

FILL ME WITH LAUGHTER


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TA8VEKviMAE>



Gathering Music

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

FILL ME WITH LAUGHTER

A person is seen from behind, swinging on a swing set. They are wearing a white shirt and a large, light-colored straw hat. The background is a landscape with green mountains and a body of water, viewed through a hole in a white, torn paper surface. The overall tone is bright and cheerful.

Welcome and Announcements

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

FILL ME WITH LAUGHTER




<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x8Y2ai2NiE>

Prelude

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

FILL ME WITH LAUGHTER

A person is seen from behind, sitting on a swing. They are wearing a large, wide-brimmed, light-colored hat and a white t-shirt. The swing is suspended by two chains. The background is a soft-focus landscape with green hills and a body of water under a bright sky. The overall aesthetic is warm and nostalgic, with a slightly grainy texture.

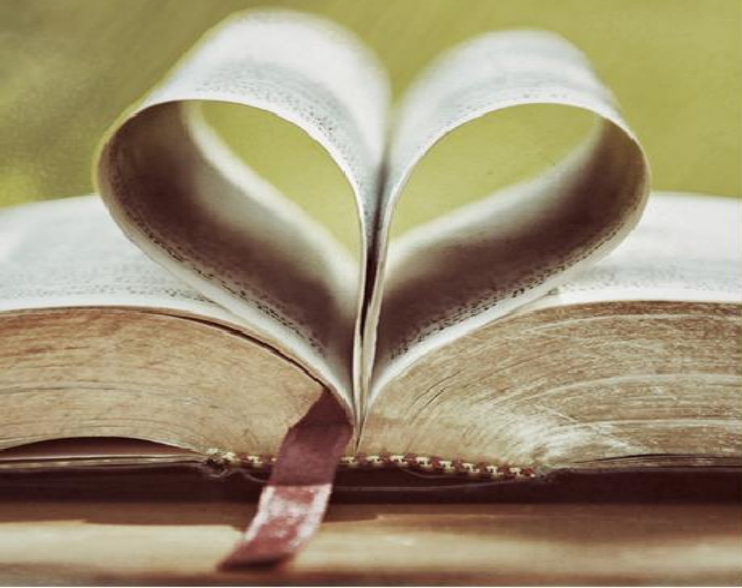
Opening Prayer

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture

ISAIAH
43:16-21





This is what the LORD says—
he who made a way through the
sea, a path through the mighty
waters,
¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and
horses, the army and
reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise
again,



extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

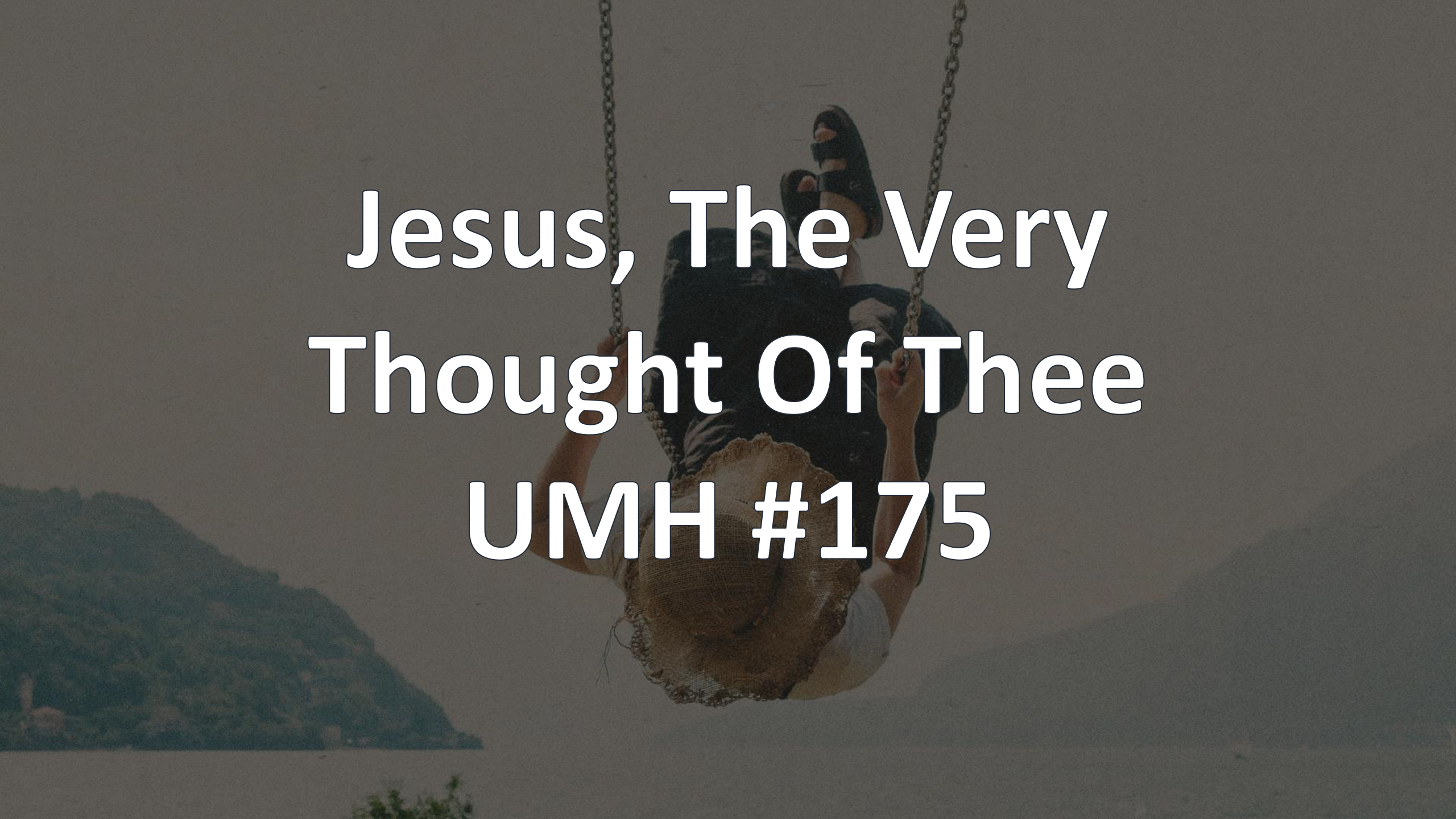
¹⁸ “Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!

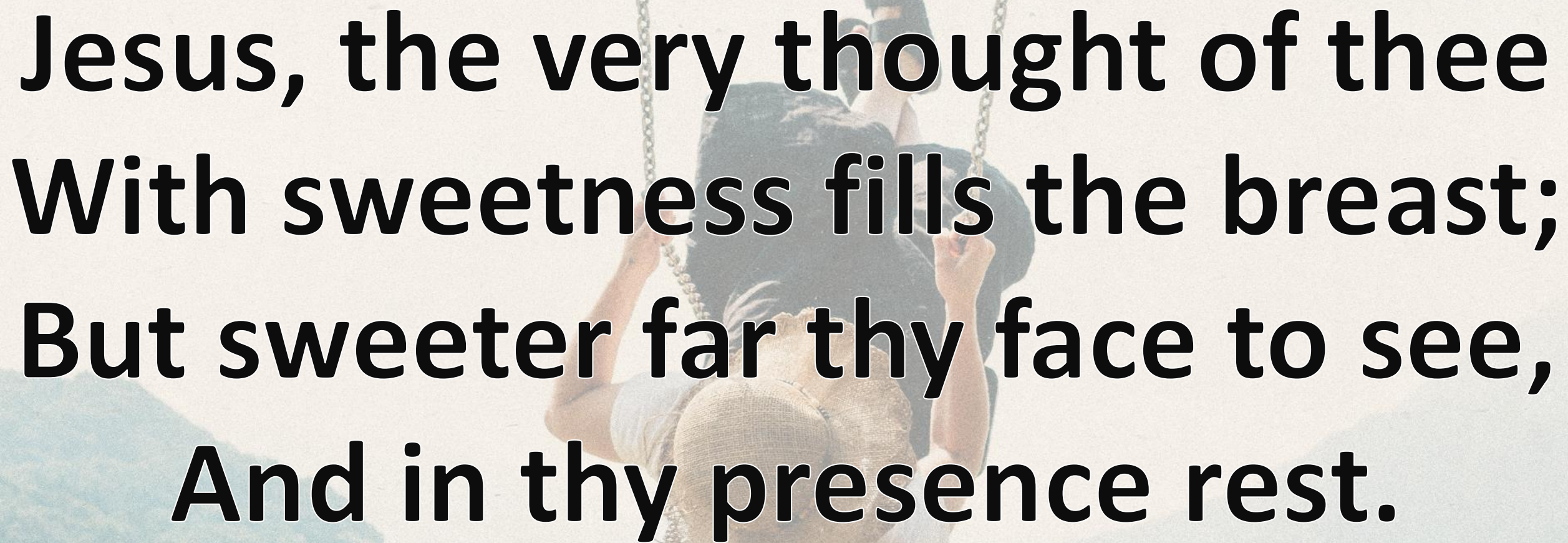
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.



The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

A person is sitting on a swing, seen from behind. They are wearing a dark-colored shirt and sandals. The swing is suspended by two chains. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a body of water and hills. Overlaid on the image is large, white, bold text.

Jesus, The Very
Thought Of Thee
UMH #175

A person is sitting on a swing, viewed from behind. A woman in a black dress stands behind the swing, holding the chains. The background shows a scenic view of a lake and mountains under a bright sky.

**Jesus, the very thought of thee
With sweetness fills the breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see,
And in thy presence rest.**

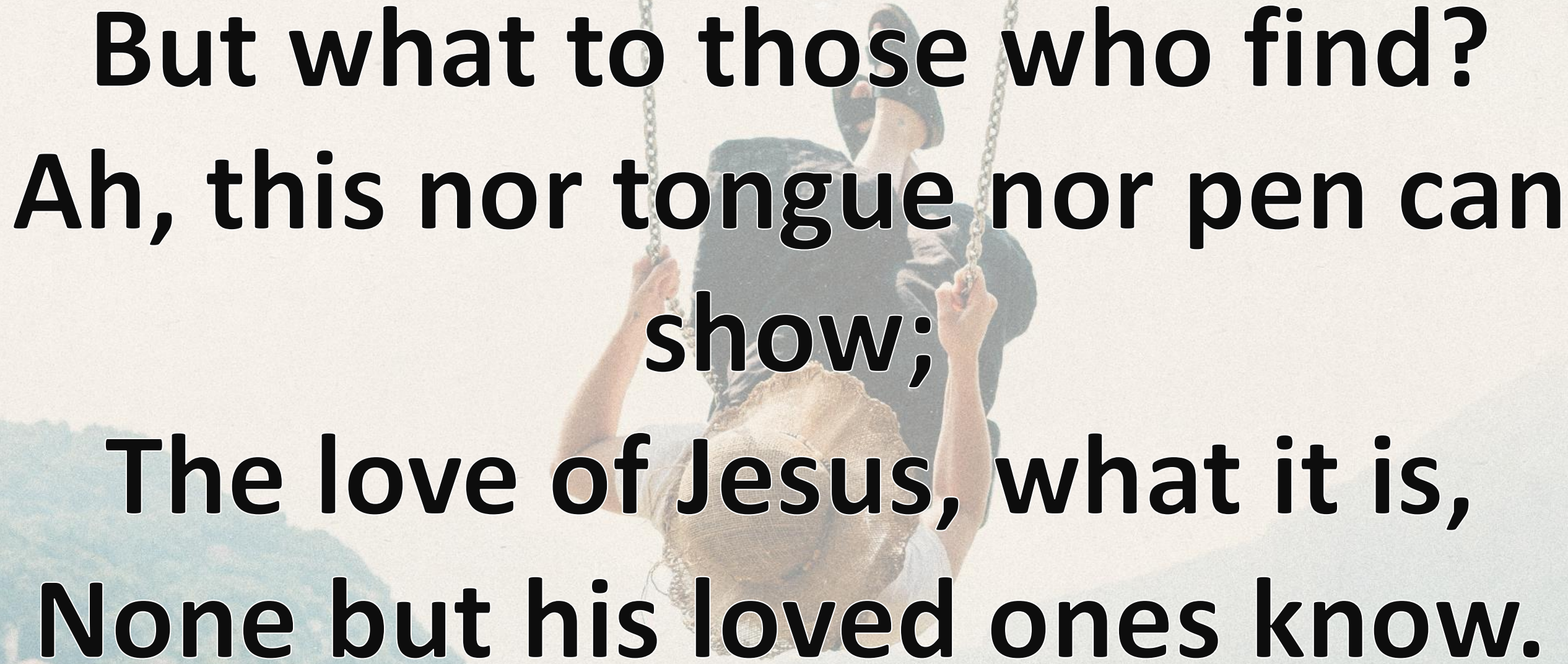
A person is sitting on a swing, holding a young child on their back. They are positioned in front of a scenic view of a lake and rolling mountains under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

O hope of every contrite heart,

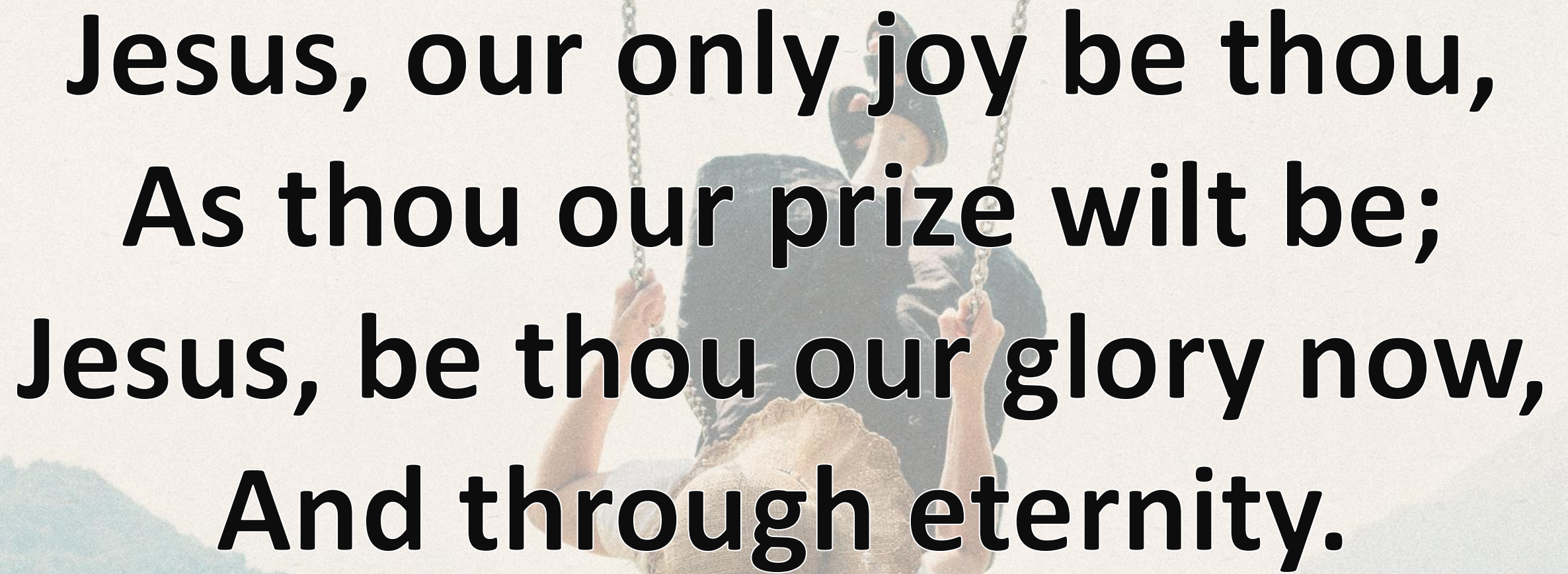
O joy of all the meek,

**To those who fall, how kind
thou art!**

How good to those who seek!

A person is seen from behind, swinging on a swing set. They are wearing a dark shirt and a light-colored hat. The background is a bright, hazy landscape with hills and a body of water. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

**But what to those who find?
Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can
show;
The love of Jesus, what it is,
None but his loved ones know.**

A person is swinging on a swing set, seen from behind. They are wearing a dark shirt and a light-colored hat. The background shows a calm lake and green, hilly mountains under a bright sky. The text is overlaid in large, bold, black letters.

**Jesus, our only joy be thou,
As thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our glory now,
And through eternity.**

Scripture

JOHN

12:1-8





Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint^[a] of pure nard, an expensive



perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor?"



It was worth a year's wages. [\[b\]](#)” ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied.

“It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, [\[c\]](#) but you will not always have me.”






**This is the word of God,
for the people of God.**

All:

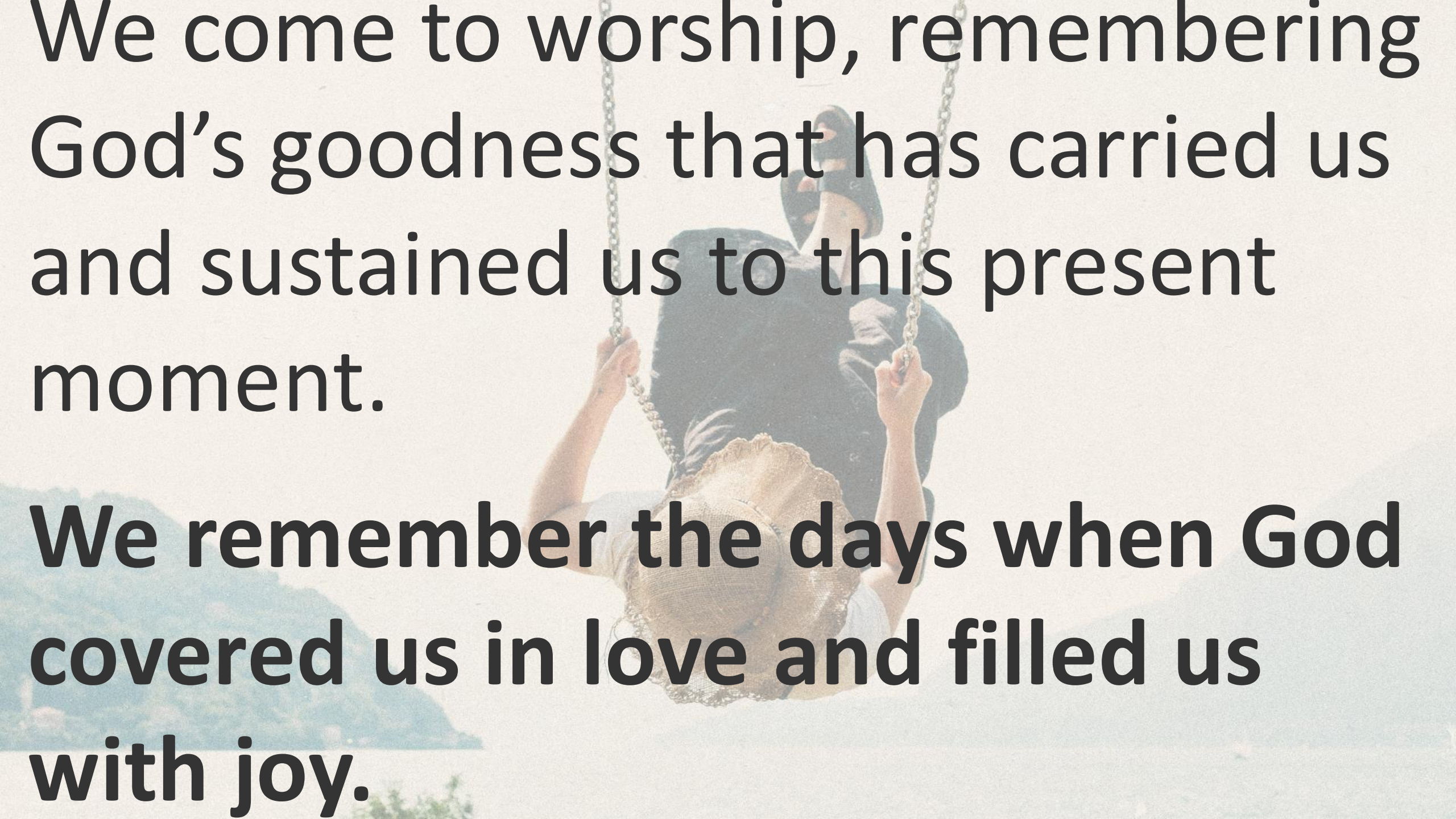
Thanks be to God.

FILL ME WITH LAUGHTER

A person is seen from behind, sitting on a swing set. They are wearing a dark t-shirt and shorts. A large, light-colored straw hat is on their head. The background is a light beige color with a torn paper effect, revealing a landscape with green hills and a body of water. The text 'FILL ME WITH LAUGHTER' is written in a bold, black, hand-drawn font at the top, underlined.

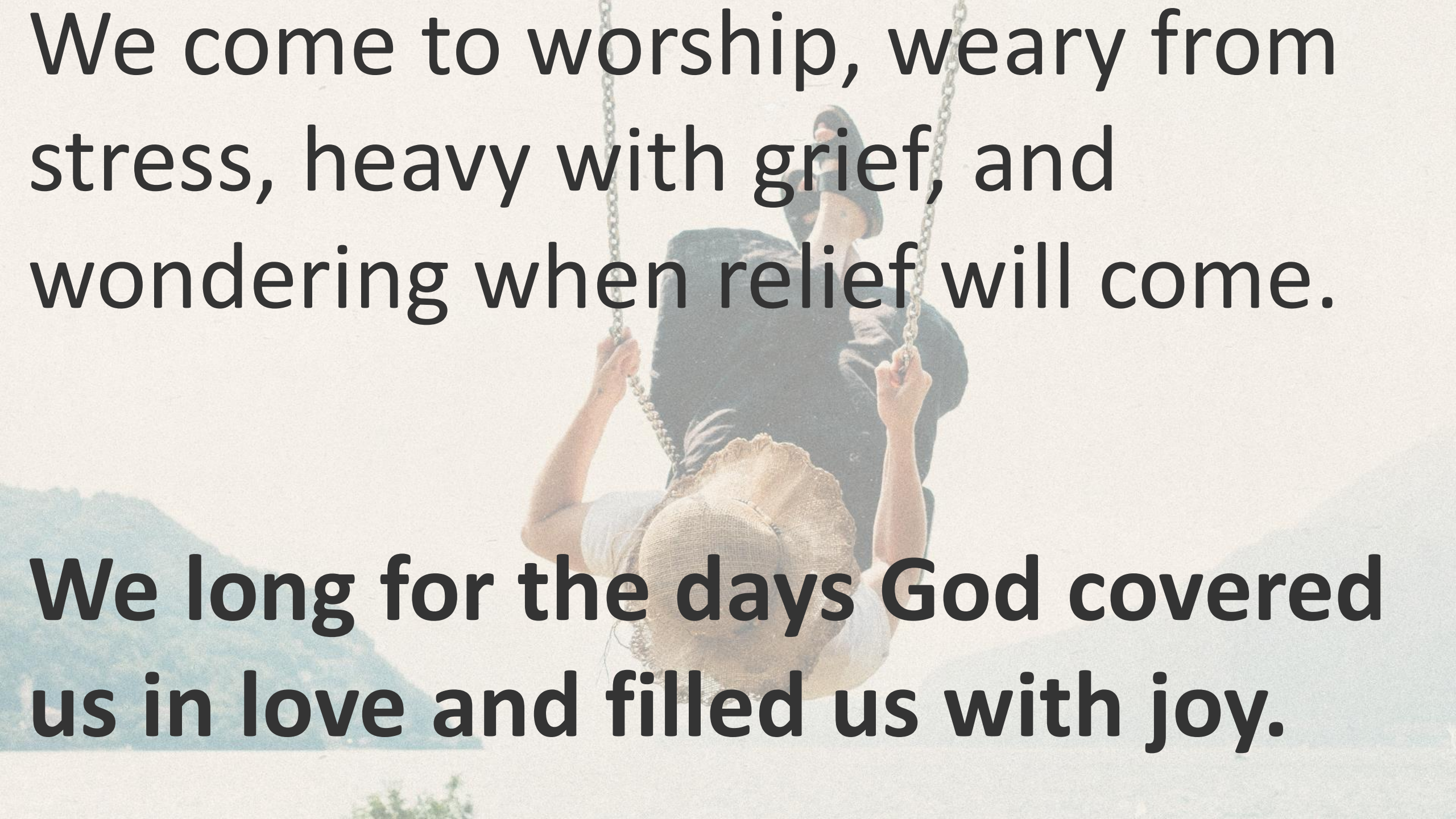
CALL TO WORSHIP

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

A person is seen from behind, swinging on a swing set. They are wearing a dark t-shirt and a wide-brimmed hat. The background is a bright, hazy landscape with mountains and a body of water. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, black, sans-serif font.

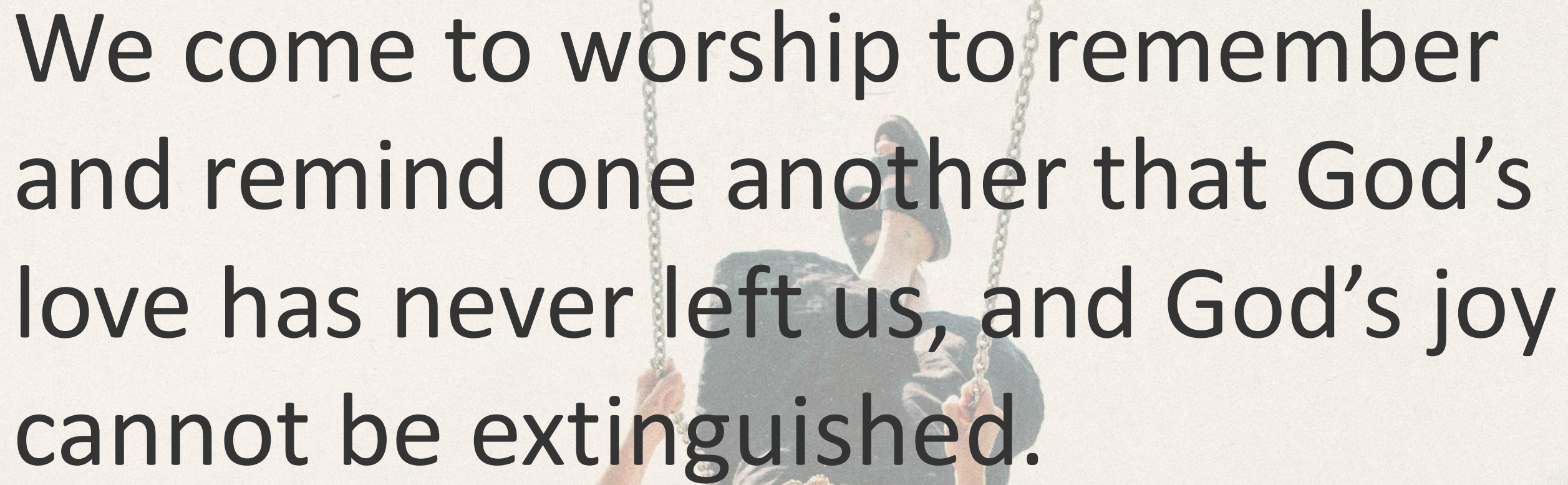
We come to worship, remembering
God's goodness that has carried us
and sustained us to this present
moment.

**We remember the days when God
covered us in love and filled us
with joy.**

A person wearing a dark shirt and a hat is swinging on a swing set. The background is bright and hazy, suggesting a sunny day. The person's face is partially obscured by the hat and the swing's chains.

We come to worship, weary from stress, heavy with grief, and wondering when relief will come.

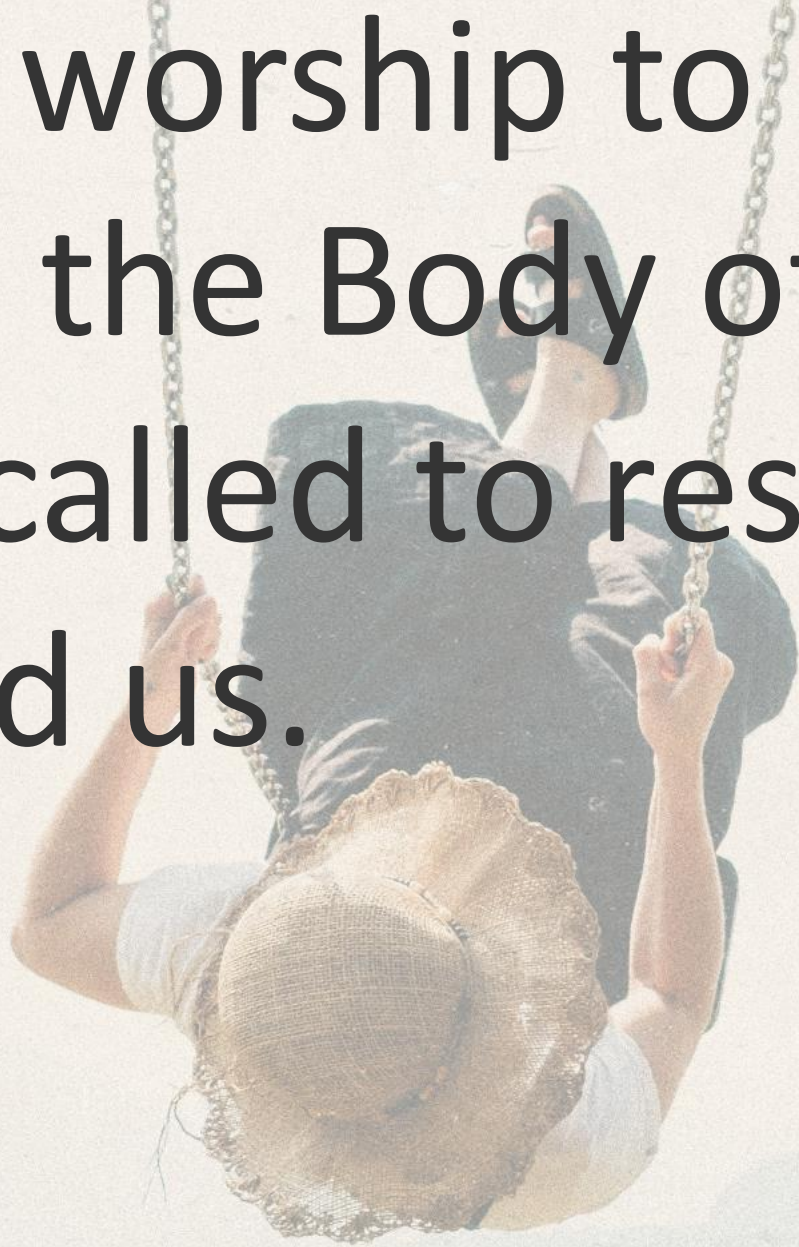
We long for the days God covered us in love and filled us with joy.

A person is seen from behind, swinging on a swing set. They are wearing a dark-colored shirt and a wide-brimmed straw hat. The background is a bright, hazy landscape with green hills and a body of water, suggesting a park or a scenic area. The overall mood is peaceful and nostalgic.

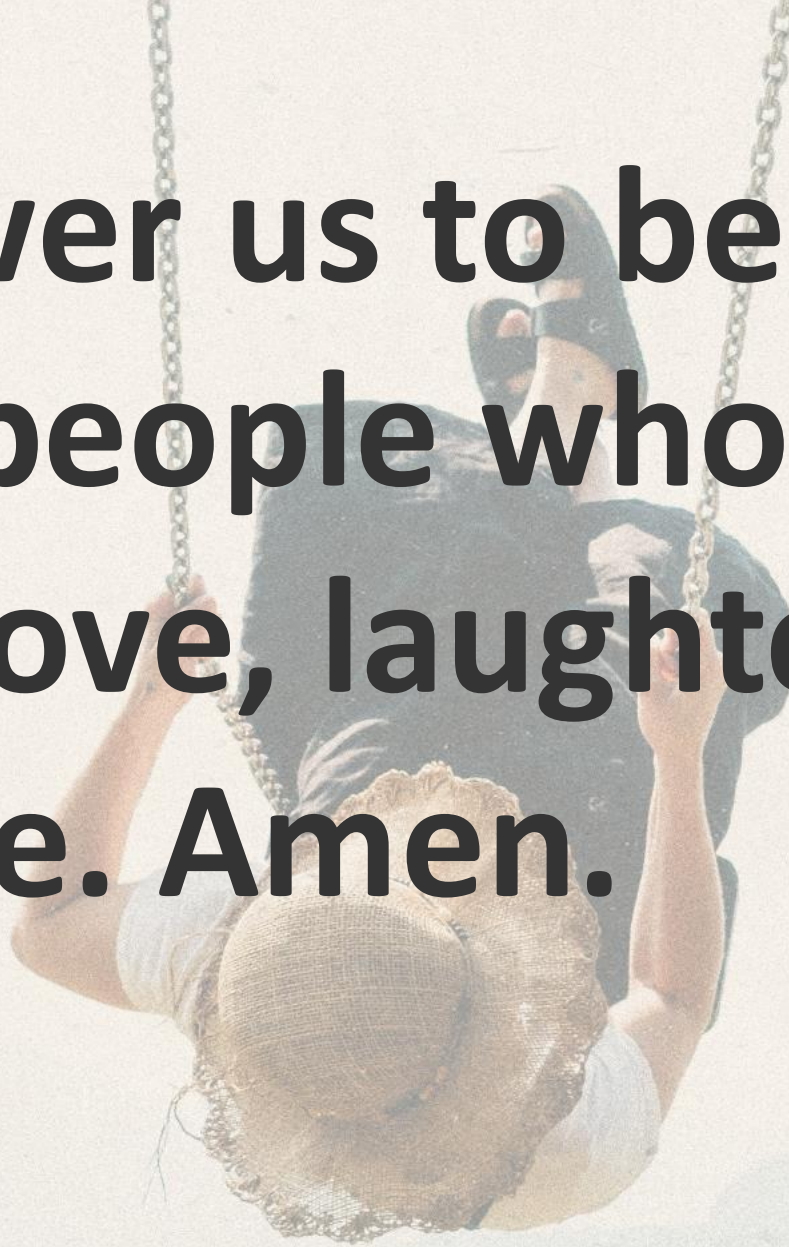
We come to worship to remember
and remind one another that God's
love has never left us, and God's joy
cannot be extinguished.

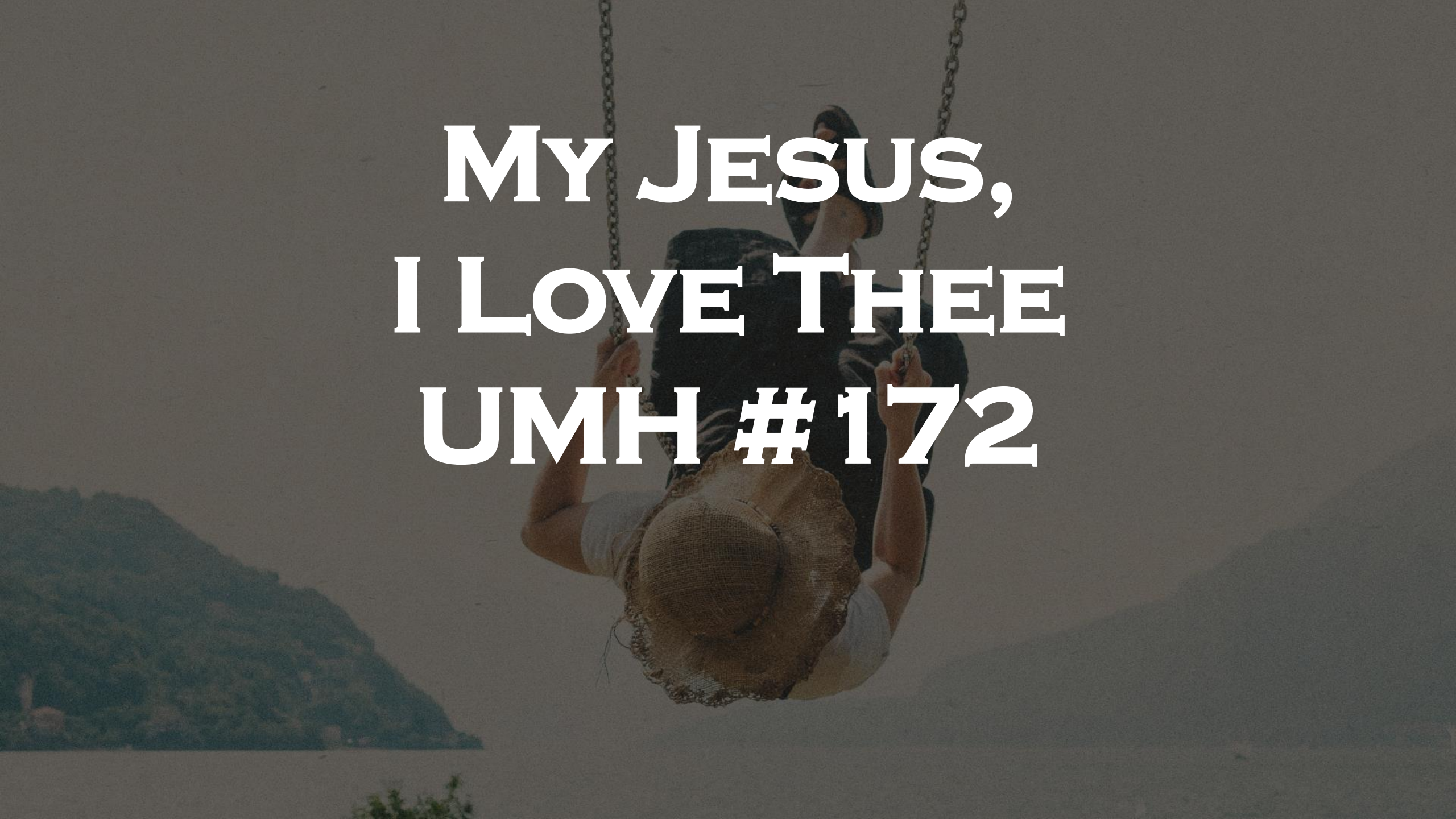
**God, restore us that we know your
love and your joy once again.**

We come to worship to remember
and become the Body of Christ, a
community called to restore the
world around us.

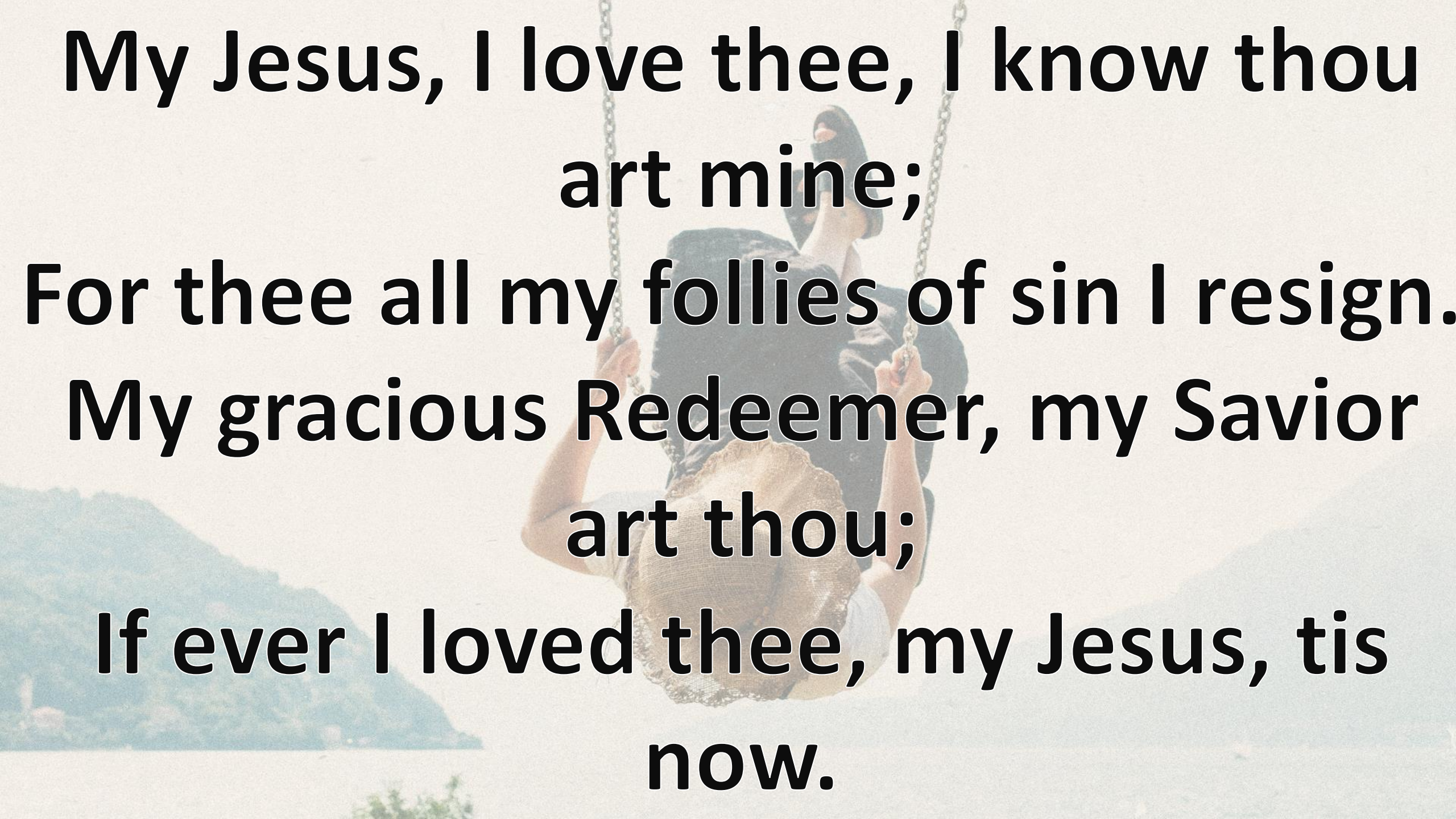


**God, empower us to be your
restoration people who fill the
world with love, laughter, and
abundant life. Amen.**



A person is seen from behind, sitting on a swing. They are wearing a dark-colored shirt and a large, light-colored straw hat. The swing is suspended by two chains. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a body of water and a forested hillside under a hazy sky. The entire image has a semi-transparent dark overlay.

**MY JESUS,
I LOVE THEE
UMH #172**



**My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou
art mine;**

For thee all my follies of sin I resign.

**My gracious Redeemer, my Savior
art thou;**

**If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, tis
now.**

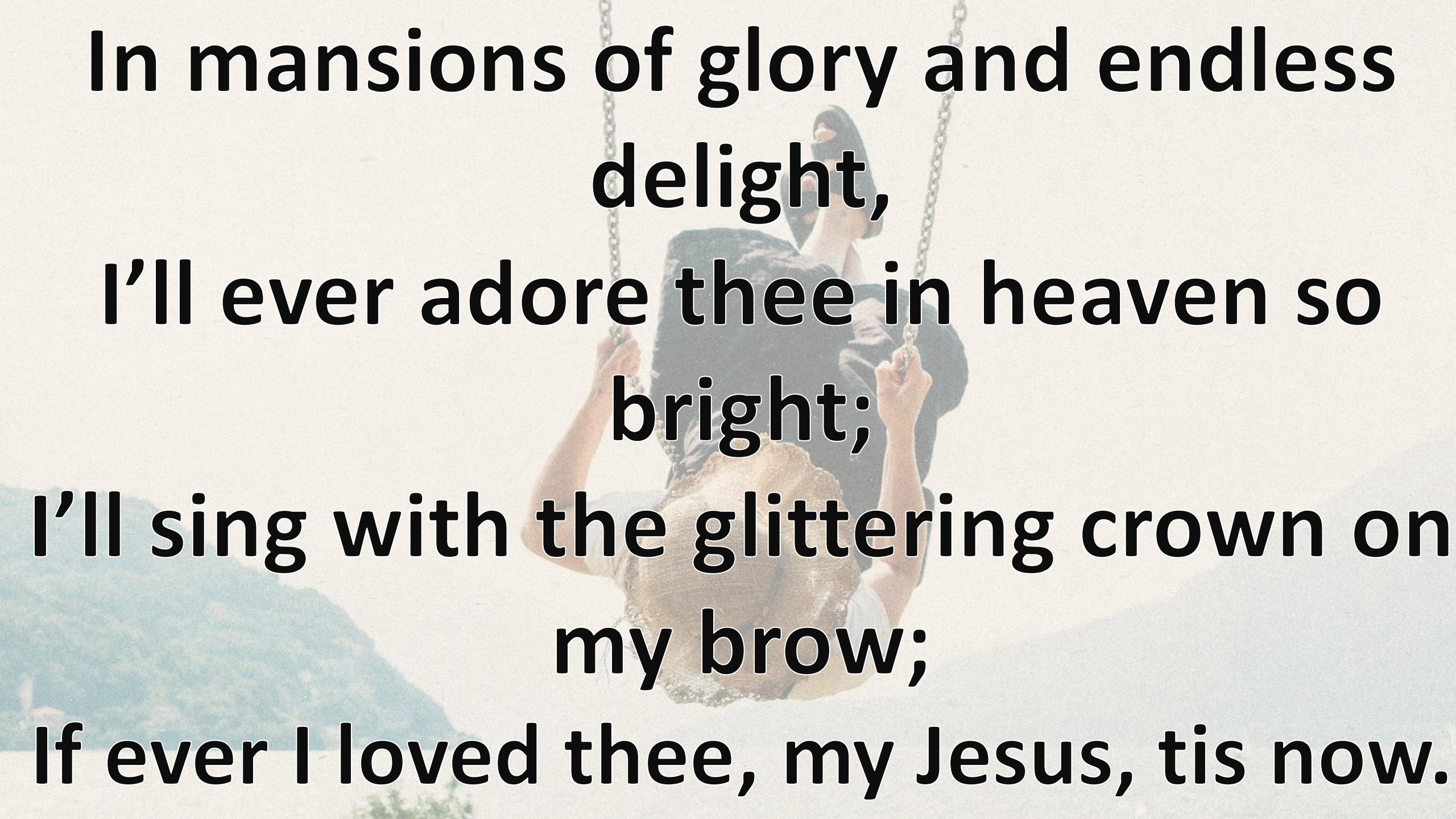
A woman wearing a black dress and a black hat is swinging on a swing set. She is seen from behind, with her arms holding the chains. The background is a bright, hazy sky with some greenery visible at the bottom. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

**I love thee because thou hast first
loved me,**

**And purchased my pardon on
Calvary's tree;**

**I love thee for wearing the thorns
on thy brow**

If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, tis now.



**In mansions of glory and endless
delight,**

**I'll ever adore thee in heaven so
bright;**

**I'll sing with the glittering crown on
my brow;**

If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, tis now.

FILL ME WITH LAUGHTER



Joys and Prayer Requests

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

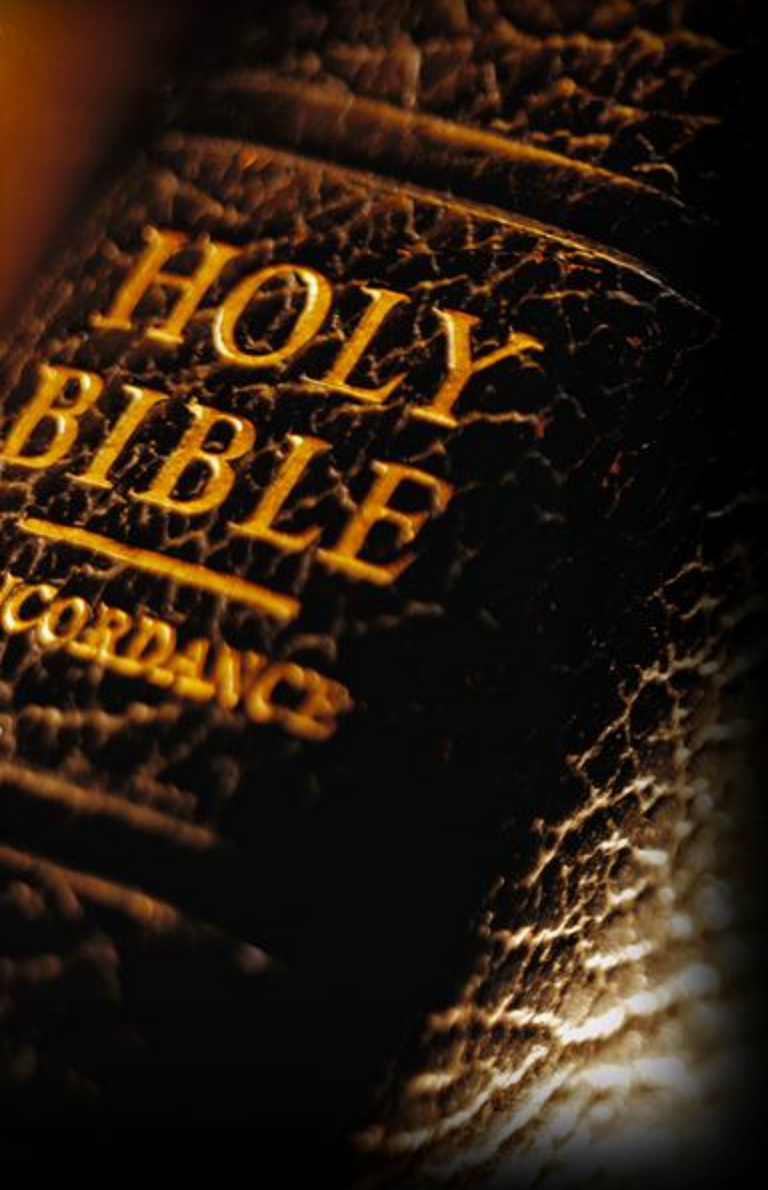
The Lord's Prayer

**Our father,
Who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done**



HOLY
BIBLE
CORDANCE

The Lord's Prayer



**On earth
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day
Our daily bread
And forgive us
Our trespasses**

The Lord's Prayer

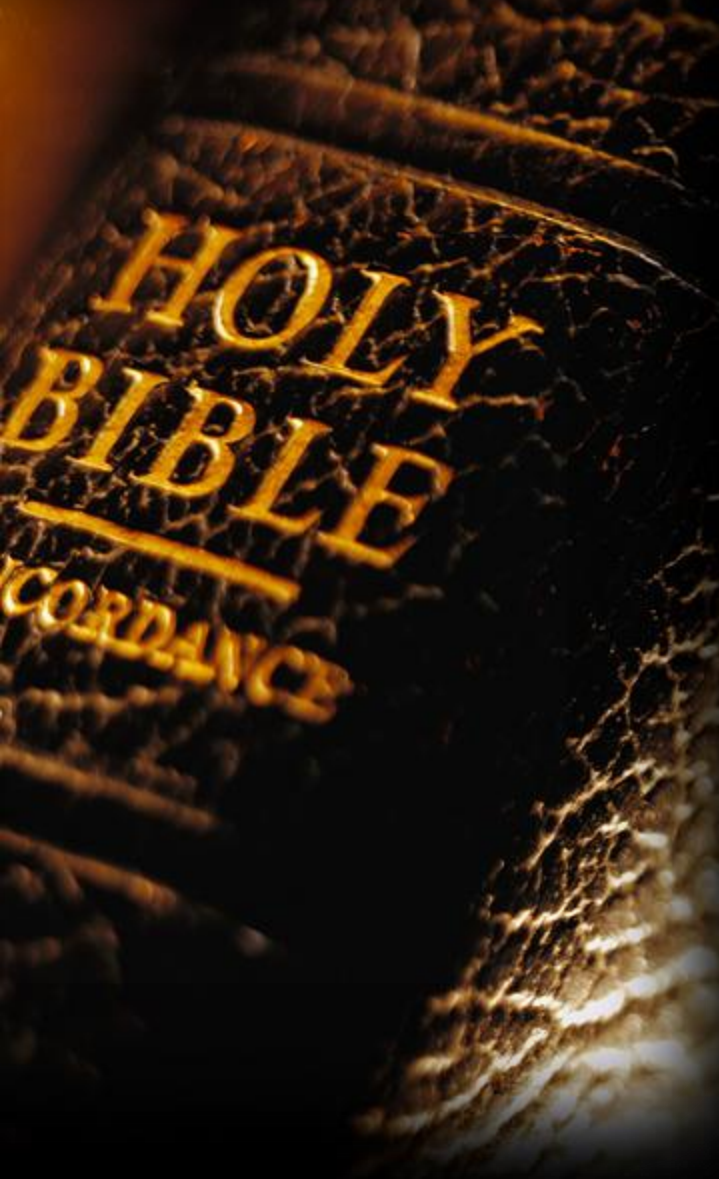
**As we forgive those
Who trespass against us.
And lead us not into
Temptation
But deliver us from evil**



HOLY
BIBLE
CORDANCE

The Lord's Prayer

**For thine is the kingdom
And the power,
And the glory forever.
Amen**



Offering



Doxology

**Praise the Lord who
reigns above and**

Keeps his court below;

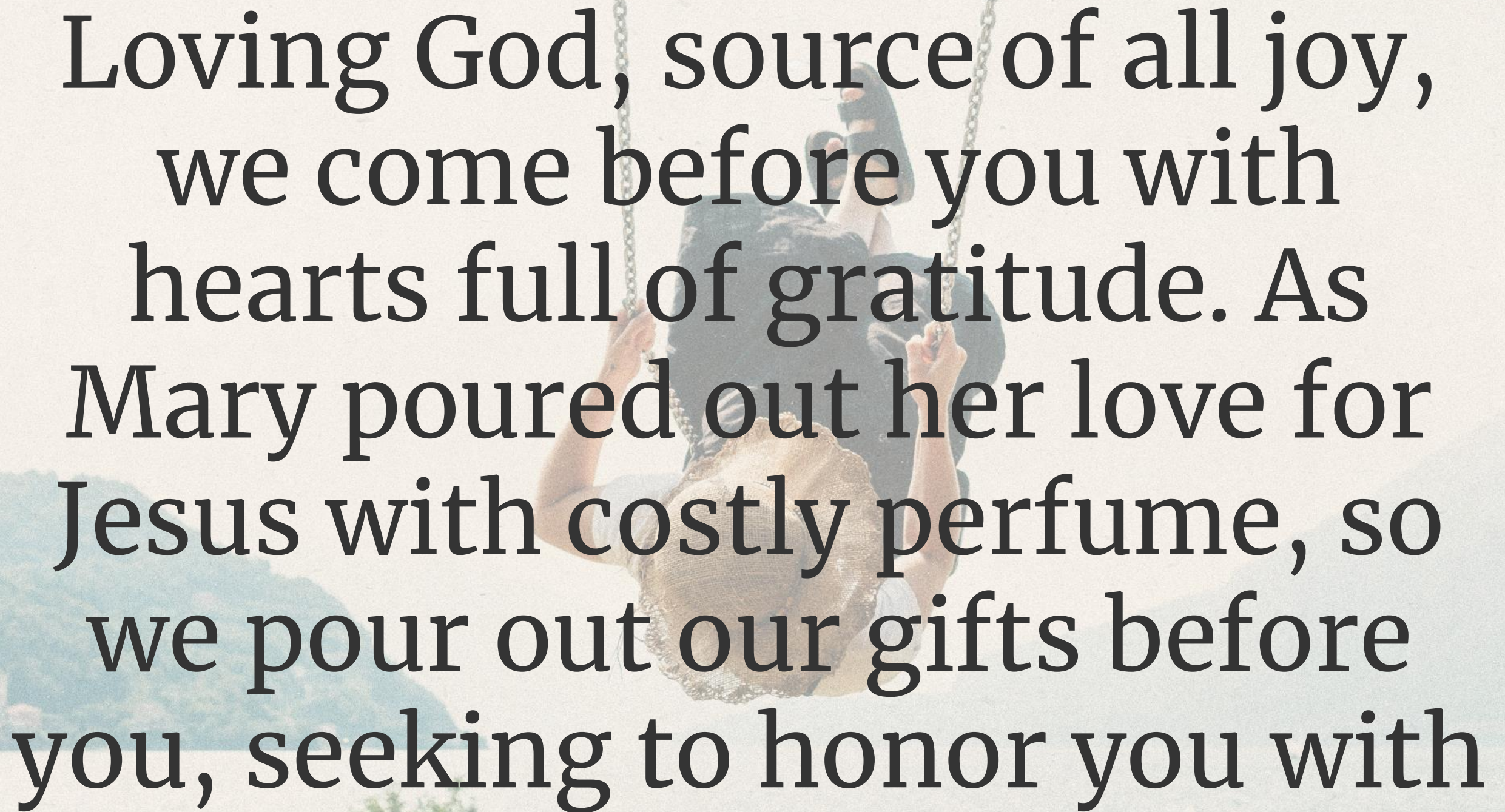
**Praise the holy God of
love and**

All his greatness show;

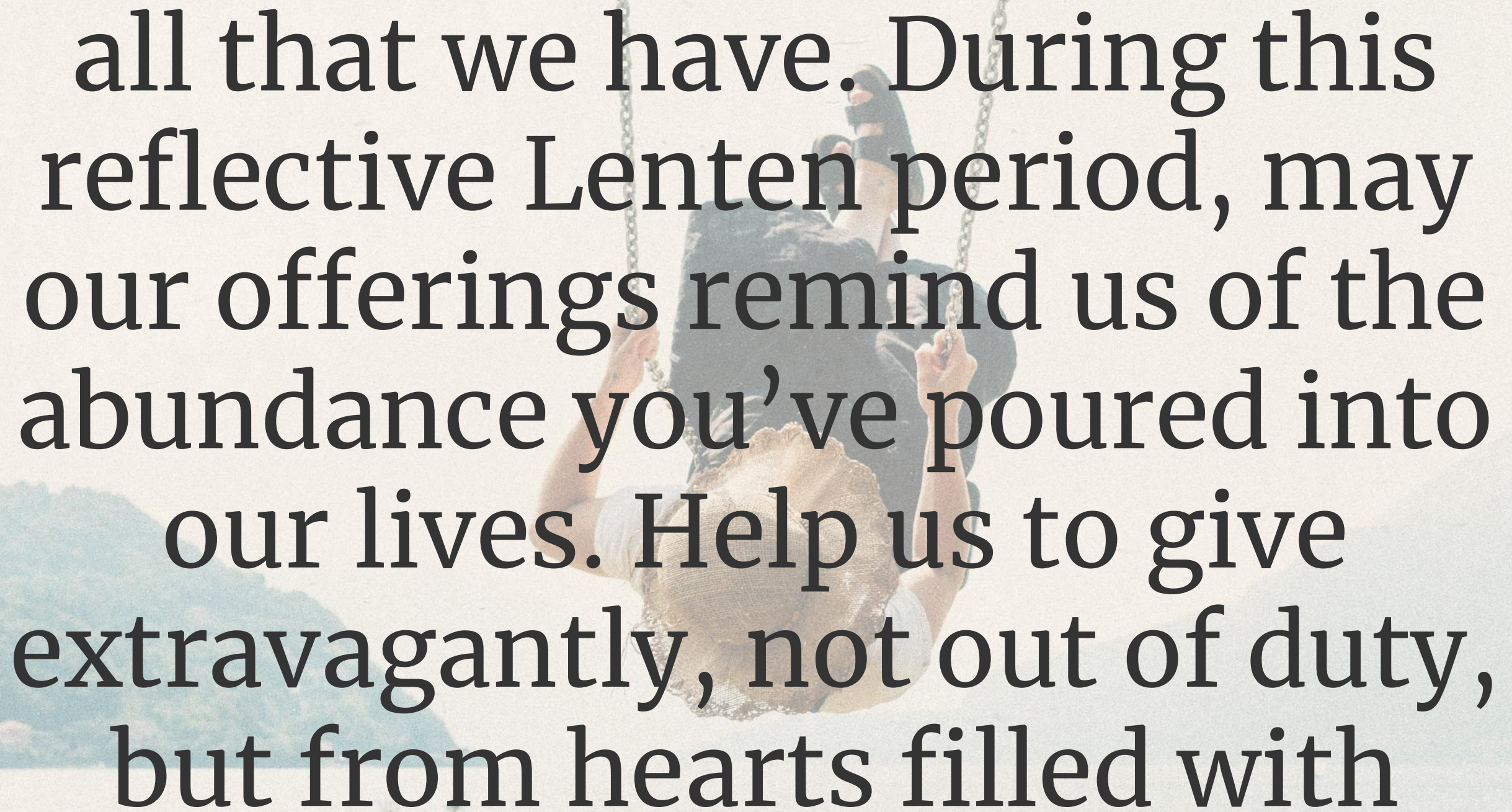
Doxology

praise him for his noble
deeds,
Praise him for his
matchless power;
Him from whom all good
proceeds let
Earth and heaven adore.



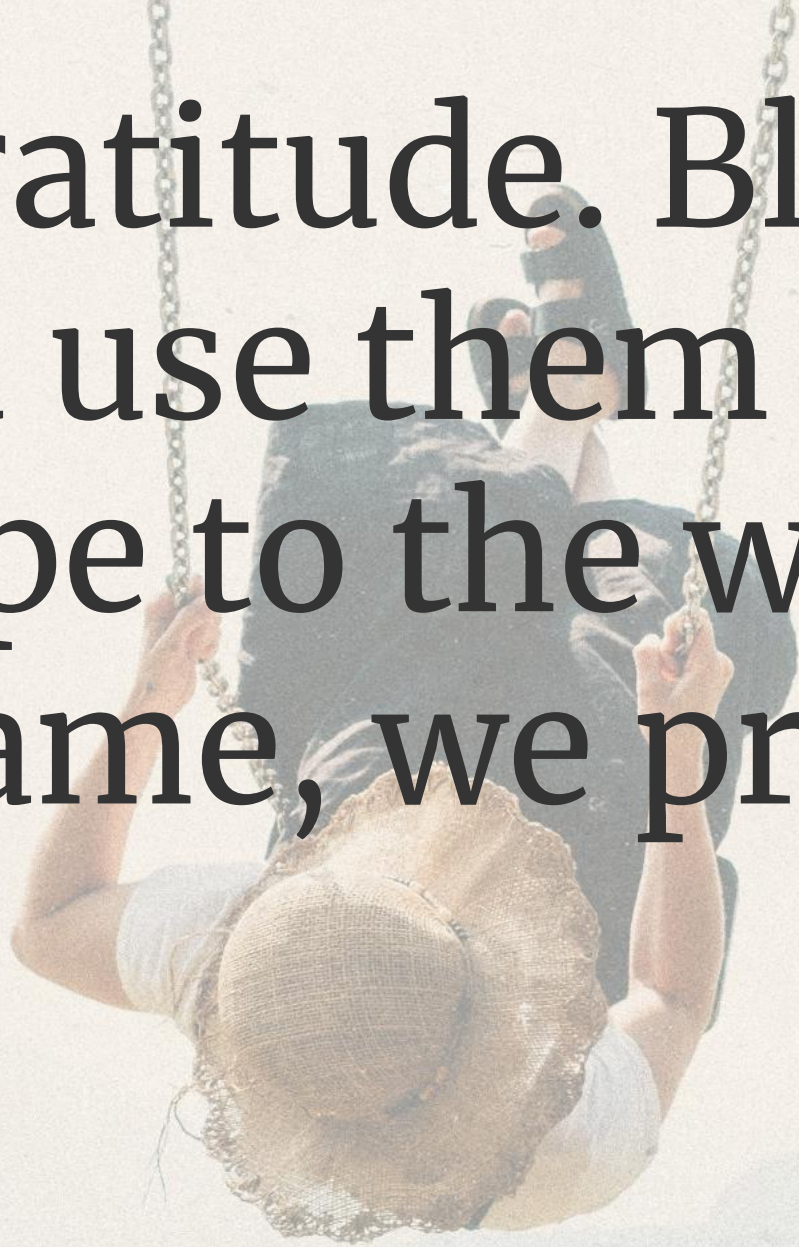
A woman is swinging on a swing set, with a young child sitting on her back. The woman is wearing a dark blue shirt and a large, light-colored straw hat. The child is wearing a dark blue shirt and a dark hat. The background shows a body of water, likely a lake, and a range of mountains under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, black, sans-serif font.

Loving God, source of all joy,
we come before you with
hearts full of gratitude. As
Mary poured out her love for
Jesus with costly perfume, so
we pour out our gifts before
you, seeking to honor you with

A person is seen from behind, swinging on a swing set. They are wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and a light-colored, wide-brimmed hat. The swing is suspended by two chains. The background is a bright, slightly hazy outdoor setting with green foliage and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, black, sans-serif font.

all that we have. During this reflective Lenten period, may our offerings remind us of the abundance you've poured into our lives. Help us to give extravagantly, not out of duty, but from hearts filled with

joy and gratitude. Bless these gifts and use them to bring your hope to the world. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.



A person is swinging on a swing set in the foreground, wearing a light-colored top and a large, wide-brimmed straw hat. In the background, a choir of people is visible, some wearing dark clothing and head coverings. The scene is set outdoors with a hazy, mountainous landscape in the distance. The text is overlaid on the image in white.

Choir Anthem

What a Wondrous Love

FILL ME WITH LAUGHTER



Dr Ray Francis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGZhMIXH62M>

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

A person is seen from behind, swinging on a swing set. They are wearing a dark shirt and a wide-brimmed hat. The background is a bright, hazy landscape with mountains and a body of water. The text is overlaid on the image.

Tour of Scripture Related to Laughter and Joy

Filling our hearts with laughter and joy is a common theme and topic throughout scripture. Let's take a look at a few instances.

1: Laughter and Joy are Gifts from God

A person is seen from behind, swinging on a swing set. They are wearing a dark t-shirt, shorts, and sandals. A large, light-colored, wide-brimmed hat is hanging from the back of the swing seat. The background shows a calm body of water, likely a lake, with rolling green mountains in the distance under a bright sky.

- **1: God Desires to Fill Us with Joy**
 - (Psalm 126:1-3)
- **2: Joy is a Sign of God's Presence**
 - (Nehemiah 8:10)
- **3: The Joy of the Lord is Unshakable**
 - (Romans 15:13)



2: Laughter and Joy Bring Healing and Renewal

- **1: Laughter Brings Healing to the Soul**
 - (Proverbs 17:22)
- **2: Joy Revives Our Strength**
 - (Psalm 30:11-12)
- **3: Joy Strengthens Our Relationships**
 - (John 15:11)

3: Laughter and Joy Lead to Worship and Praise

- **1: Joy Fuels Worship**

- (Psalm 100:1-2)

- **Joy Transforms Our Perspective**

- (Isaiah 61:3)

- **3: Laughter and Joy Inspire Others to Praise**

- (Psalm 126:2)



Fill Me With Laughter And Joy

A person is seen from behind, swinging on a swing set. They are wearing a dark t-shirt, shorts, and sandals. A large, light-colored, wide-brimmed hat is on their head. The background features a calm lake, green mountains, and a clear sky.

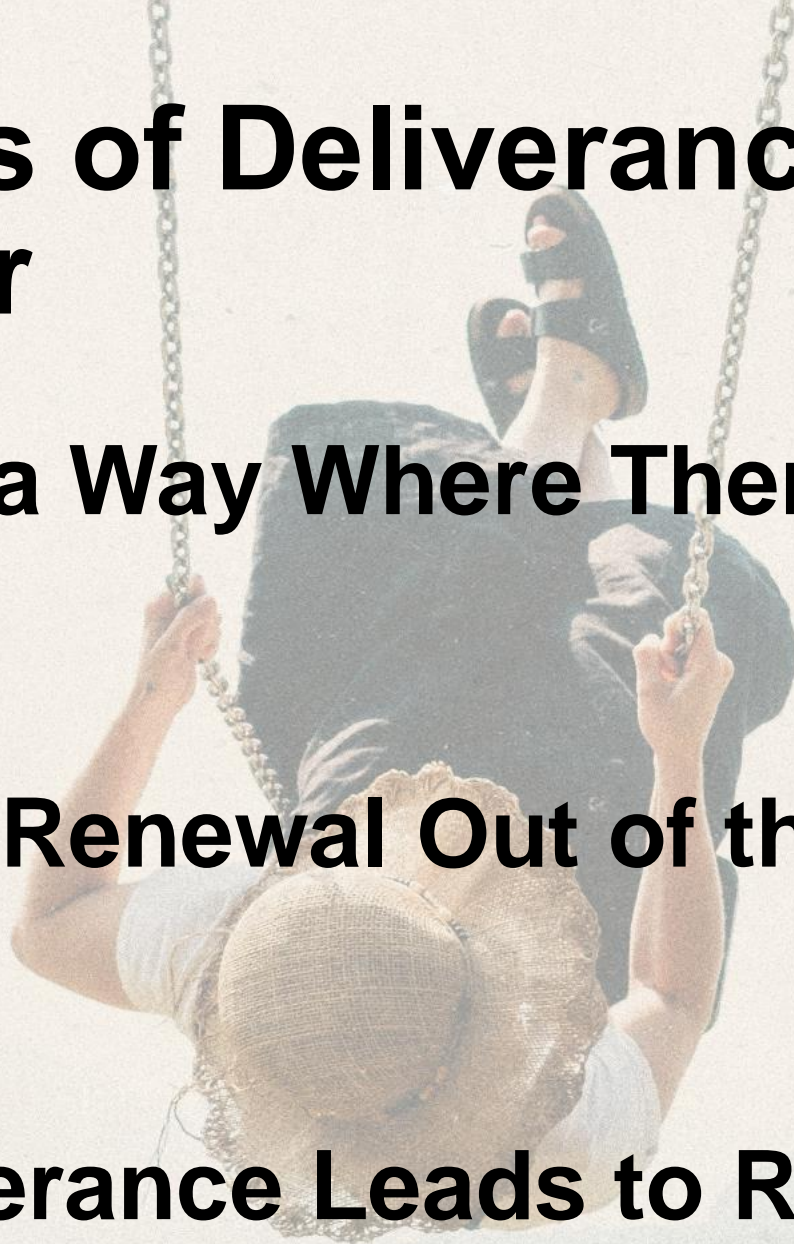
• Scripture References:

• Isaiah 43:16-21

• John 12:1-8

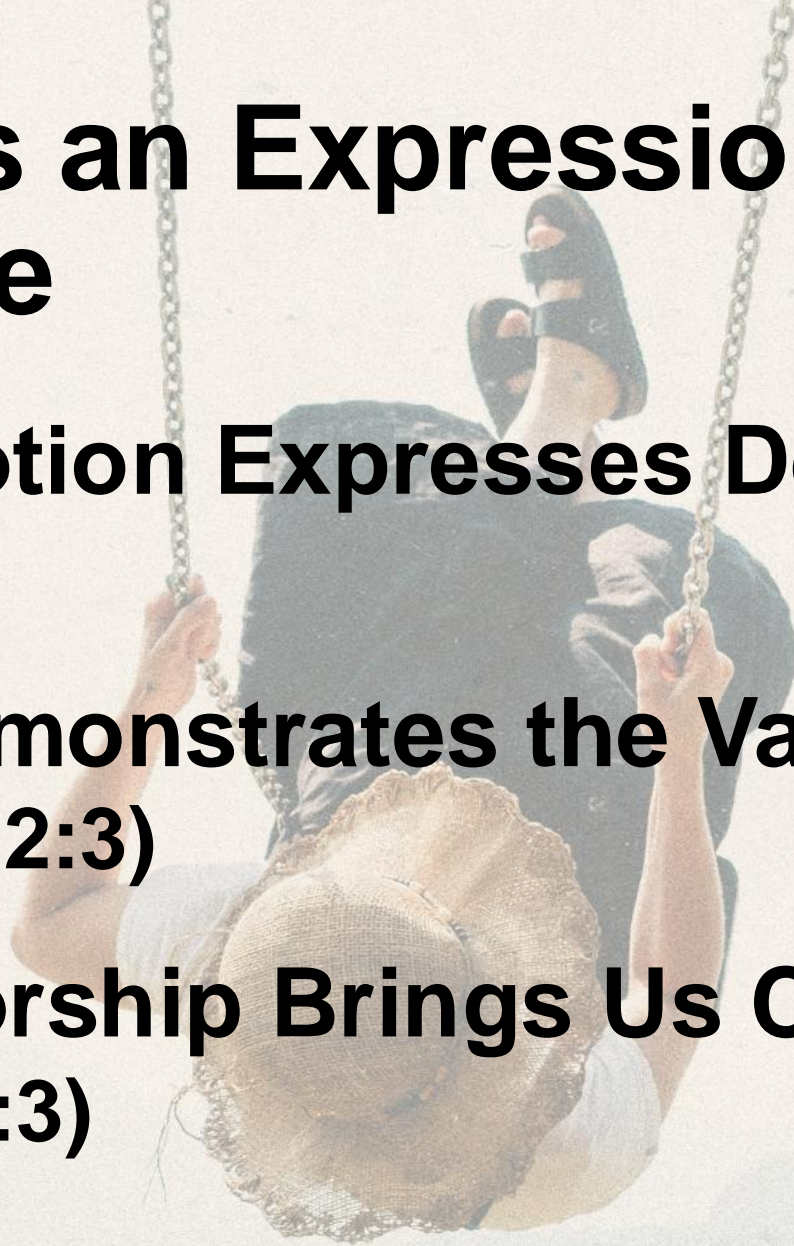
1: God's Acts of Deliverance Bring Joy and Laughter

- **1: God Makes a Way Where There Is No Way (Isaiah 43:16-17)**
- **2: God Brings Renewal Out of the Wilderness (Isaiah 43:18-19)**
- **3: God's Deliverance Leads to Rejoicing (Isaiah 43:20-21)**



2: Worship Is an Expression of Joy and Gratitude

- 1: Mary's Devotion Expresses Deep Joy (John 12:1-3)**
- 2: Worship Demonstrates the Value We Place on God (John 12:3)**
- 3: Genuine Worship Brings Us Closer to Jesus (John 12:3)**

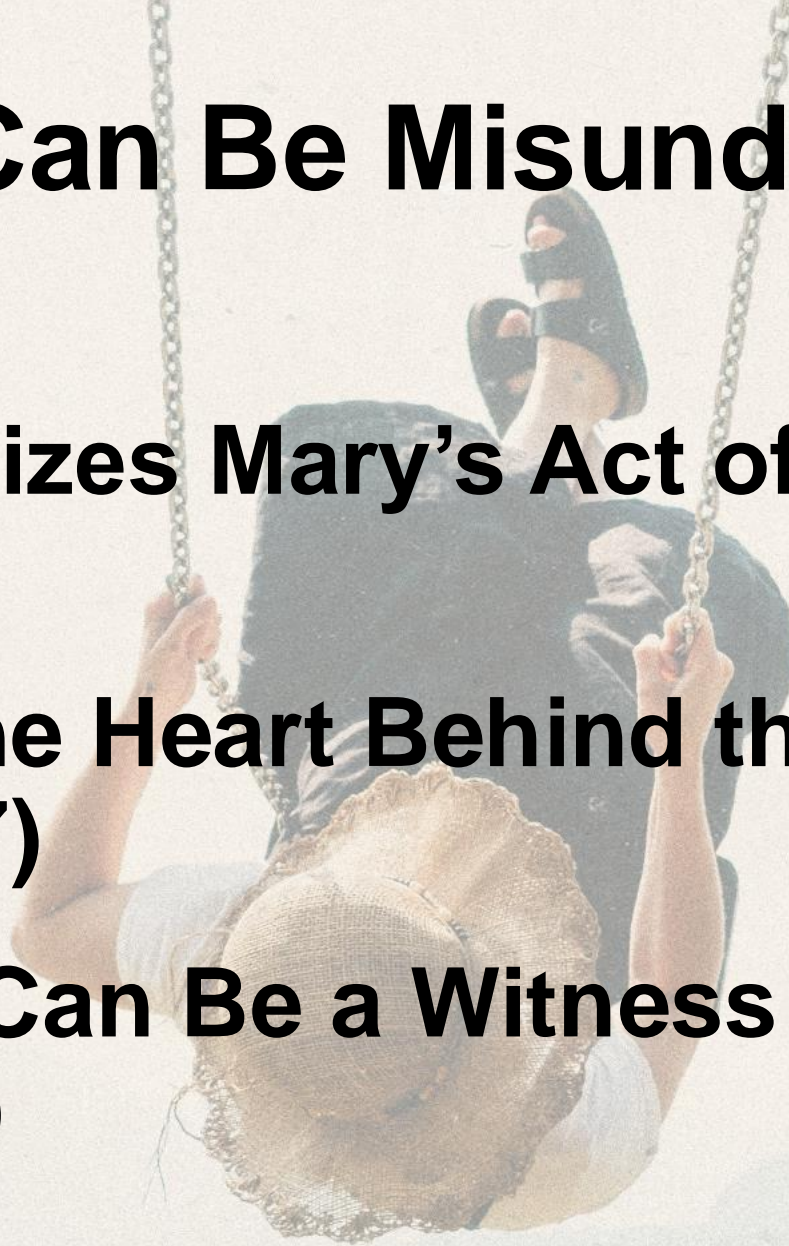


3: Joy and Laughter Come from Living in the New Things God Is Doing

- 1: God Invites Us to Participate in His New Work (Isaiah 43:19)**
- 2: Our Joy Is Rooted in the Hope of God's Promises (Romans 15:13)**
- 3: Embracing God's New Things Leads to Spiritual Growth (John 12:8)**

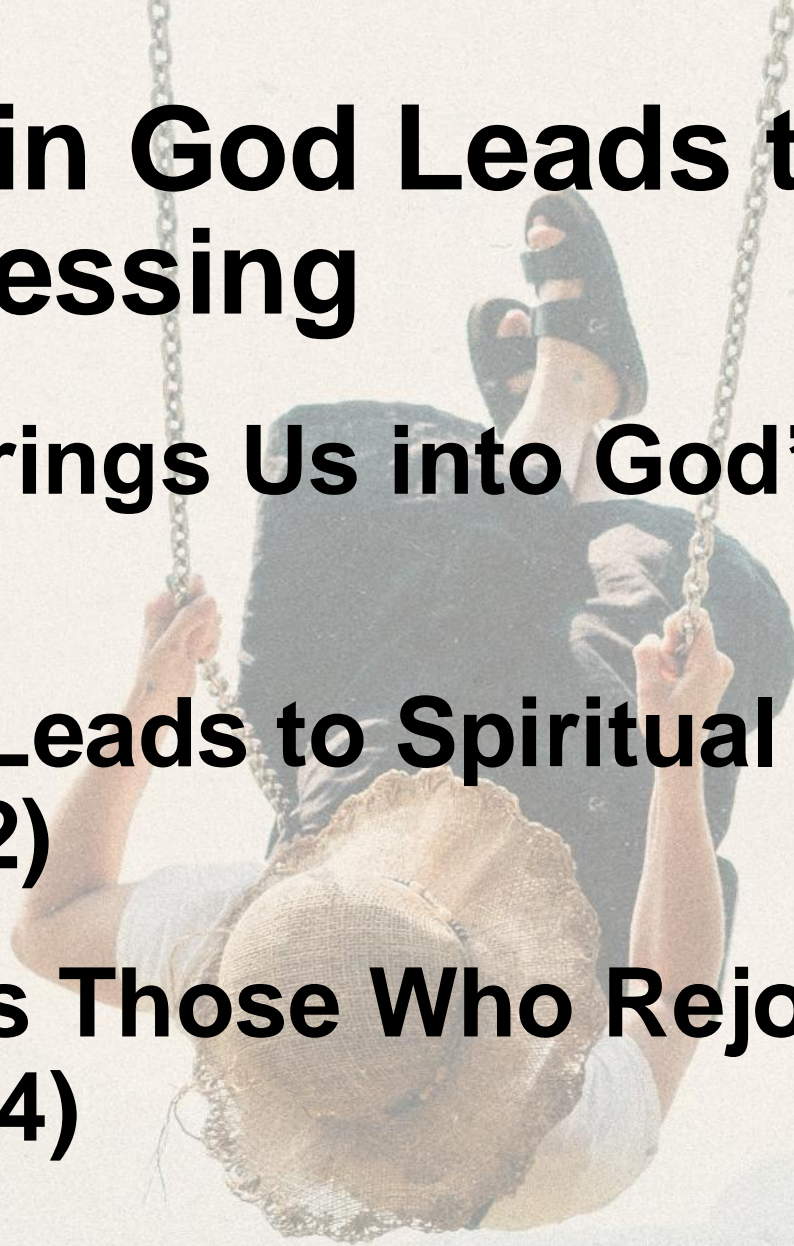
4: True Joy Can Be Misunderstood by the World

- **1: Judas Criticizes Mary's Act of Worship (John 12:4-5)**
- **2: God Sees the Heart Behind the Joy (1 Samuel 16:7)**
- **3: Joy in God Can Be a Witness to Others (Matthew 5:16)**



5: Rejoicing in God Leads to a Life of Abundant Blessing

- **1: Rejoicing Brings Us into God's Presence (Psalm 100:2)**
- **2: Joy in God Leads to Spiritual Fruitfulness (Galatians 5:22)**
- **3: God Blesses Those Who Rejoice in Him (Philippians 4:4)**



Summary

- In this sermon, we have explored how God's acts of deliverance, worship, and the new things He is doing in our lives bring us true joy and laughter. As we worship God with gratitude, express joy in His presence, and embrace the new things He is doing, we find that our lives are filled with abundant blessing. Even when the world does not understand our joy, we can rest in the assurance that it is a gift from God that leads to spiritual growth, peace, and hope. Let us respond to God's work with joyful worship and trust that He will continue to fill us with laughter and joy as we walk in His presence.

A dark, atmospheric landscape with a rainbow in the sky. The scene is dimly lit, with a rainbow arching across the sky. The foreground shows a dark, textured surface, possibly a beach or a field, with a small pool of water or a wet area on the right side. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

HOLY COMMUNION

UMH P #12

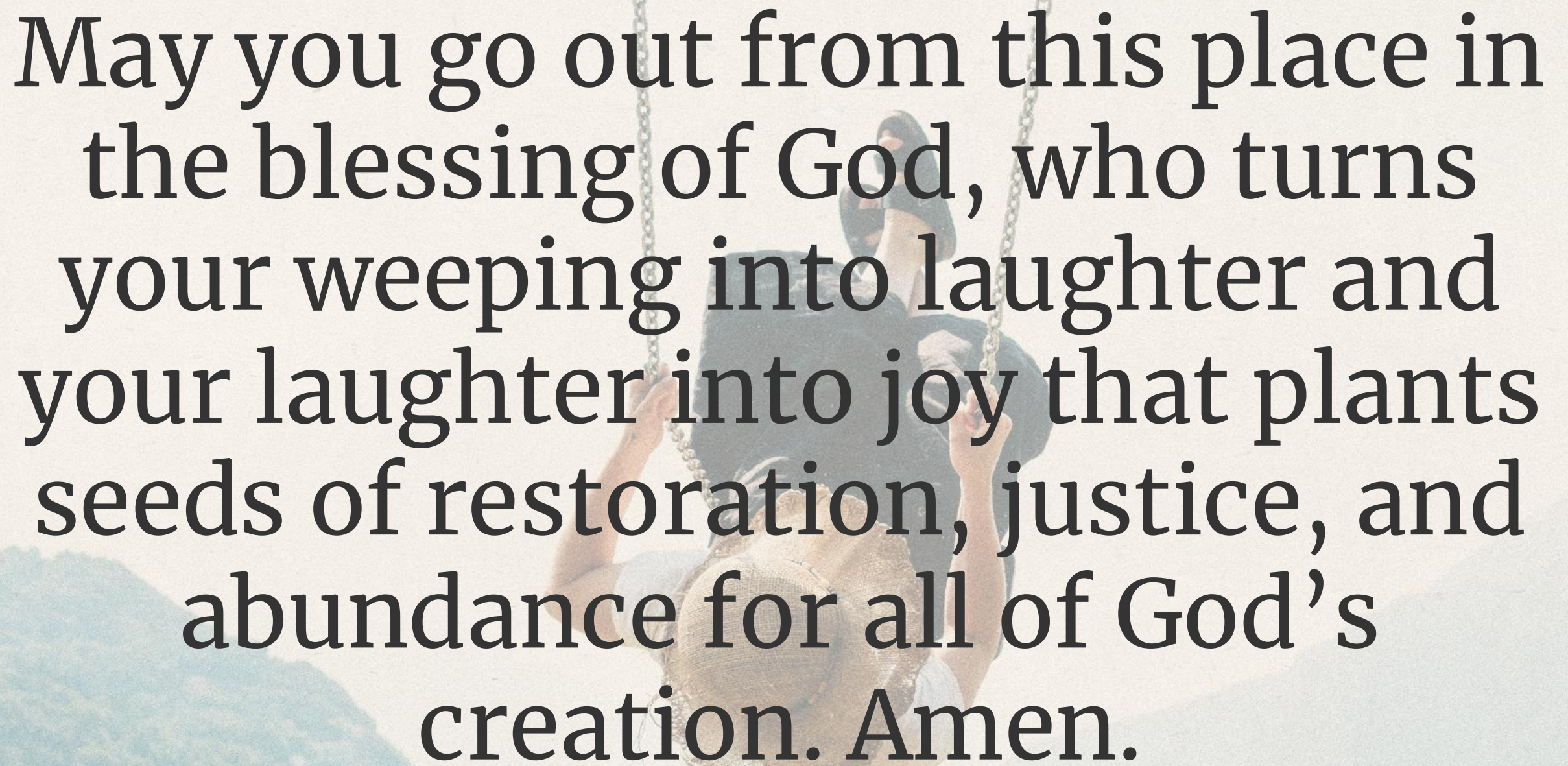
**SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL,
SOMETHING GOOD
UMH #394
(2X)**

Something
Beautiful,
Something
Good
UMH# 394

Something beautiful,
Something good;
All my confusion
He understood;
All I had to offer him
Was brokenness and strife
But he made something
Beautiful, of my life.

Something
Beautiful,
Something
Good
UMH# 394

Something beautiful,
Something good;
All my confusion
He understood;
All I had to offer him
Was brokenness and strife
But he made something
Beautiful, of my life.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark blue t-shirt and a light-colored skirt, is sitting on a swing. She is looking down, and her hands are on the swing's chains. The swing is set against a background of a calm lake and distant, hazy mountains under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, black, sans-serif font.

May you go out from this place in
the blessing of God, who turns
your weeping into laughter and
your laughter into joy that plants
seeds of restoration, justice, and
abundance for all of God's
creation. Amen.

STEADFAST LOVE

A LENTEN PLAYLIST

