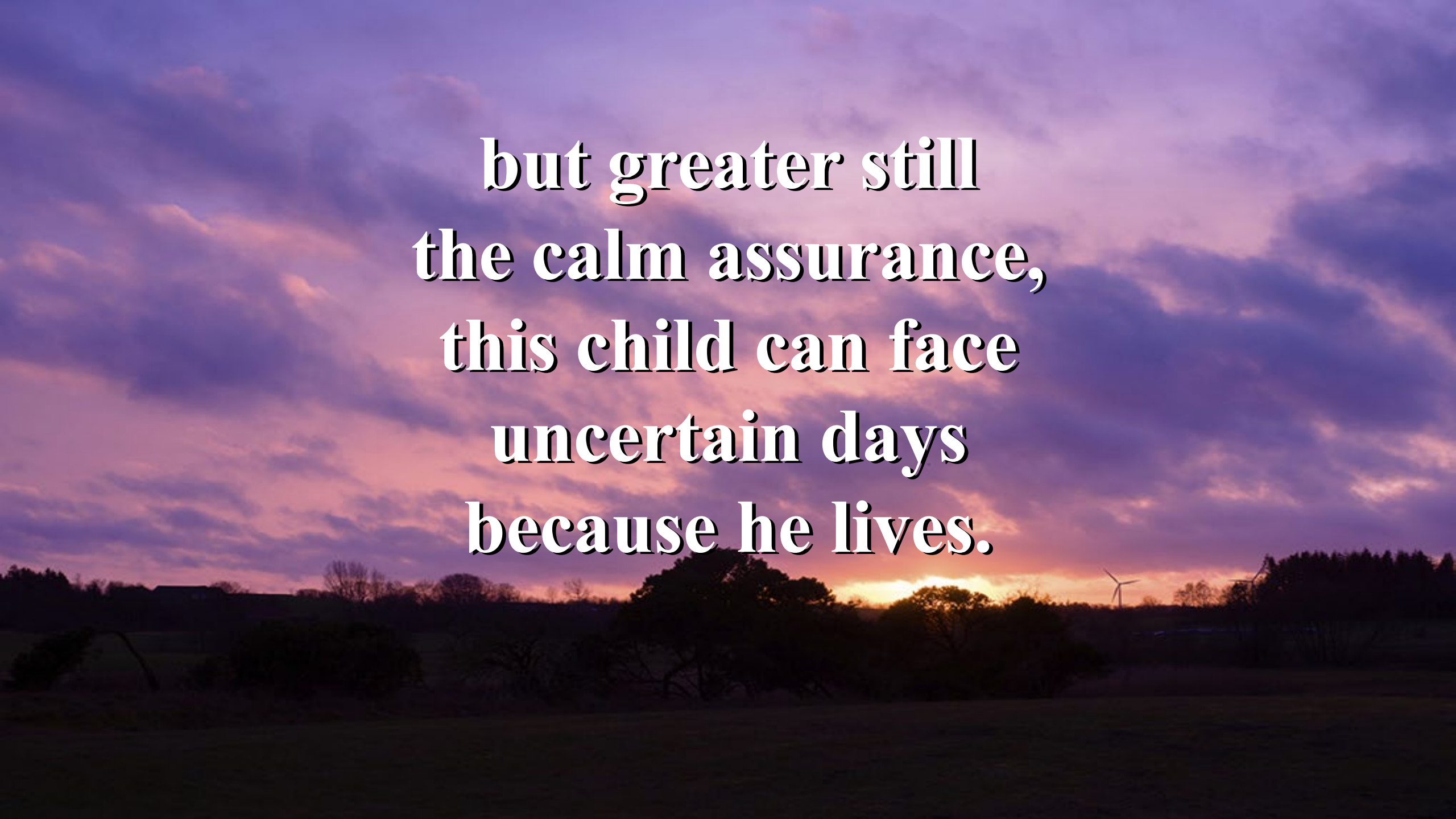
Because he lives,
I can face tomorrow;
because he lives,
all fear is gone;

A landscape photograph showing a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of purple, pink, and orange. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a field. In the middle ground, there are silhouettes of trees and a few wind turbines. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**because I know
he holds the future,
and life is worth the living
just because he lives.**

**2. How sweet to hold
a newborn baby,
and feel the pride
and joy he gives;**

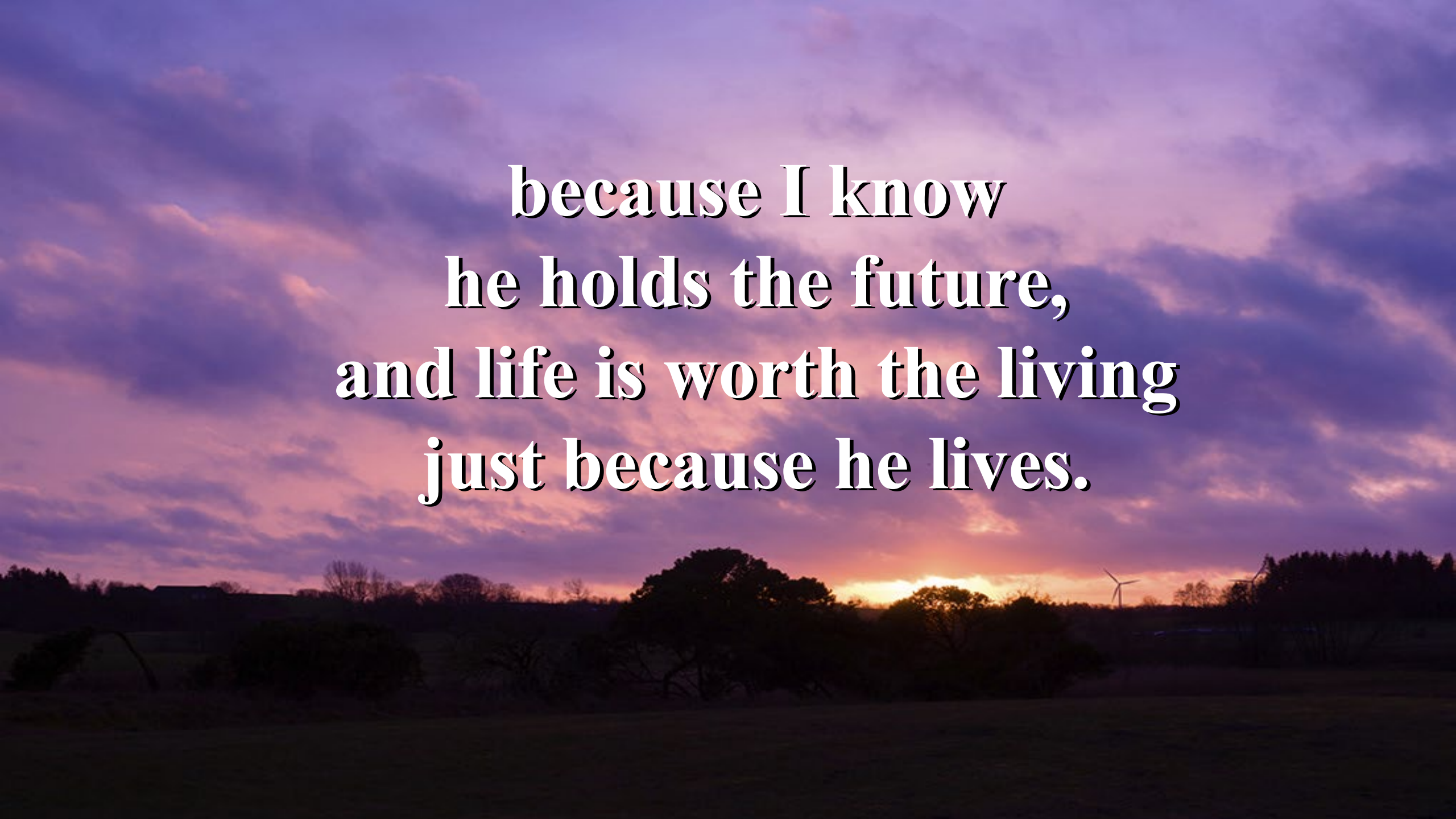


A landscape photograph capturing a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of purple, pink, and orange. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a field. In the middle ground, there is a line of trees and a few wind turbines visible against the horizon.

**but greater still
the calm assurance,
this child can face
uncertain days
because he lives.**

Refrain

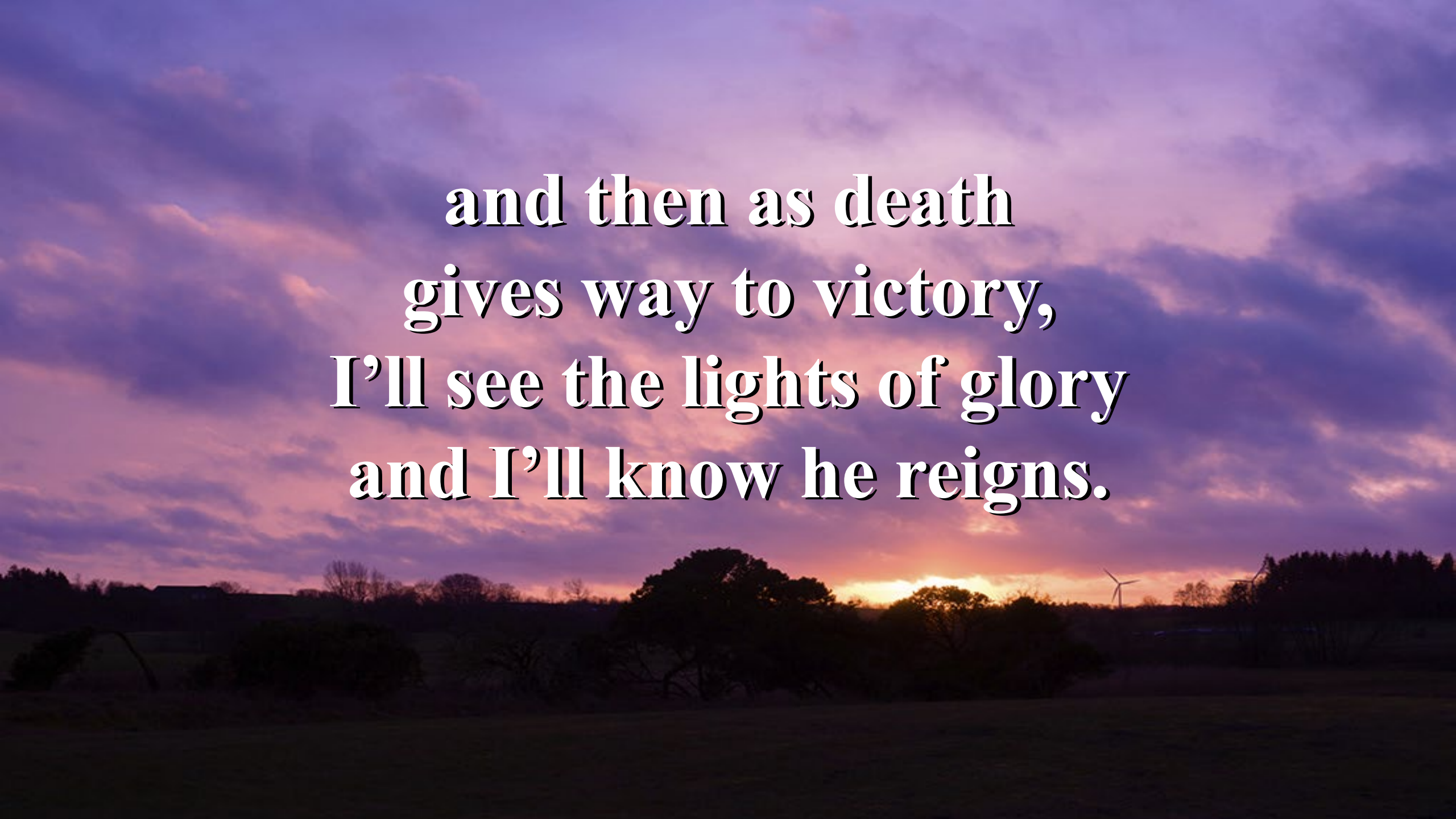
**Because he lives,
I can face tomorrow;
because he lives,
all fear is gone;**

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**because I know
he holds the future,
and life is worth the living
just because he lives.**

**3. And then one day
I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's
final war with pain;**

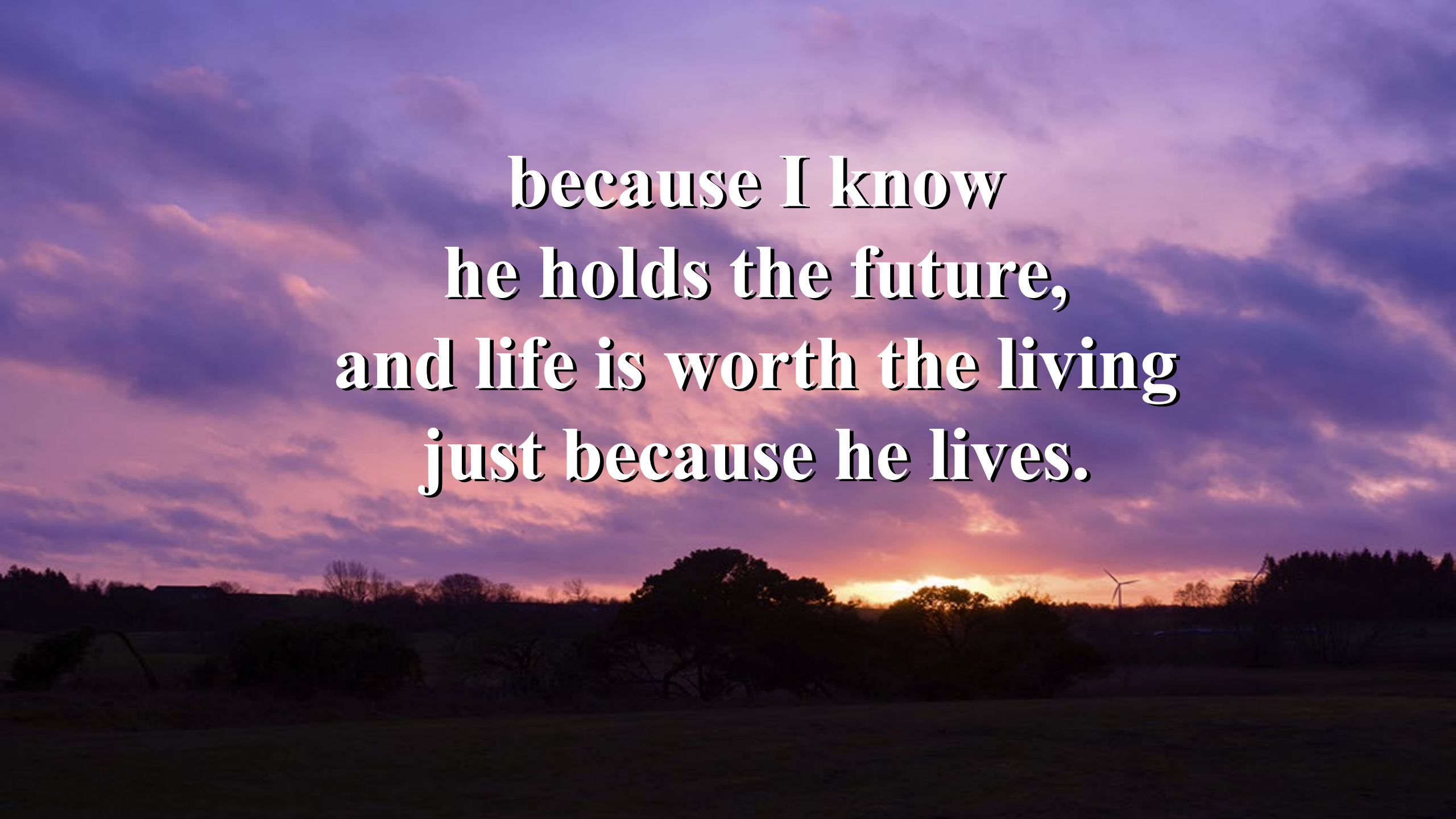


The background of the image is a landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of purple, pink, and orange. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a field. In the middle ground, there are silhouettes of trees and a few wind turbines. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

**and then as death
gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory
and I'll know he reigns.**

Refrain


**Because he lives,
I can face tomorrow;
because he lives,
all fear is gone;**

The background of the image is a landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of purple, pink, and orange. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a field. In the middle ground, there are silhouettes of trees and a few wind turbines. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**because I know
he holds the future,
and life is worth the living
just because he lives.**



OPENING PRAYER



Holy flame, burn away our fears and regrets, that our spirits may shine like burnished gold. Refiner's Fire, purify our lives like precious silver, that our hearts may glow with holy love. Forge of truth, mold us into vessels of compassion, that our lives may reveal your glory. Amen.



ASBURY UMC CHOIR
“How Beautiful”



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.



SCRIPTURE

JOHN 14:15-21



15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I



live, you also will live. 20 On that day, you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”



SERMON

“MOMMA TOLD ME...”



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Fulfiller of our lives, we yearn to embody your commandment of love and pursue what we know is right. We long to ease the plight of others, even as we seek our own comfort. Nurture our hope this day, as we fulfill your commandment of love, that we may live as your children and abide in your Spirit. Amen.



WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Even when we are tested by the refiner's fire, God brings us to a place of laughter and light on the other side of our trials. The Advocate meets us in our suffering and heals us in holy love. Amen.



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

“THE SUMMONS”

The Summons

2130

John Bell

**1. Will you come
and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go
where you don't know
and never be the same?**

**Will you let
my love be shown,
will you let
my name be known,
will you let
my life be grown in you
and you in me?**

**2. Will you leave
yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care
for cruel and kind
and never be the same?**

**Will you risk
the hostile stare
should your life
attract or scare?**

**Will you let
me answer prayer in you
and you in me?**

**3. Will you let
the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set
the prisoners free
and never be the same?**

**Will you kiss
the leper clean,
and do such
as this unseen,
and admit to
what I mean in you
and you in me?**

**4. Will you love
the “you” you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell
the fear inside
and never be the same?**

**Will you use the
faith you've found
to reshape the
world around,
through my sight and
touch and sound in you
and you in me?**

**5. Lord, your summons
echoes true
when you but
call my name.
Let me turn
and follow you
and never be the same.**

**In your company I'll go
where your love
and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move
and live and grow in you
and you in me.**



BENEDICTION





Leader: Once we searched and groped for God in darkness.

People: Now we reside with Christ in glorious light.

Leader: Once, we lived as if God were far from us.

People: Now we rejoice each day in God's presence.

Leader: Once we strove for God's acceptance.

All: Now we rest secure in God's love.



564 Threefold Amen

Walter Henry Hall (1862-1935)

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

CARRY OUT THE LIGHT

