



*Welcome Home!*

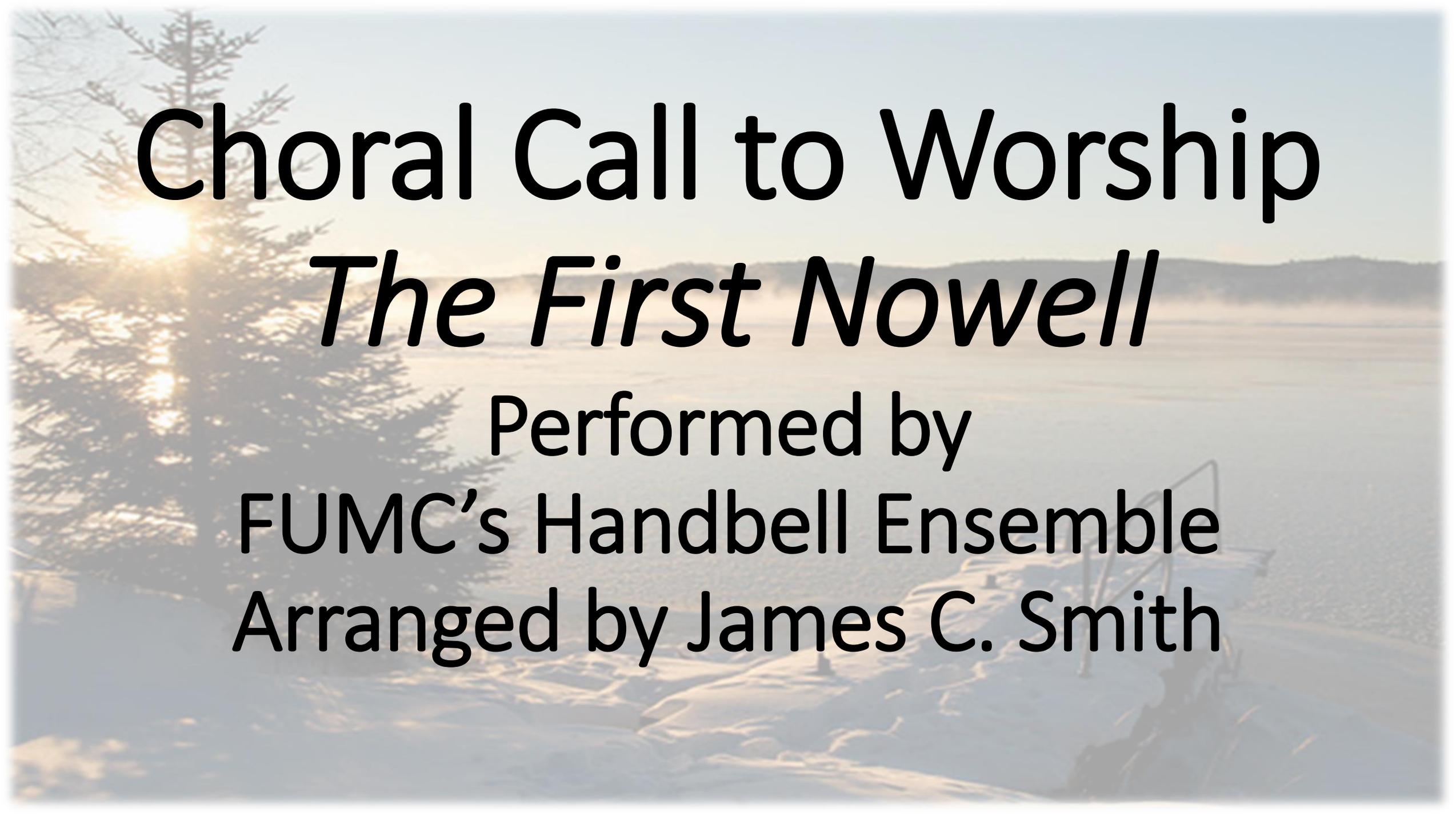
January 7, 2024

Sanctuary & Online

10:00 AM

A small, light-colored dog, possibly a puppy, is partially buried in a deep snowdrift. The dog's face is visible, with snow on its nose and around its eyes. The background is a vast, flat expanse of snow under a pale, overcast sky. The overall scene is serene and wintry.

***Announcements!***



# Choral Call to Worship

## *The First Nowell*

Performed by

FUMC's Handbell Ensemble

Arranged by James C. Smith

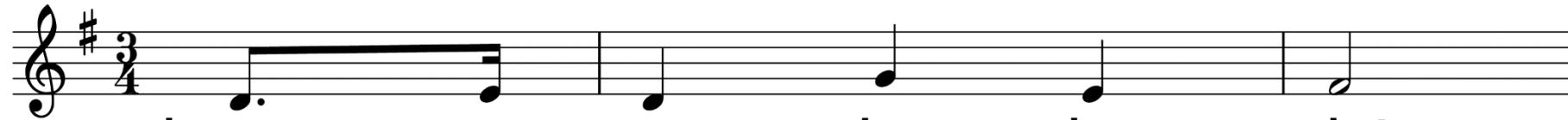
# **\*Call to Worship**

**Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, you brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright and morning star, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**  
*There's a Song*  
*in the Air*

*UMH #249, V. 1 & 4*

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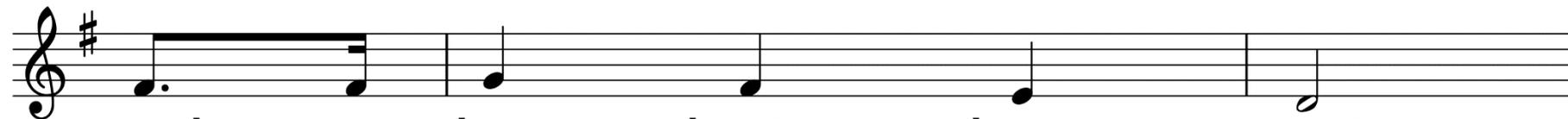
1. There's a song in the air!



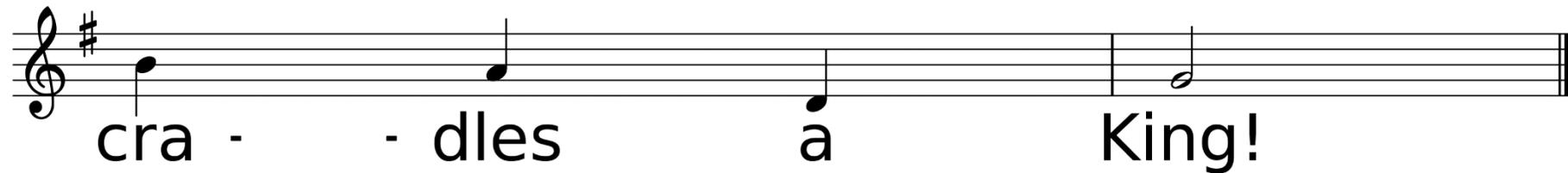
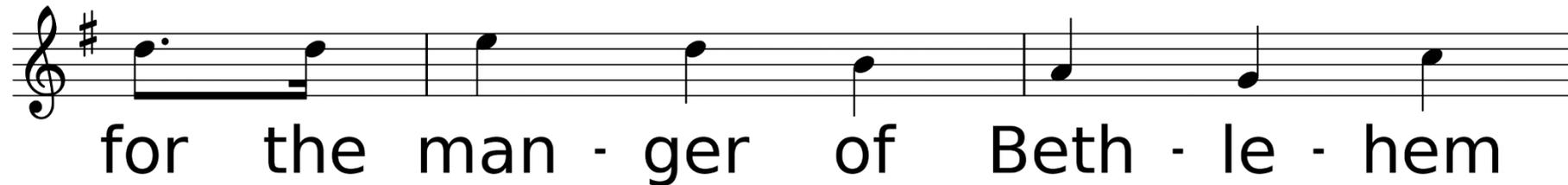
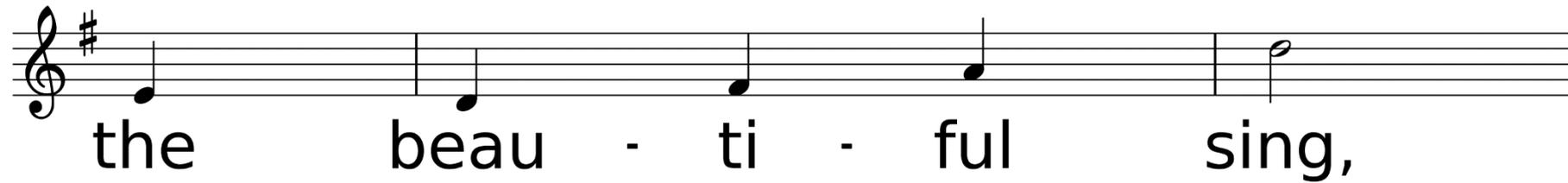
There's a star in the sky!



There's a moth - er's deep prayer

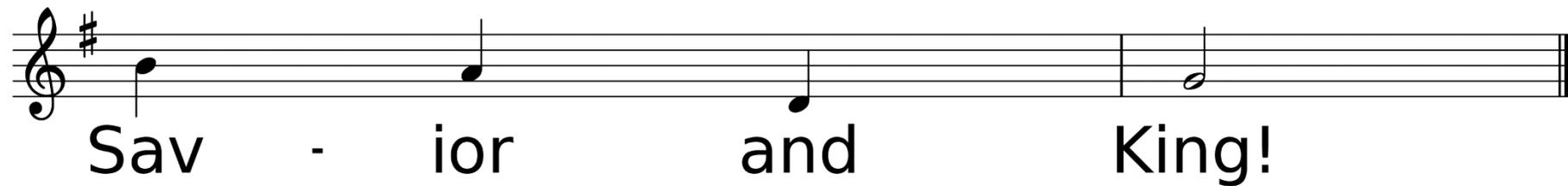
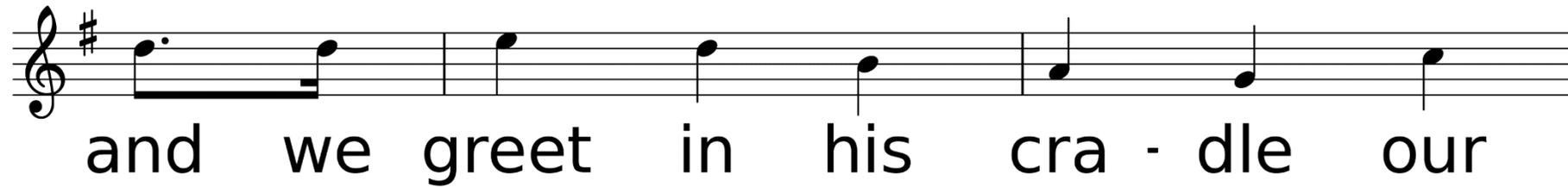
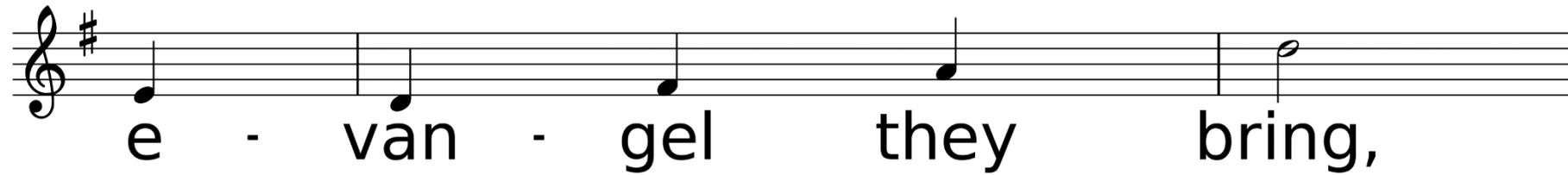
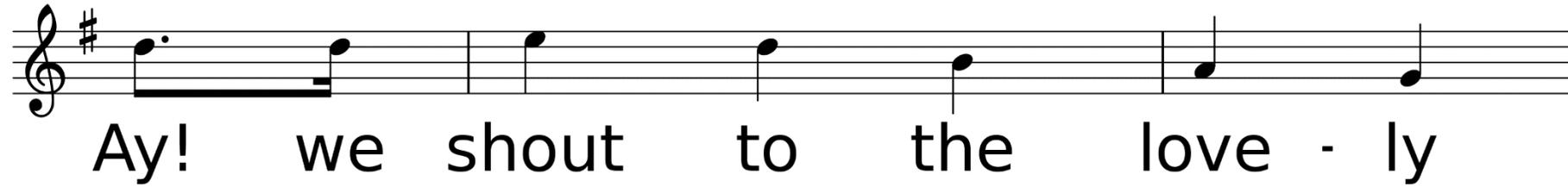


and a ba - by's low cry!



4. We re - jice in the light,  
and we ech - o the song  
that comes down through the night  
from the heav - en - ly throng.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a measure rest followed by a dotted quarter note, then a half note, and a quarter note. The second staff continues with a dotted quarter note, a half note, and a quarter note. The third staff continues with a dotted quarter note, a half note, and a quarter note. The fourth staff continues with a dotted quarter note, a half note, and a quarter note. The lyrics are: "4. We re - jice in the light, and we ech - o the song that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly throng."



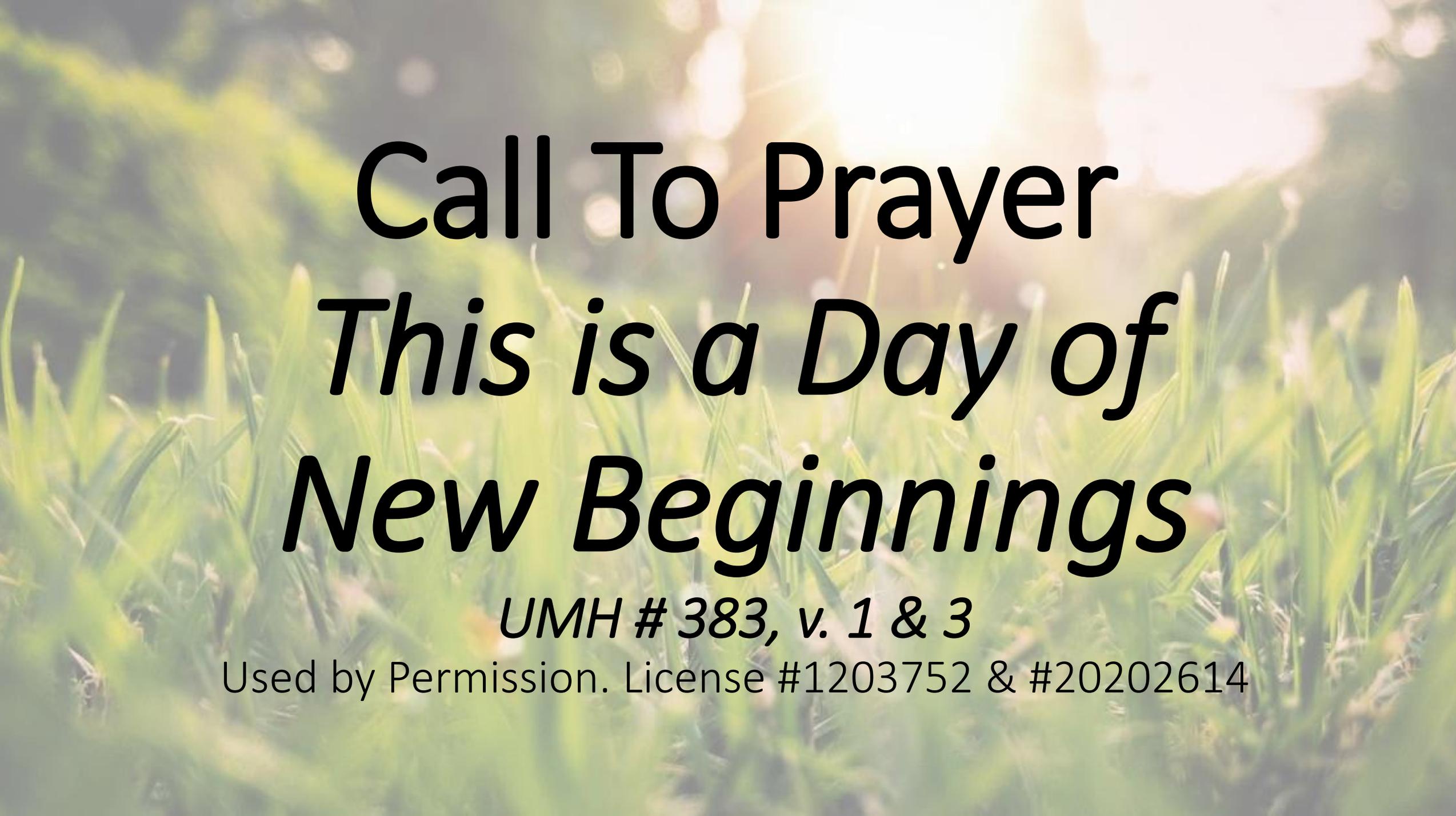
# \*Affirmation of Faith

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



# Sharing Our Joys and Concerns



**Call To Prayer**  
*This is a Day of*  
*New Beginnings*

*UMH # 383, v. 1 & 3*

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1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,



time to re - mem - ber and move on,



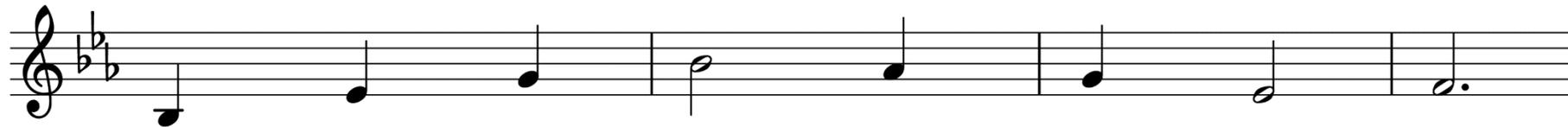
time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,



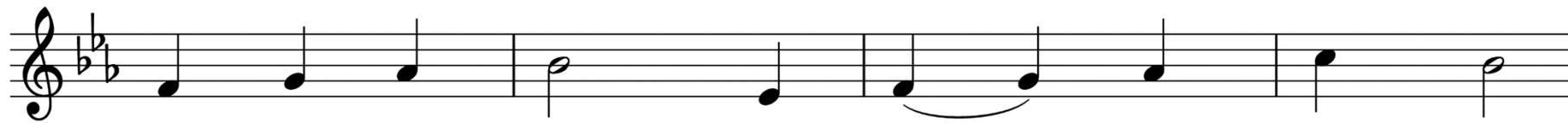
lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.



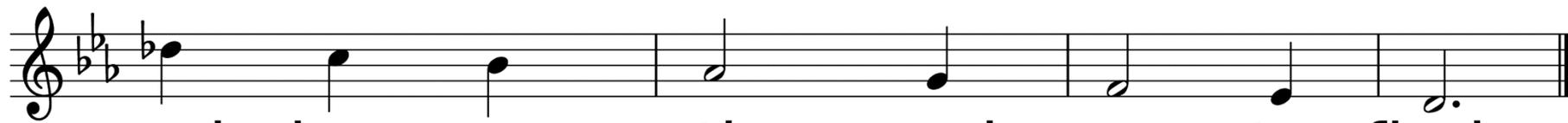
3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,



step from the past and leave be - hind



our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,



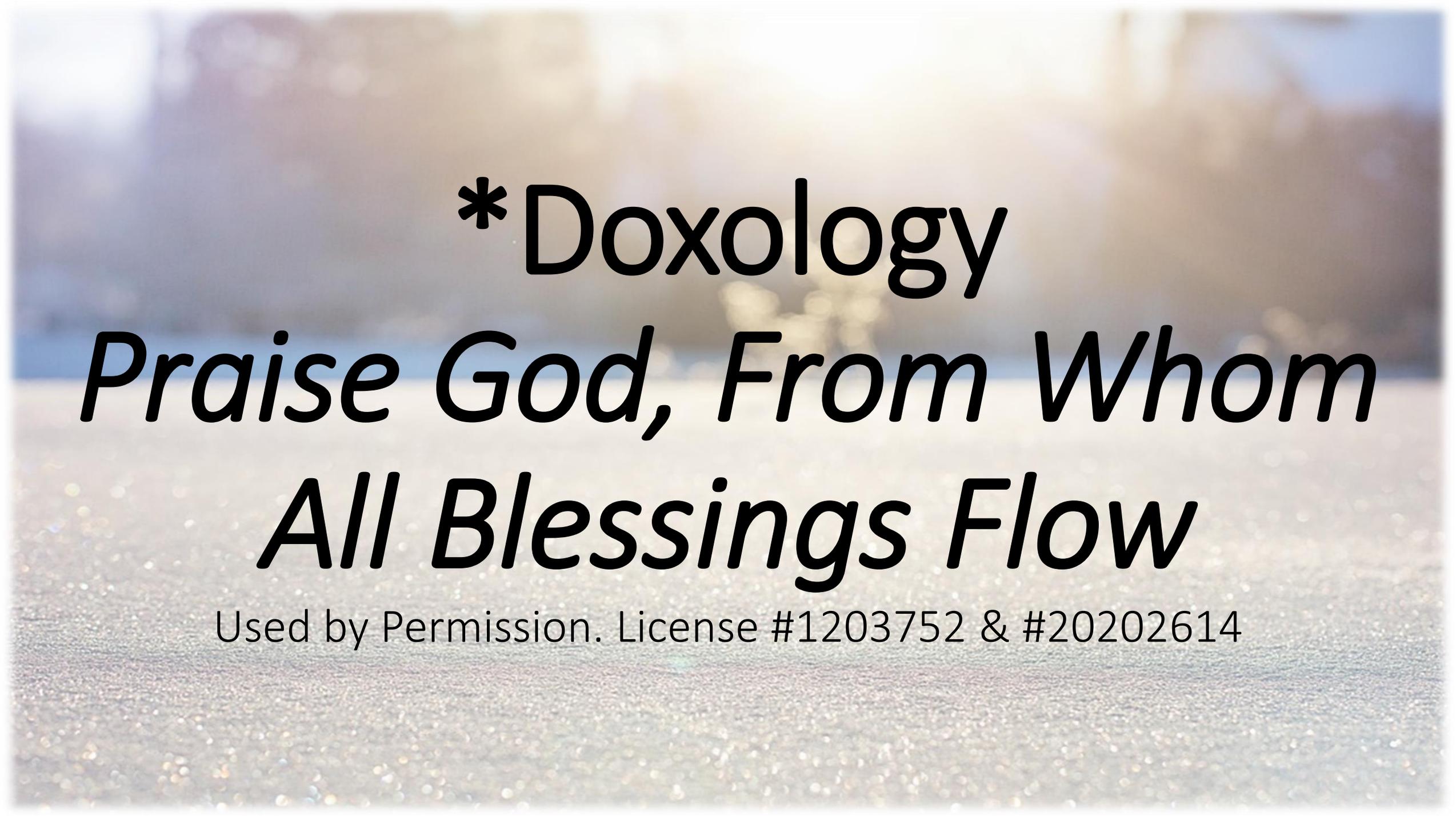
seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.



# Congregational Prayer & The Lord's Prayer



Offering Prayer  
& Return of God's  
Tithes



**\*Doxology**  
***Praise God, From Whom***  
***All Blessings Flow***

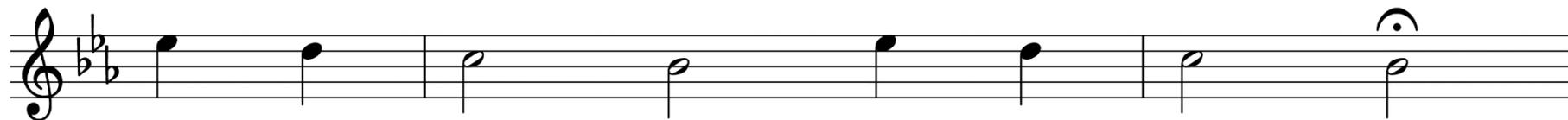
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Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;



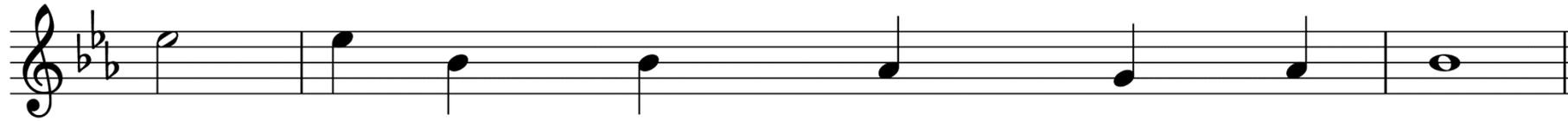
praise God, all crea-tures here be-low:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise God, the source of all our gifts!



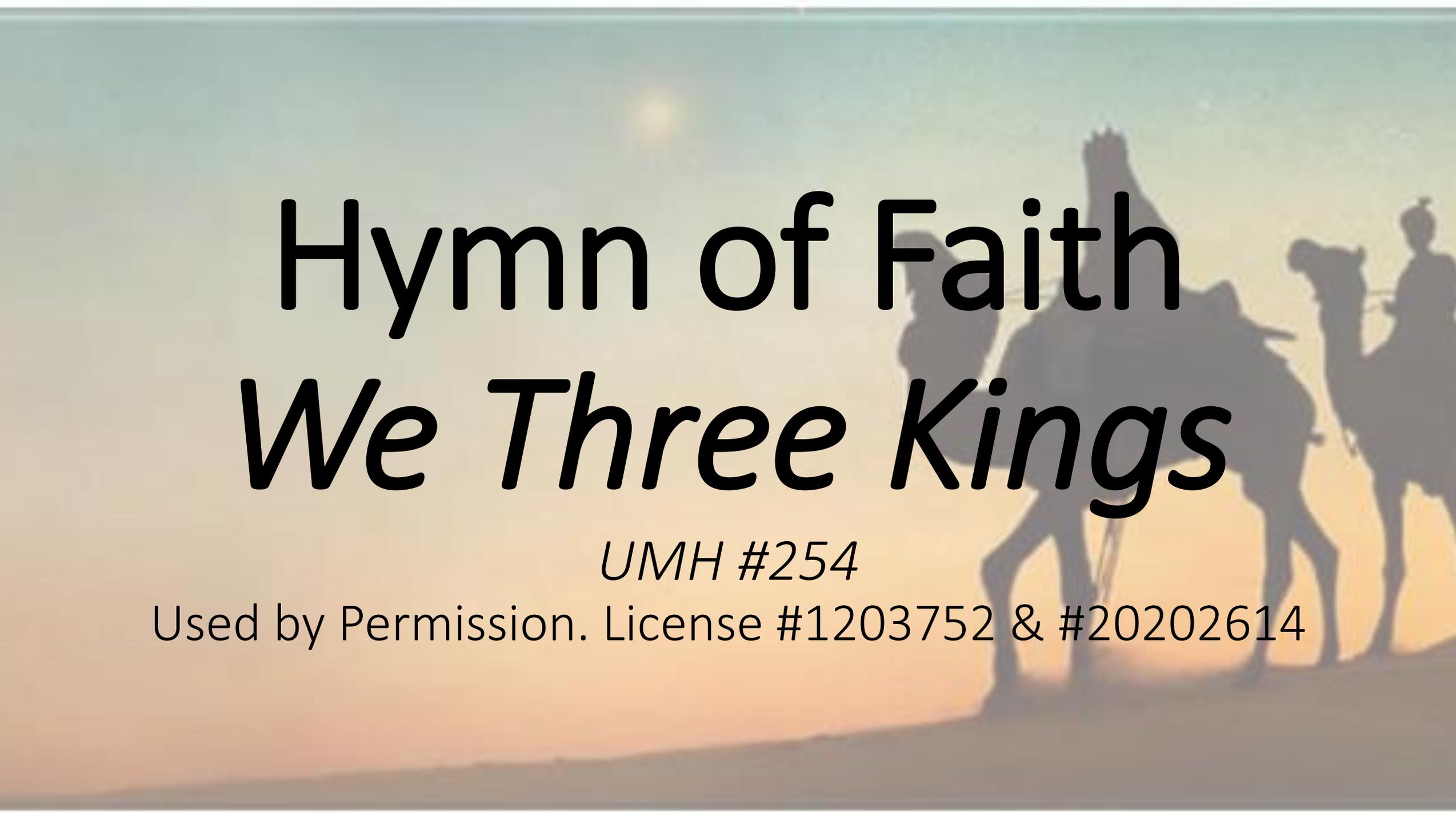
Praise Je-sus Christ, whose power up-lifts!



Praise the Spir-it, Ho-ly Spir-it! Al-le-lu-ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The background of the image features a soft, warm sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient from light blue at the top to orange and yellow at the bottom. In the foreground, the silhouettes of three camels and their riders are visible, moving from left to right across the frame. The camels are dark against the bright sky, and the riders are also in silhouette, holding reins. The overall mood is peaceful and evocative of the traditional story of the Three Kings.

# Hymn of Faith

## *We Three Kings*

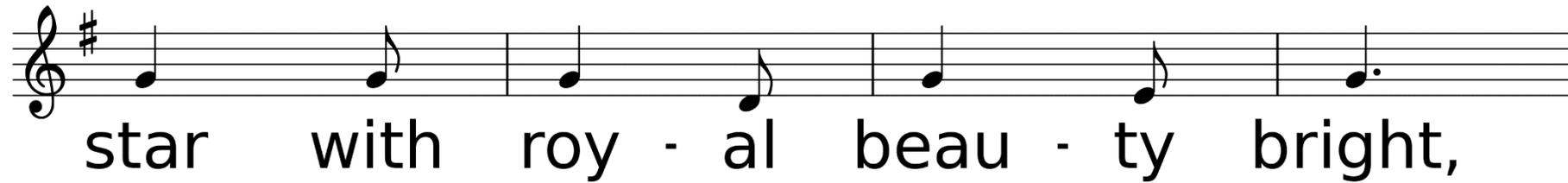
*UMH #254*

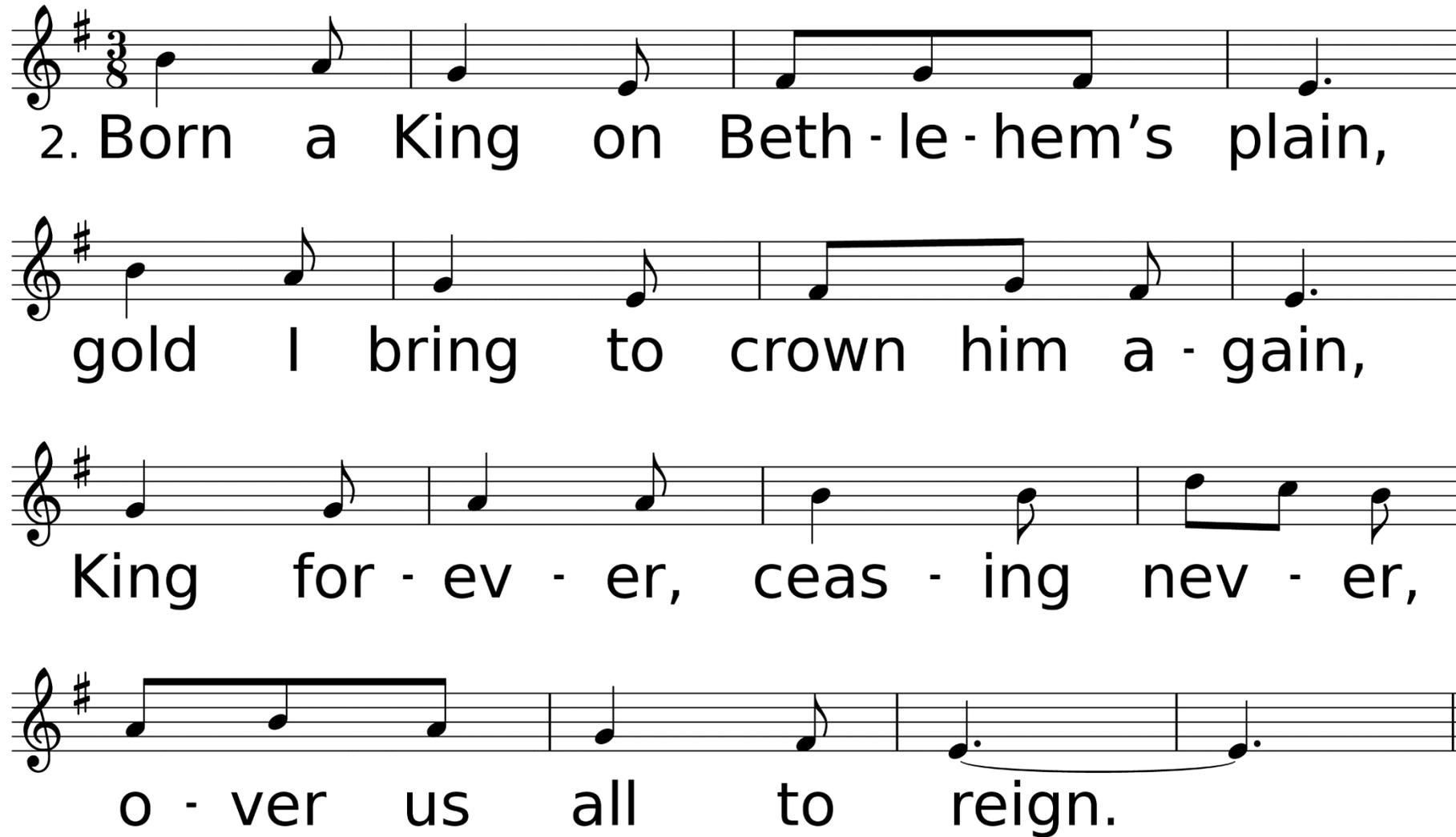
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1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are;  
bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain,  
fol - low - ing yon - der star.

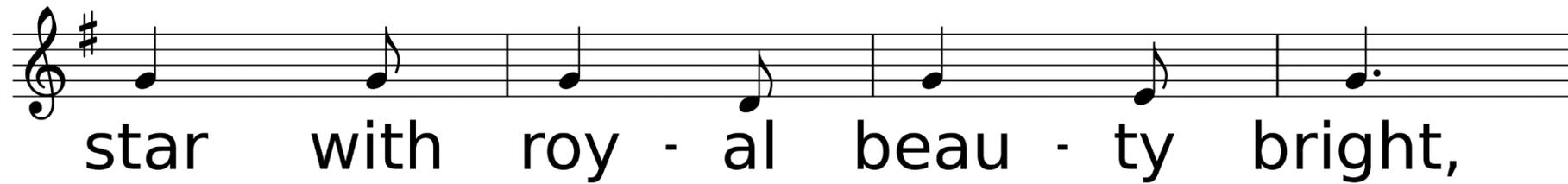
The image shows four staves of musical notation for the hymn 'We Three Kings'. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/8 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the first line of the verse, the second and third staves contain the second and third lines, and the fourth staff contains the final line. The music is written in a simple, clear style suitable for a hymn book.





2. Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him a-gain,  
King for-ev-er, ceas-ing nev-er,  
o-ver us all to reign.

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the hymn 'We Three Kings'. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/8 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics '2. Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain,'. The second staff contains 'gold I bring to crown him a-gain,'. The third staff contains 'King for-ev-er, ceas-ing nev-er,'. The fourth staff contains 'o-ver us all to reign.' and ends with a double bar line. The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes.





3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I;



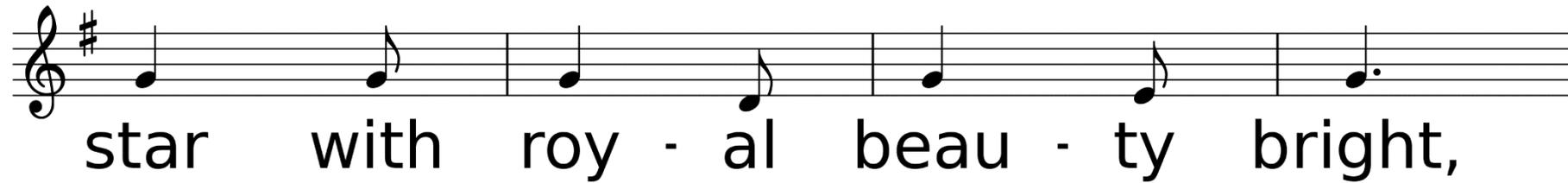
in - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;



prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing,



wor - ship - ing God on high.





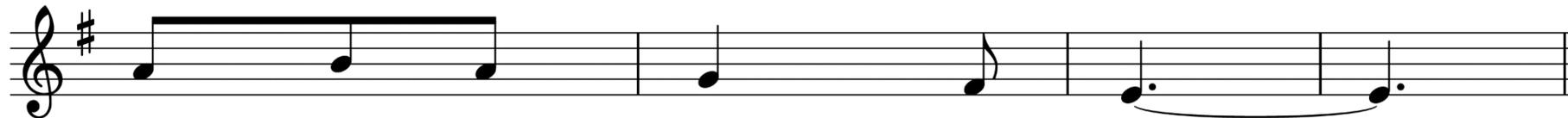
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume



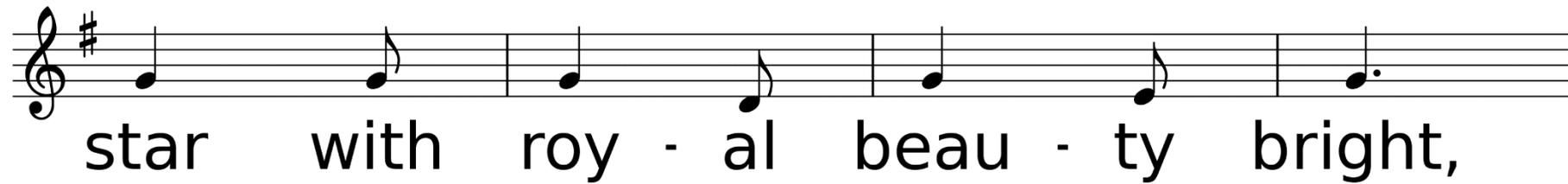
breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;



sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,



sealed in the stone - cold tomb.





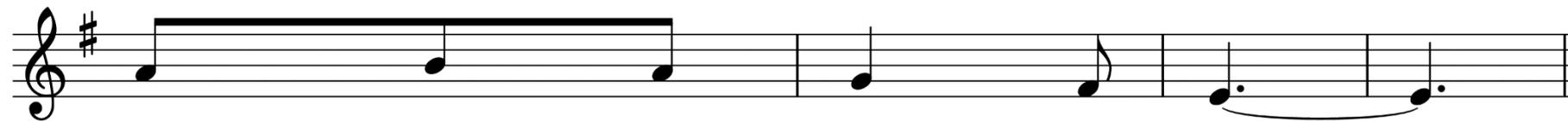
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise;



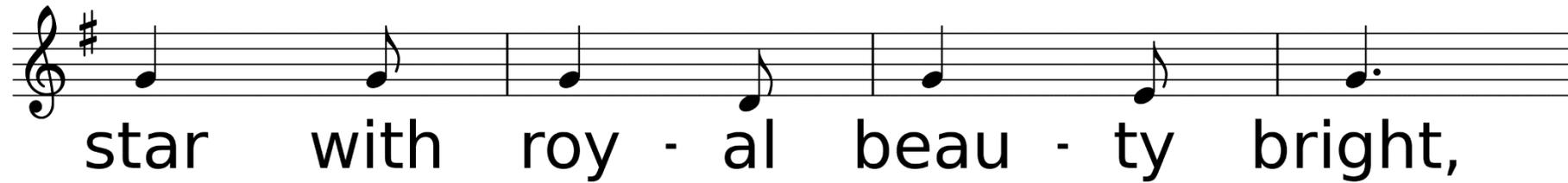
King and God and sac - ri - fice:



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,



sounds through the earth and skies.





# Scripture Reading

## Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied,  
“for this is what the prophet has  
written: ““But you, Bethlehem, in the  
land of Judah, are by no means least  
among the rulers of Judah; for out of  
you will come a ruler who will  
shepherd my people Israel.””

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Then they opened their treasures  
and presented him with gifts of  
gold, frankincense and myrrh. And  
having been warned in a  
dream not to go back to Herod,  
they returned to their country by  
another route.



# *“Bread of Life”*

Sermon

Rev. Laraine Waughtal



**Anthem**  
***A Bluegrass***  
***Magnificat***

**Tim Sharp and Timothy Michael Powell**



***Invitation to  
Holy Communion***

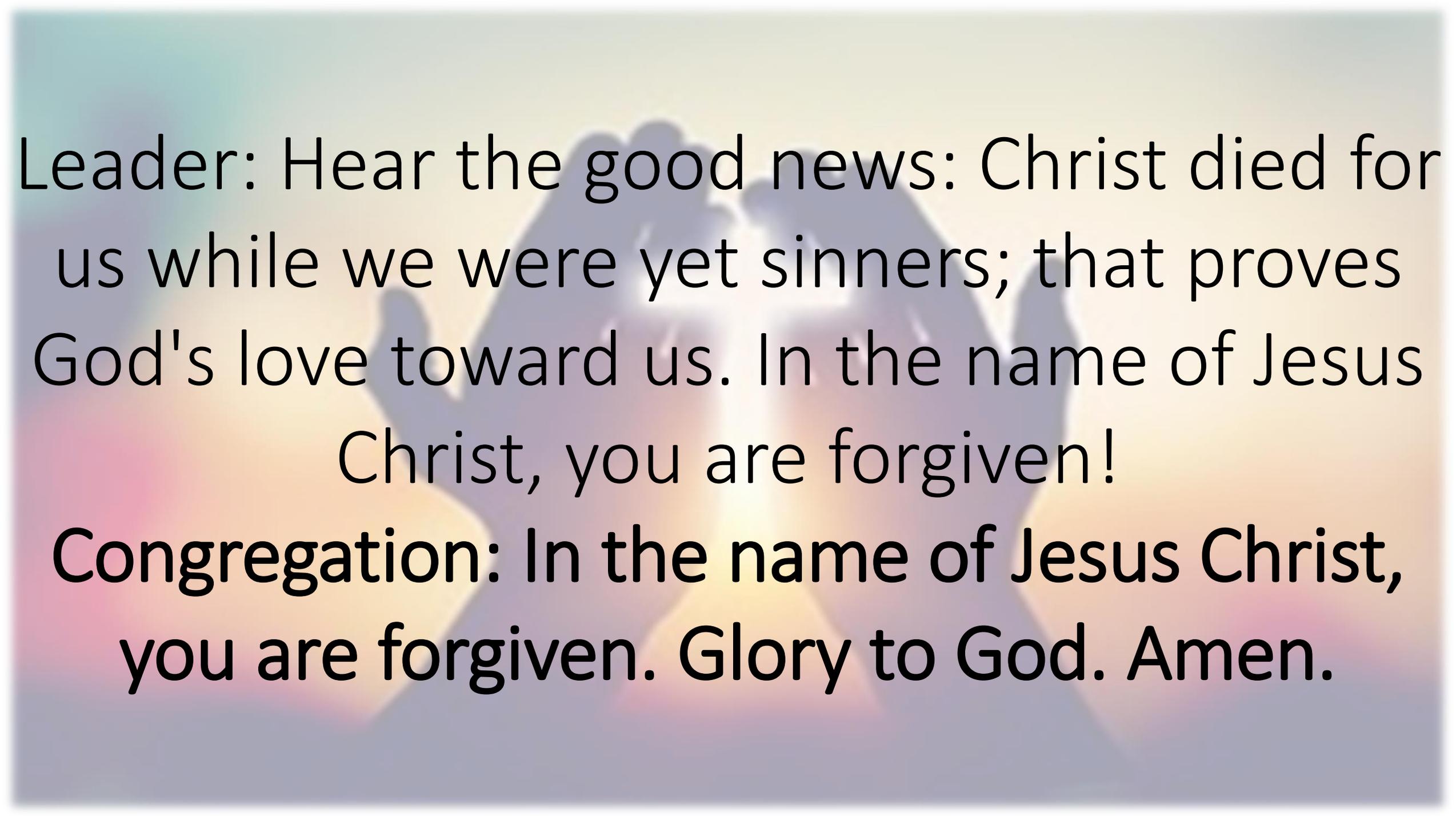
# Prayer of Confession & Pardon

Congregation: 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. Forgive us, we pray. Free us  
for joyful obedience, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The background features a soft-focus image of two hands clasped in prayer, with a glowing cross superimposed over them. The lighting is warm and ethereal, with a gradient from light blue at the top to light purple at the bottom.

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!

**Congregation:** In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

# The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

A still life photograph of a silver chalice and bread on a white cloth. The chalice is ornate with a floral design on its stem and base. The bread is a long, crusty loaf, partially broken into several pieces. The entire scene is set against a light gray background.

# Communion Liturgy & Receiving of the Elements



**\*Hymn of Invitation**  
***Blessed Assurance***

*UMH #369, v. 1 & 3*

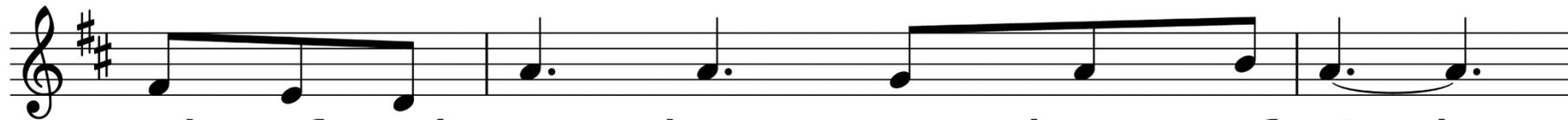
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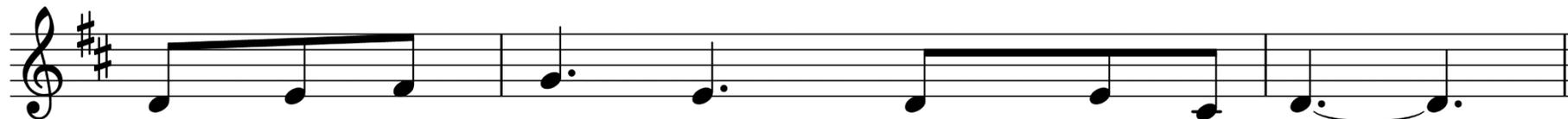
1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine!



O what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,



born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.



This is my sto - ry, this is my song,



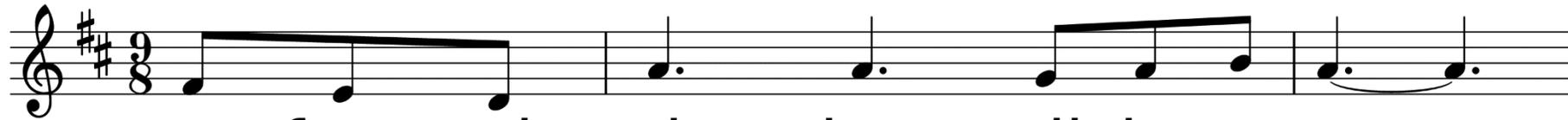
prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;



this is my sto - ry, this is my song,



prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.



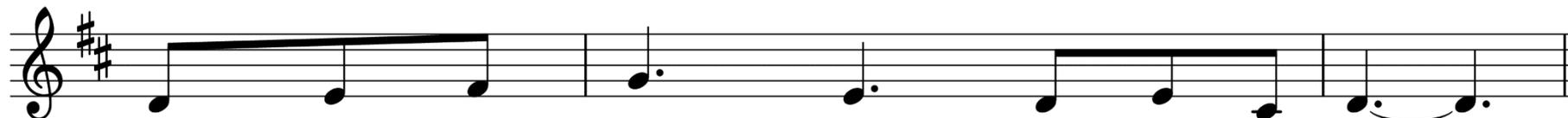
3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest;



I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and blest,



watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,



filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.



This is my sto - ry, this is my song,



prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;



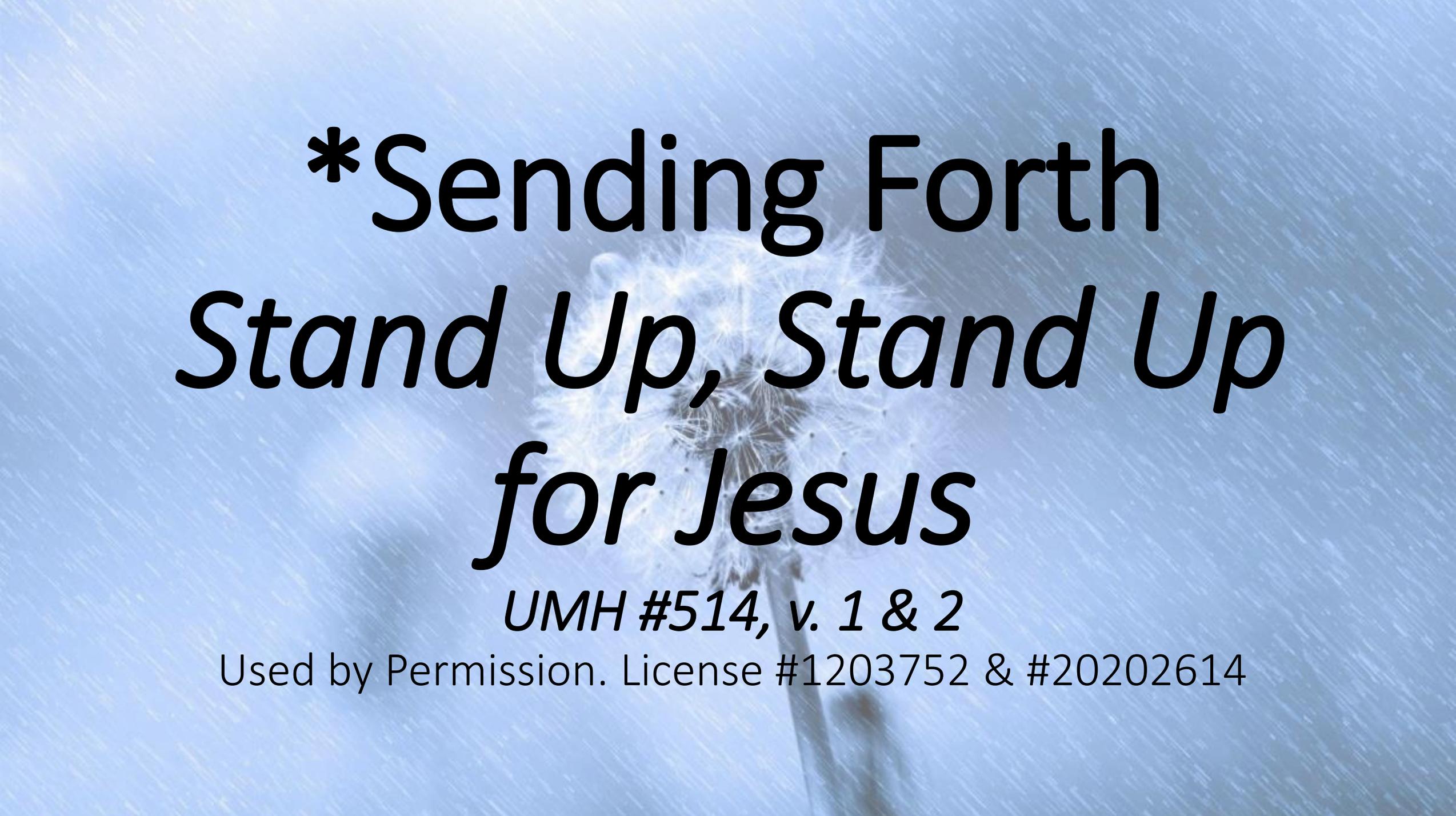
this is my sto - ry, this is my song,



prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.



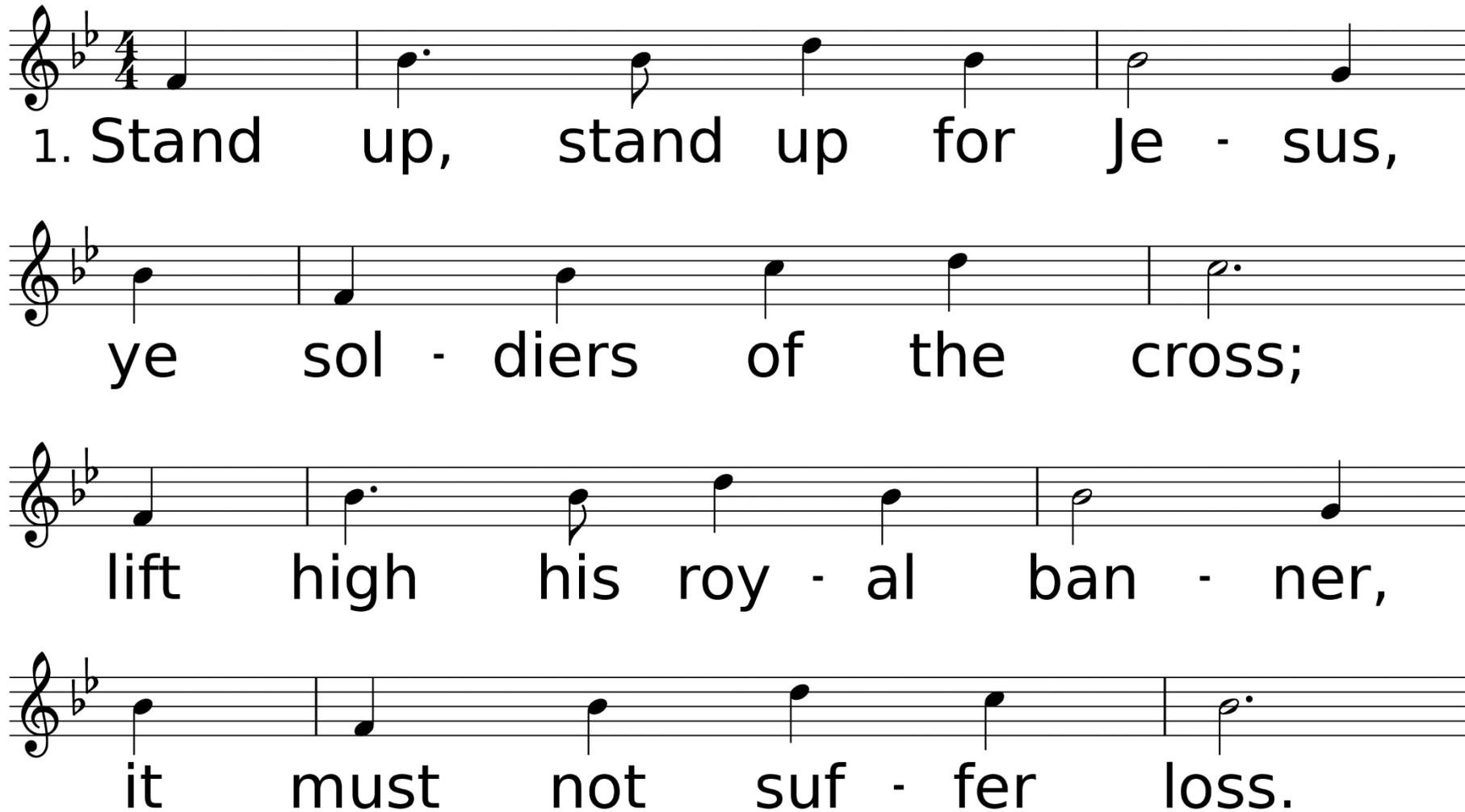
**\*Benediction**



**\*Sending Forth**  
*Stand Up, Stand Up*  
*for Jesus*

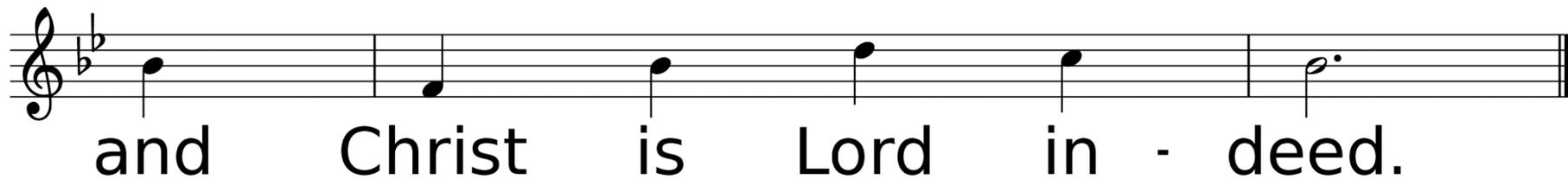
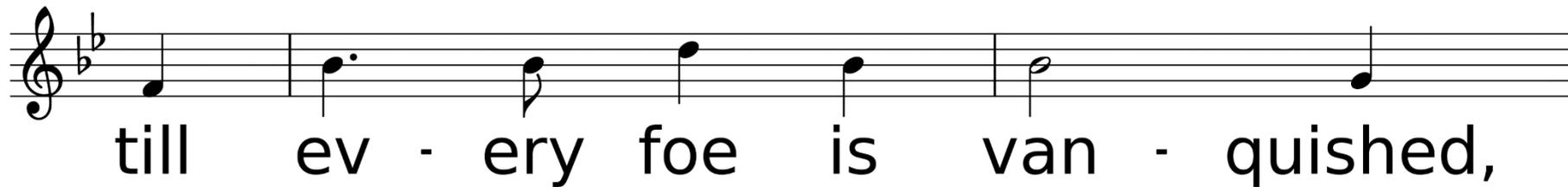
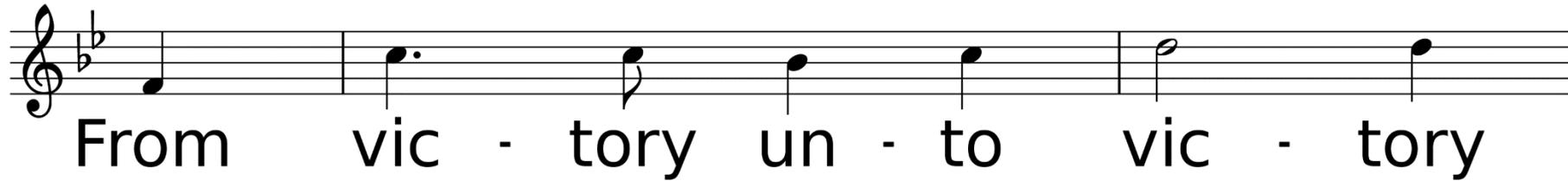
*UMH #514, v. 1 & 2*

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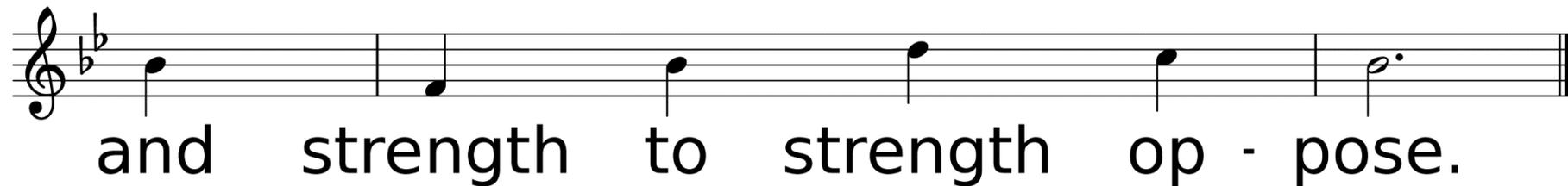
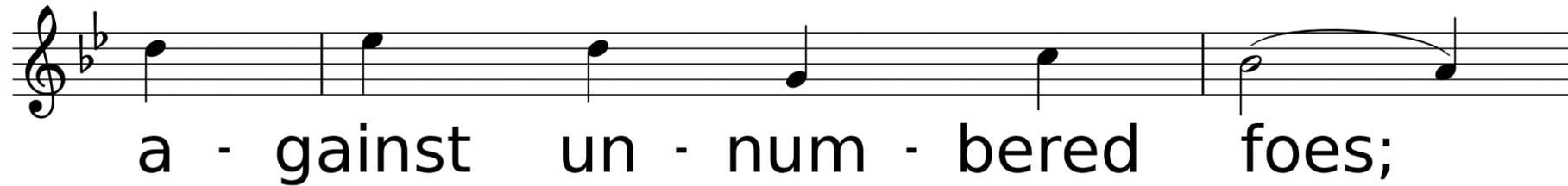
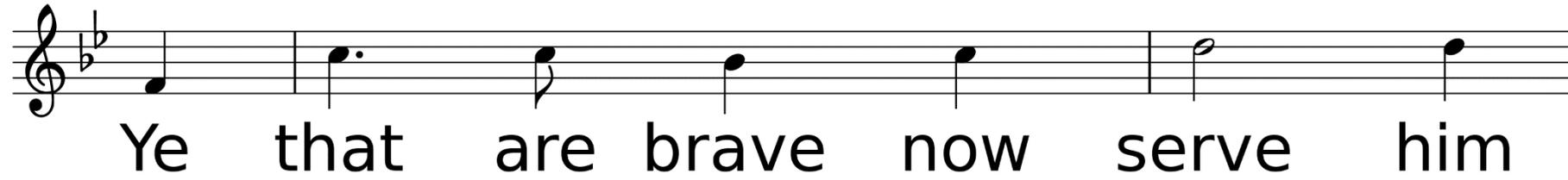
1. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus,  
ye sol - diers of the cross;  
lift high his roy - al ban - ner,  
it must not suf - fer loss.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are: '1. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, ye sol - diers of the cross; lift high his roy - al ban - ner, it must not suf - fer loss.'



2. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus,  
the trum - pet call o - bey;  
forth to the might - y con - flict,  
in this his glo - rious day.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus". It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "2. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the trum - pet call o - bey; forth to the might - y con - flict, in this his glo - rious day." The melody is simple and rhythmic, with a steady beat. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes.



*Thank you for joining  
us today!*

