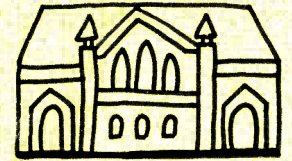


Calvary Church, Brighton, UK



*An independent Bible-teaching baptist church
congregation of 40-50 people based on the south coast of England
This service is being held “in person” and live-streamed
YouTube Channel: search for “Calvary Brighton”*

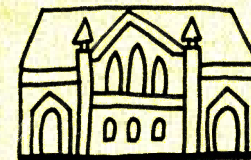
Today 24 October 2021 the service is led by David Wriglesworth
Speaker – Philip Wells pastor/elder
Subject – Christ and his mature church –
7. Elders – part 2

*Self-select seating – no advance booking
Although the local virus infection rate has been slightly reducing we ask you to
respect the space in the back hall as Covid-secure by kindly retaining face-
coverings while moving and while singing in Back Hall.*

Today “inside church picnic”

This evening – 18:30 at church – discussion on the morning’s teaching +
zoom “overspill”

Remember SGP Annual Conference Sat 13th November 10:00-15:30
Oct 27th 19:30 for 19:45 whole church prayer Bible Study



Welcome

Song: Jesus hope of the nations

Song: 1191 When trials come

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

For the children – *Nehemiah cared*

Reading – Nehemiah 1:1-2:6

*Song: 1275 What a gift of grace is Jesus my
Redeemer*

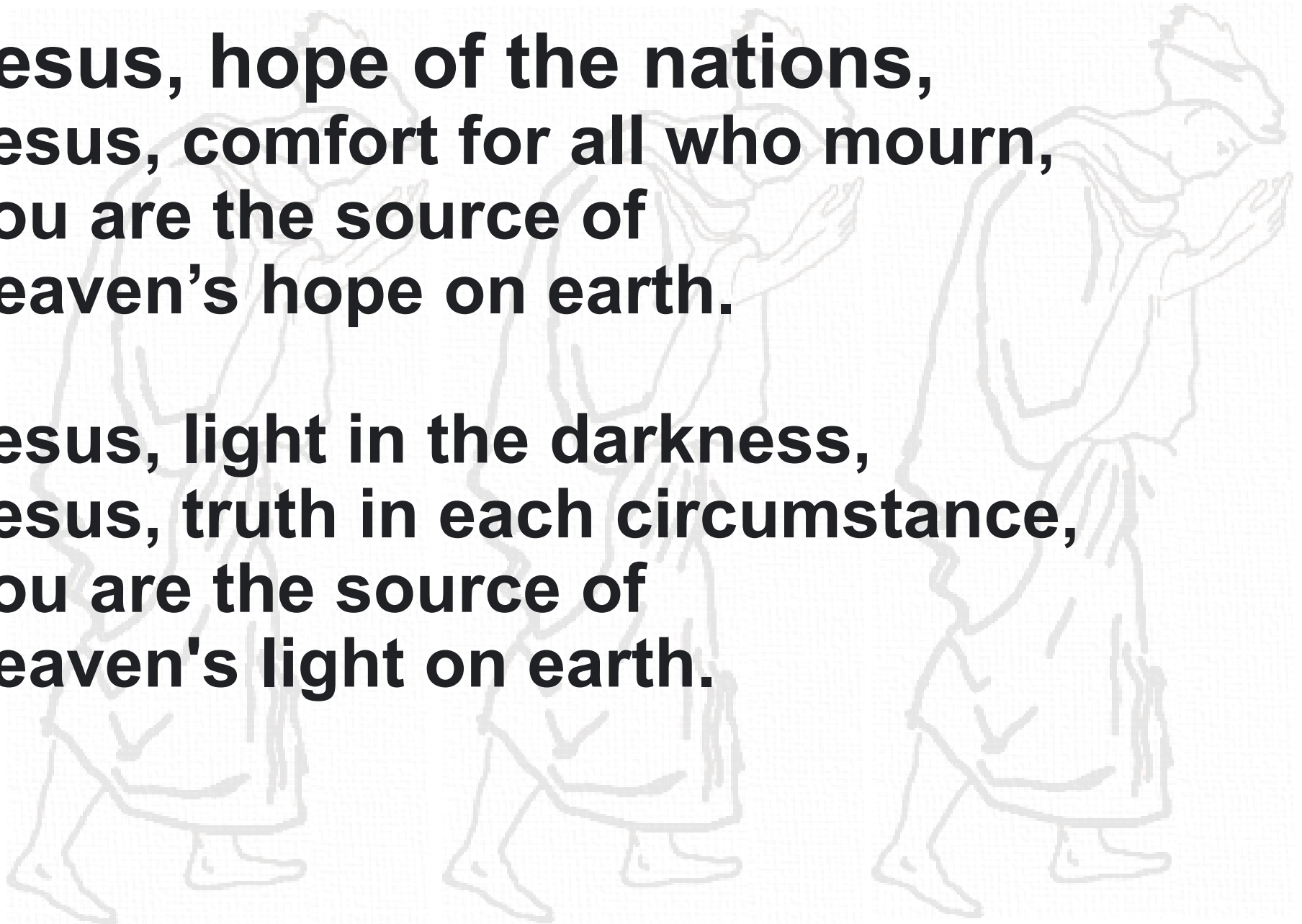
Talk – Elders #2 More about under-shepherds

Song: 1251 I will offer up my life

Closing prayer

**Jesus, hope of the nations,
Jesus, comfort for all who mourn,
you are the source of
heaven's hope on earth.**

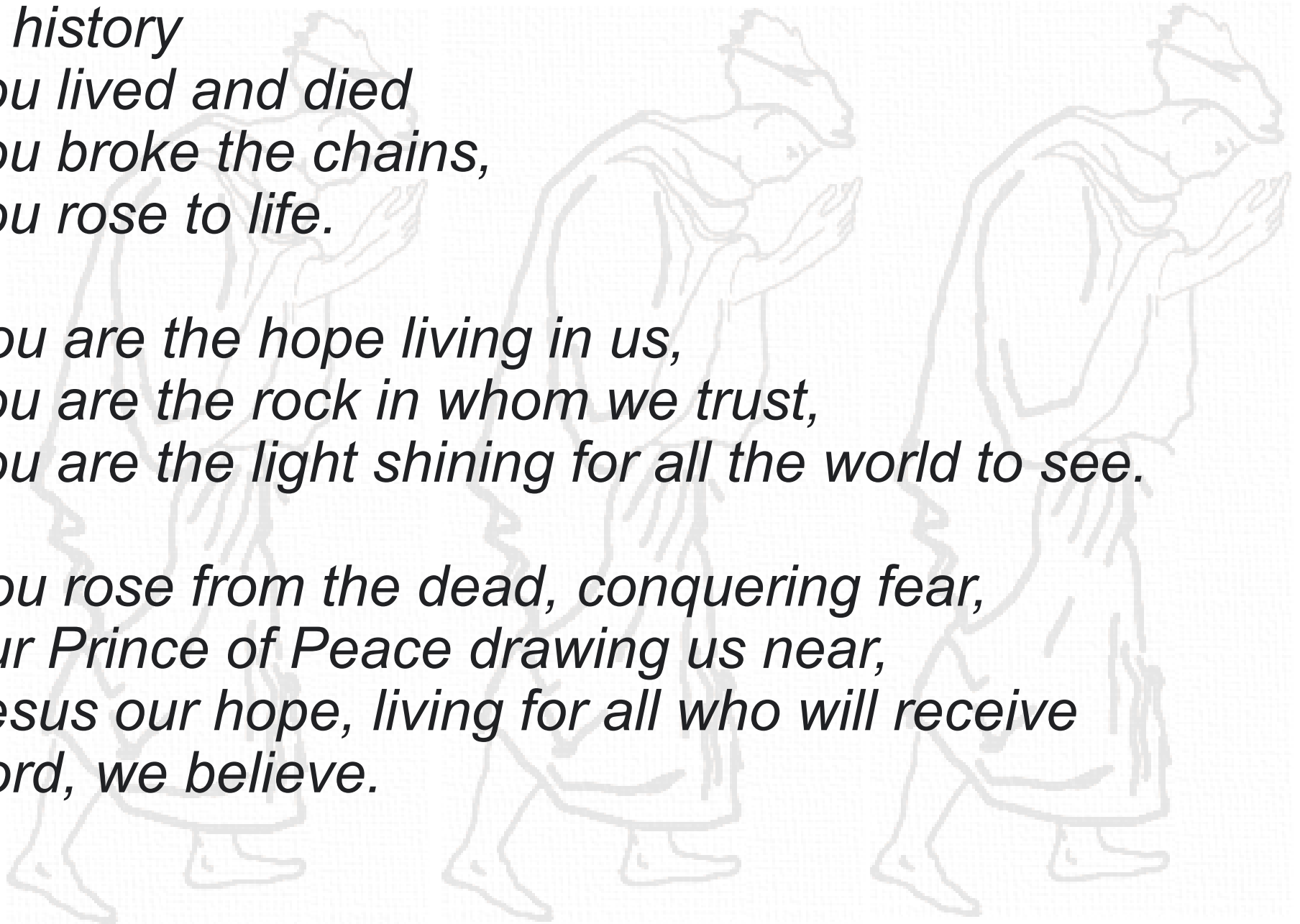
**Jesus, light in the darkness,
Jesus, truth in each circumstance,
you are the source of
heaven's light on earth.**



*In history
you lived and died
you broke the chains,
you rose to life.*

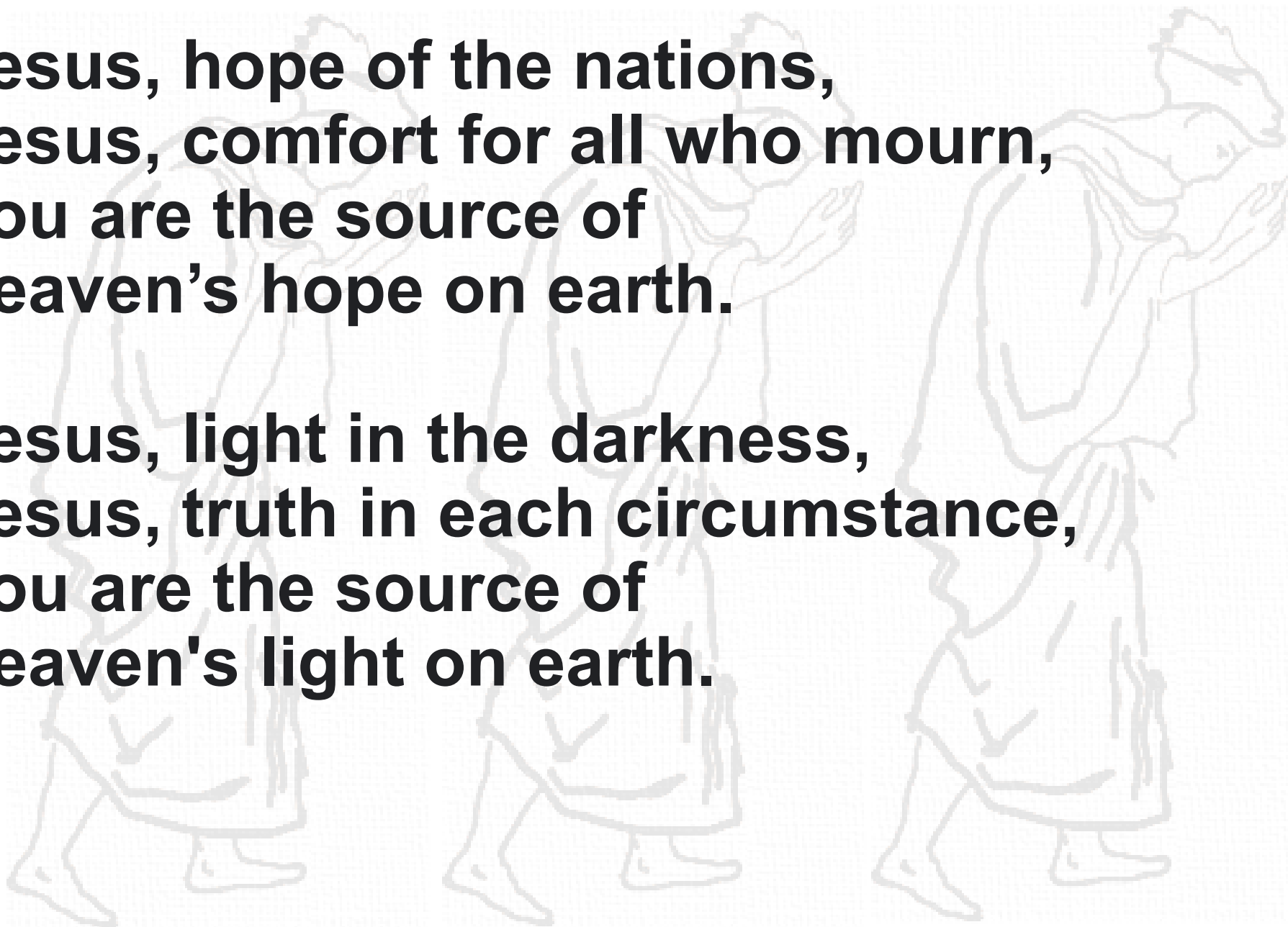
*You are the hope living in us,
you are the rock in whom we trust,
you are the light shining for all the world to see.*

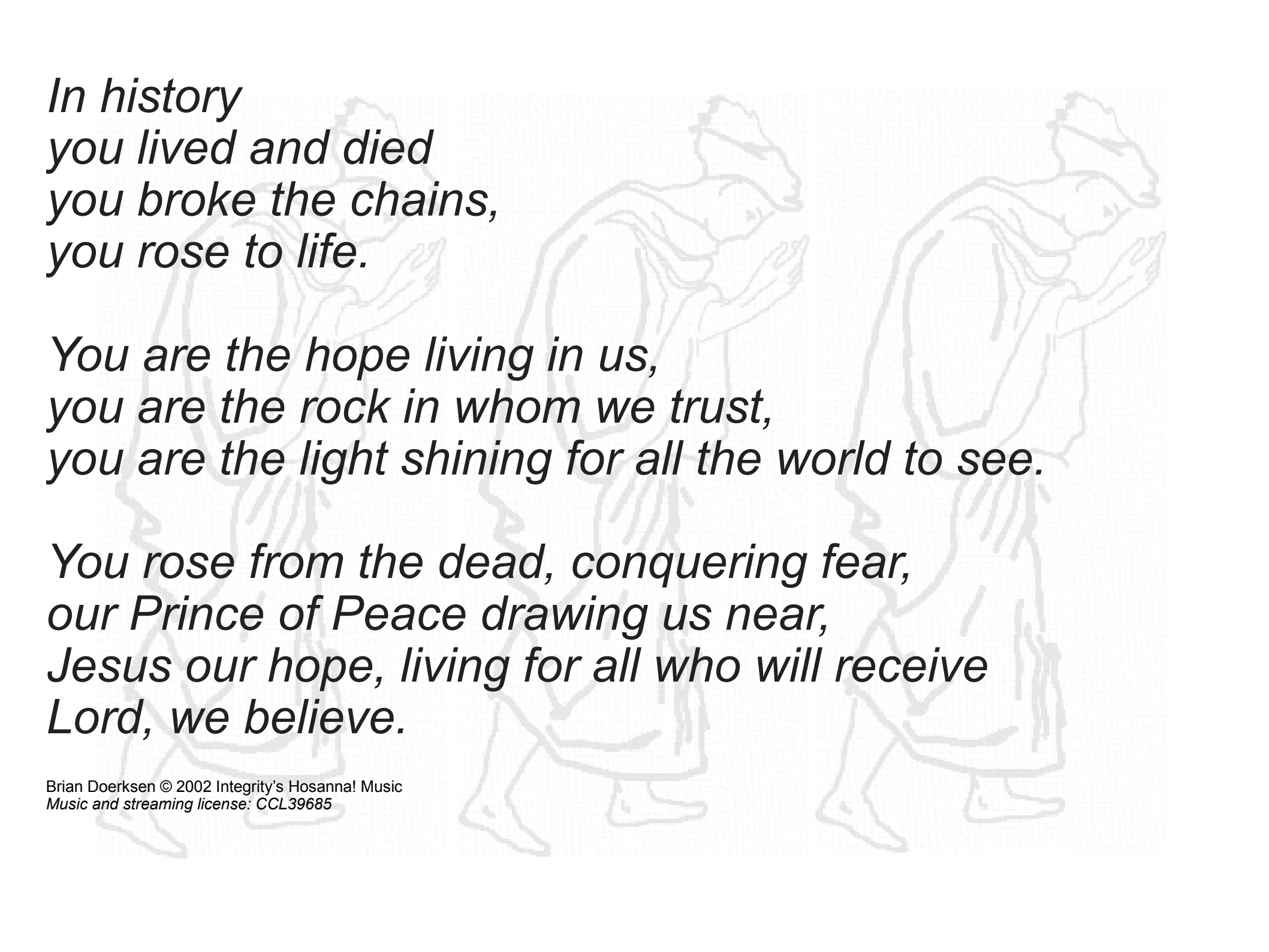
*You rose from the dead, conquering fear,
our Prince of Peace drawing us near,
Jesus our hope, living for all who will receive
Lord, we believe.*



**Jesus, hope of the nations,
Jesus, comfort for all who mourn,
you are the source of
heaven's hope on earth.**

**Jesus, light in the darkness,
Jesus, truth in each circumstance,
you are the source of
heaven's light on earth.**

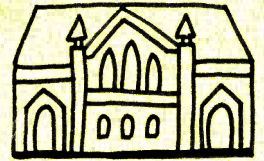




*In history
you lived and died
you broke the chains,
you rose to life.*

*You are the hope living in us,
you are the rock in whom we trust,
you are the light shining for all the world to see.*

*You rose from the dead, conquering fear,
our Prince of Peace drawing us near,
Jesus our hope, living for all who will receive
Lord, we believe.*



Welcome

Song: Jesus hope of the nations

Song: 1191 When trials come

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

For the children – *Nehemiah cared*

Reading – Nehemiah 1:1-2:6

*Song: 1275 What a gift of grace is Jesus my
Redeemer*

Talk – Elders #2 More about under-shepherds

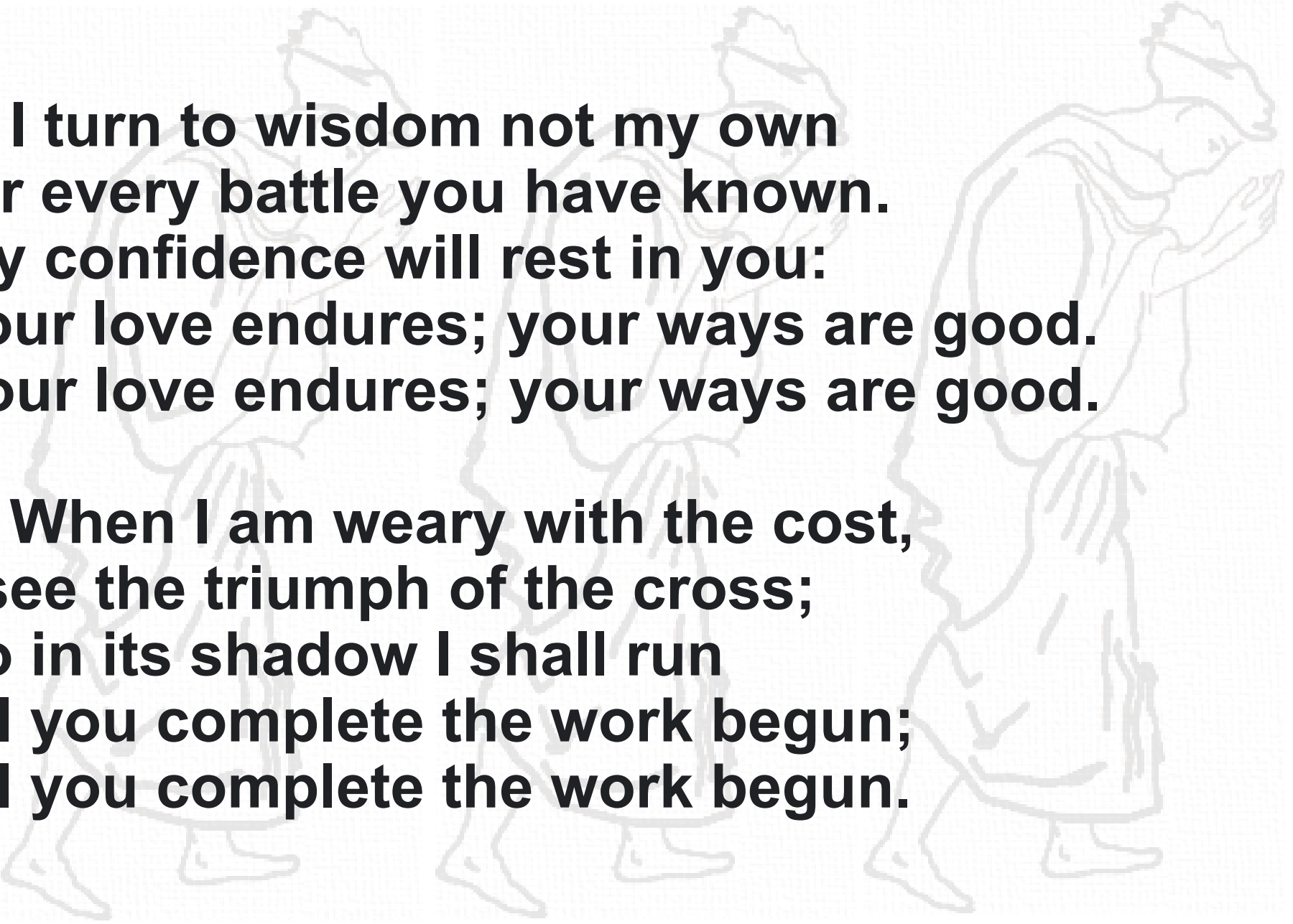
Song: 1251 I will offer up my life

Closing prayer

Praise! 1191

**When trials come, no longer fear,
for in the pain our God draws near
to fire a faith worth more than gold;
and there his faithfulness is told,
and there his faithfulness is told.**

**2. Within the night I know your peace;
the breath of God brings strength to me,
and new each morning mercy flows
as treasures of the darkness grow,
as treasures of the darkness grow.**



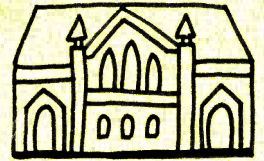
**3. I turn to wisdom not my own
for every battle you have known.
My confidence will rest in you:
your love endures; your ways are good.
Your love endures; your ways are good.**

**4. When I am weary with the cost,
I see the triumph of the cross;
so in its shadow I shall run
till you complete the work begun;
till you complete the work begun.**



**5. One day all things will be made new;
I'll see the hope you called me to
and in your kingdom paved with gold,
I'll praise your faithfulness of old;
I'll praise your faithfulness of old.**

*Keith Getty and Kristyn Getty © 2005 Thankyou music
Music and streaming license: CCL39685*



Welcome

Song: Jesus hope of the nations

Song: 1191 When trials come

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

For the children – *Nehemiah cared*

Reading – Nehemiah 1:1-2:6

*Song: 1275 What a gift of grace is Jesus my
Redeemer*

Talk – Elders #2 More about under-shepherds

Song: 1251 I will offer up my life

Closing prayer

The Lord's prayer



Our Father in heaven

- hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread,

and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for
ever and ever. Amen.



Welcome

Song: Jesus hope of the nations

Song: 1191 When trials come

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

For the children – *Nehemiah cared*

Reading – Nehemiah 1:1-2:6

*Song: 1275 What a gift of grace is Jesus my
Redeemer*

Talk – Elders #2 More about under-shepherds

Song: 1251 I will offer up my life

Closing prayer

Nehemiah

Nehemiah

Court of King in Susa
~ servant/=prisoner

Heard about God's
distant city

In ruins

wept

Prayed a long time

Brought wine to the
King

Looked sad

King said "why sad?"

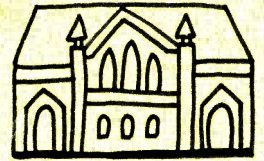
N. prayed to the God
of heaven

"when will you be
back?"

= cared about God's
plan more than
anything else!

=> what do we care
about more than
anything else??





Welcome

Song: Jesus hope of the nations

Song: 1191 When trials come

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

For the children – *Nehemiah cared*

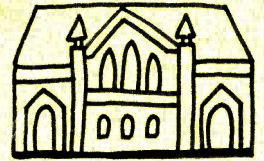
Reading – Nehemiah 1:1-2:6

*Song: 1275 What a gift of grace is Jesus my
Redeemer*

Talk – Elders #2 More about under-shepherds

Song: 1251 I will offer up my life

Closing prayer



Welcome

Song: Jesus hope of the nations

Song: 1191 When trials come

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

For the children – *Nehemiah cared*

Reading – Nehemiah 1:1-2:6

*Song: 1275 What a gift of grace is Jesus my
Redeemer*

Talk – Elders #2 More about under-shepherds

Song: 1251 I will offer up my life

Closing prayer

Praise 1275

**1. What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.**

***To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
for my life is wholly bound to his.
O, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

**2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
for by my side the Saviour he will stay;
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need his power is displayed.**

***To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley he will lead.
O, the night has been won and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

**3. No fate I dread: I know I am forgiven,
the future sure, the price it has been paid;
for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
and he was raised to overthrow the grave.**

***To this I hold: my sin has been defeated!
Jesus now and ever is my plea;
O, the chains are released; I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.***

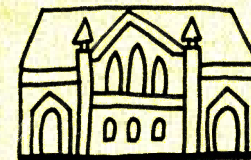
**4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
for he has said that he will bring me home;
and day by day I know he will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.**

***To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
all the glory evermore to him;
when the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
'Yet not I, but through Christ in me!'***

***To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
all the glory evermore to him;
when the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
‘Yet not I, but through Christ in me!’***

***When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me
Yet not I, but through Christ in me
Yet not I, but through Christ in me***

Jonny Robinson; Rich Thompson; Michael Farren © 2018 CityAlight Music
Music and streaming license: CCL39685



Welcome

Song: Jesus hope of the nations

Song: 1191 When trials come

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

For the children – *Nehemiah cared*

Reading – Nehemiah 1:1-2:6

*Song: 1275 What a gift of grace is Jesus my
Redeemer*

Talk – Elders #2 More about under-shepherds

Song: 1251 I will offer up my life

Closing prayer

Back to basics ...

How does God get people to heaven?

By Jesus

Who alone died on the cross ...

But how does Jesus make this have long term effect in people's lives?

- By his word ... which we feed on
- By his Spirit ... who indwells us
- By his people ... who show Christ's love to us
- By particular people ... who shepherd us
 - **pastor/teacher/elder** - whom God uses to get us to heaven!

Review #1

Why Elders?

- Why the church!!
- Answer - Jesus Christ's single project is to build his church, bringing in the lost, beautifying the ugly to become his Bride.
- N.B. this is the most important thing for any human
- Elders are an indispensable layer in that process

• From last time: What are Elders?

- Overseers / older ones / shepherds / manage-the-affairs of the church / role models / authority figures / feed mostly by ministering the word of God = gospel of God's grace through Jesus Christ

• What are they like?

- Like Christ they are servants.
- They serve by leading
- They encourage, command, rebuke etc

Review #2

0. Jesus is the ultimate Elder / Overseer / Shepherd
 - Gathering and shepherding his flock = the church
1. it is right and necessary to be concerned for the future church to have elders
2. that is not just one man, but a team
3. being old is not disqualification, but neither is being younger - elder ~ wisdom
4. quality of life matters
5. quality of doctrine matters (i.e. not just "a good heart")
6. ability to deploy the health-giving message matters ("to encourage ... to prove-wrong")
7. via apostolic word, via congregation, the Holy Spirit appoints elders
8. this is a serious spiritual matter

Plan

1. Fixed versus flexible
 - God's plan for Elders is flexible
2. In-house versus outsourced
 - Where to look?
3. Maintenance versus vision
 - what to expect?

1. Fixed versus flexible

Elders in Manhattan

- Tim Keller?
- Theologian/philosopher, top expert, manager, writer of books

Elders in Cambodian village

- Men (?) who know their bibles, God's gift of care and common sense.

Elders with PhD's in historical theology

Elders who prayerfully and give wise scriptural advice

Elders with management skills needed for a church of 1000

Elders with patience and love to care for a church of 15

1. Fixed versus flexible

Calvary experience:

- 2 "spare-time" unpaid elders
 - ==> unsustainable, killed Les??, impossible to keep going with job + kids + home
 - 1 paid full-time elder + 2 "spare-time" elders
 - Different gifts, different personalities, unpaid was "senior" in experience, but not on-hand as the full-time
 - 1 paid full-time elder (alone)
 - Difficult and need a special person
 - 1 paid full-time + 1 "spare-time" Elder
 - PW + Rod (gone to North Wales)
 - PW + Chris (gone to glory)
- ==> giftings and dynamics can flex

1. Fixed versus flexible

Calvary experience:

- the smaller the group

=> the more pastor/elder is "jack of all trades"
(and master of none)

=> generalist (like a primary school teacher)

(i.e. can do ... preaching, counselling, people-skills, office-skills, admin skills, evangelistic skills, IT skills, apologetics, technology ... time in the office ... time outside ...)

=> we need to be wise and realistic about this

2. In-house versus outsourced?

The aim:

Ephesians 4:11-16

Gifts from the conquering Saviour

v.11 apostles, prophets (NT?), evangelists (NT?),
pastor/teachers

- To prepare God's people
- For work of diakonias
- Unto building up the body of Christ
- Aiming for unity of faith and knowledge
- ~ maturity ~ grow up in Christ ~ body growth
- ==> pastor/teachers train others to serve
- ==> service // maturity
- ==> maturity ~ working, functioning, growing the body
- ==> investing in people for the future ...

2. In-house versus outsourced?

Option#1 "in-house" route

2 Timothy 2:1,2

" and the things you heard from me through many witnesses entrust [to reliable [=faithful] men who will also be qualified to teach others"

- Part of Timothy's task was to perpetuate the gospel via "faithful" "able" "to teach"
- Timothy learned a body of teaching from the apostle
- He had many witnesses = various people re-echoed to Timothy what they had heard Paul say (?)
- This needs to be passed on to others
- ==> rationale for ministry training (e.g. MTC)
- ==> within the local church
- ==> perhaps with the assistance of the academy (i.e. college)
- ==> we should do training
- ==> and we should pray for training!

"the things you learned from me"

FIEC summary of the message of God from Jesus Christ and his apostles

1. God

There is one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is unchangeable in his holiness, justice, wisdom and love. He is the almighty Creator; Saviour and Judge who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.

2. The Bible

God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

3. The Human Race

All men and women, being created in the image of God, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God. As a result of the fall of our first parents, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted and all men and women are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and hostile to God. Every person is therefore under the just condemnation of God and needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God in order to know and please him.

4. The Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He taught with authority and all his words are true. On the cross he died in the place of sinners, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood. He rose from the dead and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven where he is exalted as Lord of all. He intercedes for his people in the presence of the Father.

"the things you learned from me"

5. Salvation

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ and is offered to all in the gospel. God in his love forgives sinners whom he calls, granting them repentance and faith. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life.

6. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply his work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the Scriptures. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for worship, service and mission.

7. The Church

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of believers who are committed to each other for the worship of God, the preaching of the Word, the administering of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; for pastoral care and discipline, and for evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel.

8. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been given to the churches by Christ as visible signs of the gospel. Baptism is a symbol of union with Christ and entry into his Church but does not impart spiritual life. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice offered once for all and involves no change in the bread and wine. All its blessings are received by faith.

9. The Future

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever.

2. In-house versus outsourced?

2. Although there is an expectation of Elders arising within a church, there is a precedent for calling in "specialists" from outside

Option#2 the specialist from outside

Acts 11:25

- There was gospel telling already v.20
- There was a good thing happening v.23
- There were a lot of converts v.24
- Ethnic and cultural new territory (Jews only ... Greeks v.20b)
- Barnabas and Saul taught great numbers of people (v.26)
- ==> work was not in sin
- ==> work was not wrong or in need of correction
- ==> there was a special need [for teaching non-OT converts] and very few people could fit the bill
- ==> Barnabas "headhunted" Saul (who was presumably already busy)
- ==> specialist skills: running a larger church, church planting, running multiple sites, apologetics, building from a low base ...

2. In-house versus outsourced?

2. Although there is an expectation of Elders arising within a church, there is a precedent for calling in "specialists" from outside

Option#2 the specialist from outside

Acts 11:25

- The larger denominations seem to work on this model
- Train specialists in Bible College + send them to get "jobs"
- To work it needs more than one church operating independently
- ==> trained in theology, church history, original languages, preaching, leadership/management theory, counselling theory
- ==> *BUT - it's a job, rather than a family*

3. Maintenance versus vision

there is more to leadership than maintenance

N.B. it is difficult to get this thought simply by looking at the [dis] qualifications for elders

Possibly get it from "shepherd" i.e. where do the sheep get led TO?

Better to get it from the place within the plan of God (like Paul did!)

e.g Isaiah 2:1 ff

- The mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains ... all nations shall stream to it
- VISION of many people, from all nations, coming to the Lord
- VISION for here:
 - Many people from all nations coming to the Lord
- SOLUTIONS & STRATEGY
 - How is that going to happen?
 - What steps can and should we take for that to happen?

3. maintenance versus vision

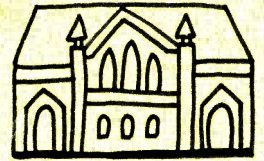
e.g. Nehemiah

- Saw the city of God destroyed and its gates burned with fire
- Knew what the vision of the city was
- Cared about the city of God
- Prayed about the city of God
- “saw what ought to be, and where they actually were and the ability of Almighty God to bridge that gap” - Alistair Begg (?)
- SOLUTIONS and STRATEGY
- Was able to form plans to get from A to H via BCDEF ...
- Was able to motivate people to work together
- ==> leadership in the Kingdom of God
- ==> may God send us (church) precious leaders in the future

3. maintenance versus vision

e.g. Paul

- Romans 15:23
- *Now there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to see you, I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through there and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while ...*
- He saw the vision of the city with all nations streaming to it
- He formed plans and strategies to be part of God's plan in real life
- He was able to motivate people to be part of it too.
- ==> leadership in the Kingdom of God
- ==> may God send us (church) precious leaders in the future
- ==> may we be offering ourselves willingly to follow such a lead



Welcome

Song: Jesus hope of the nations

Song: 1191 When trials come

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

For the children – *Nehemiah cared*

Reading – Nehemiah 1:1-2:6

*Song: 1275 What a gift of grace is Jesus my
Redeemer*

Talk – Elders #2 More about under-shepherds

Song: 1251 I will offer up my life

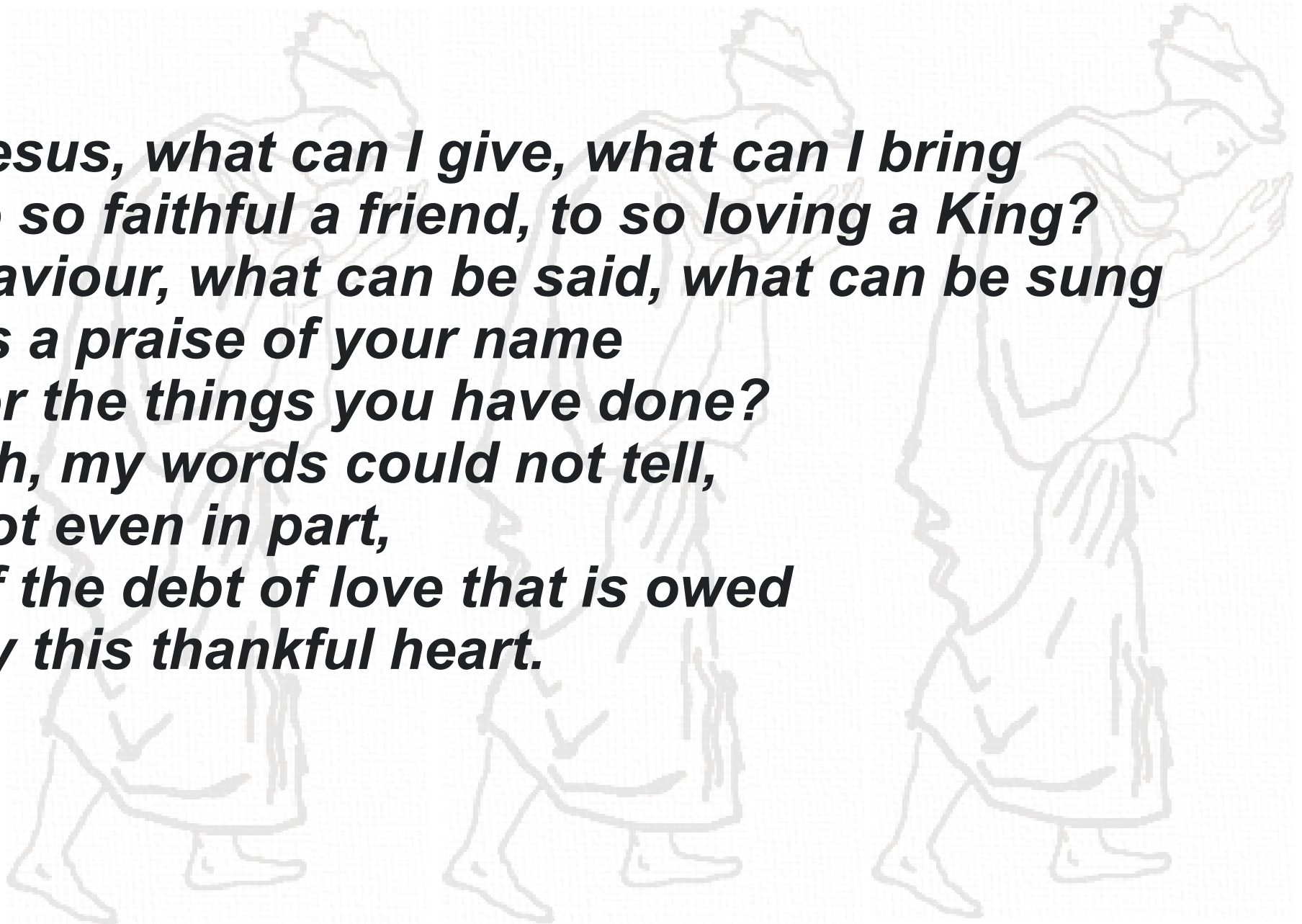
Closing prayer

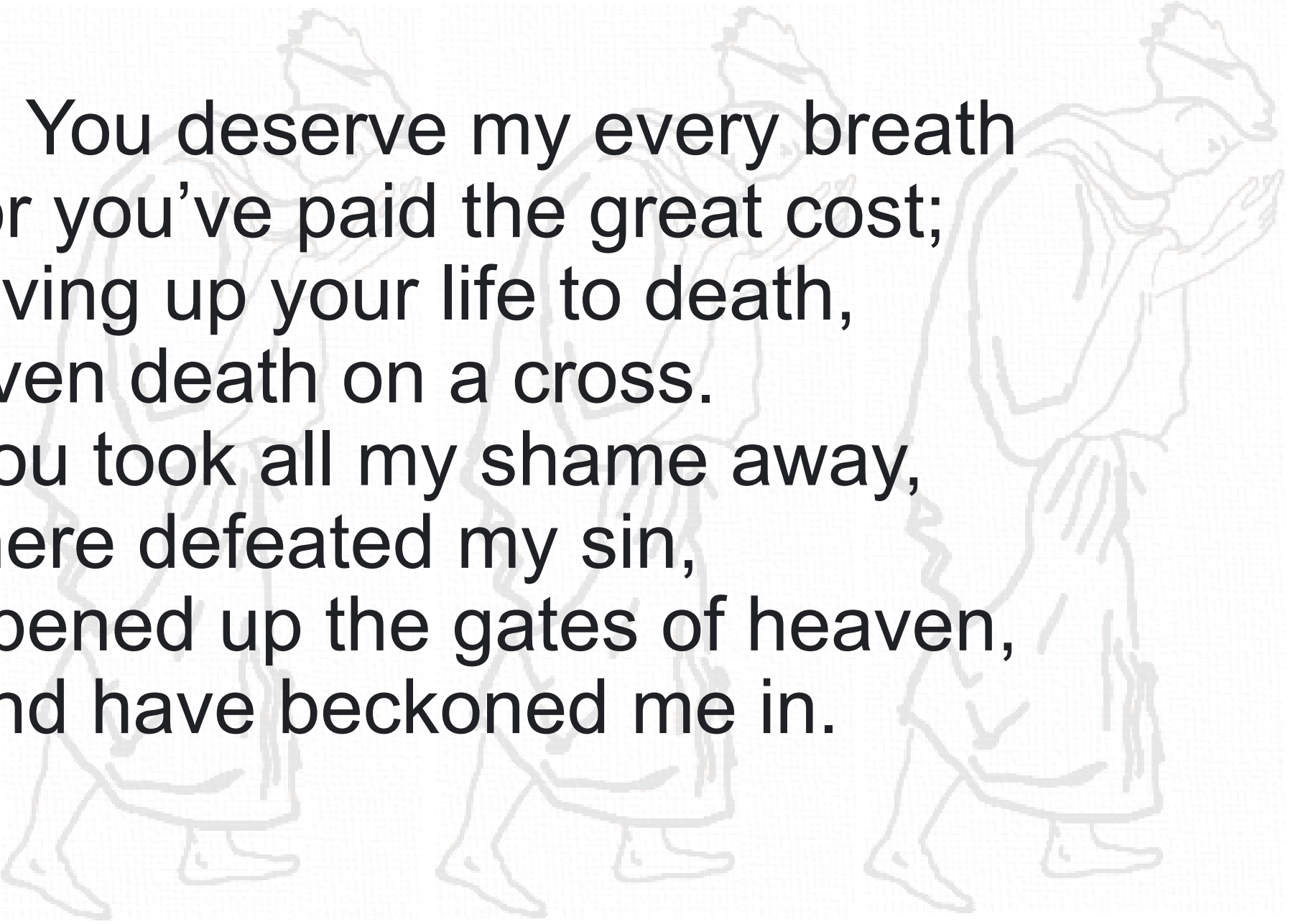
Praise 1251

1. I will offer up my life
in spirit and truth,
pouring out the oil of love
as my worship to you.
In surrender I must give
my every part;
Lord, receive the sacrifice
of a broken heart.



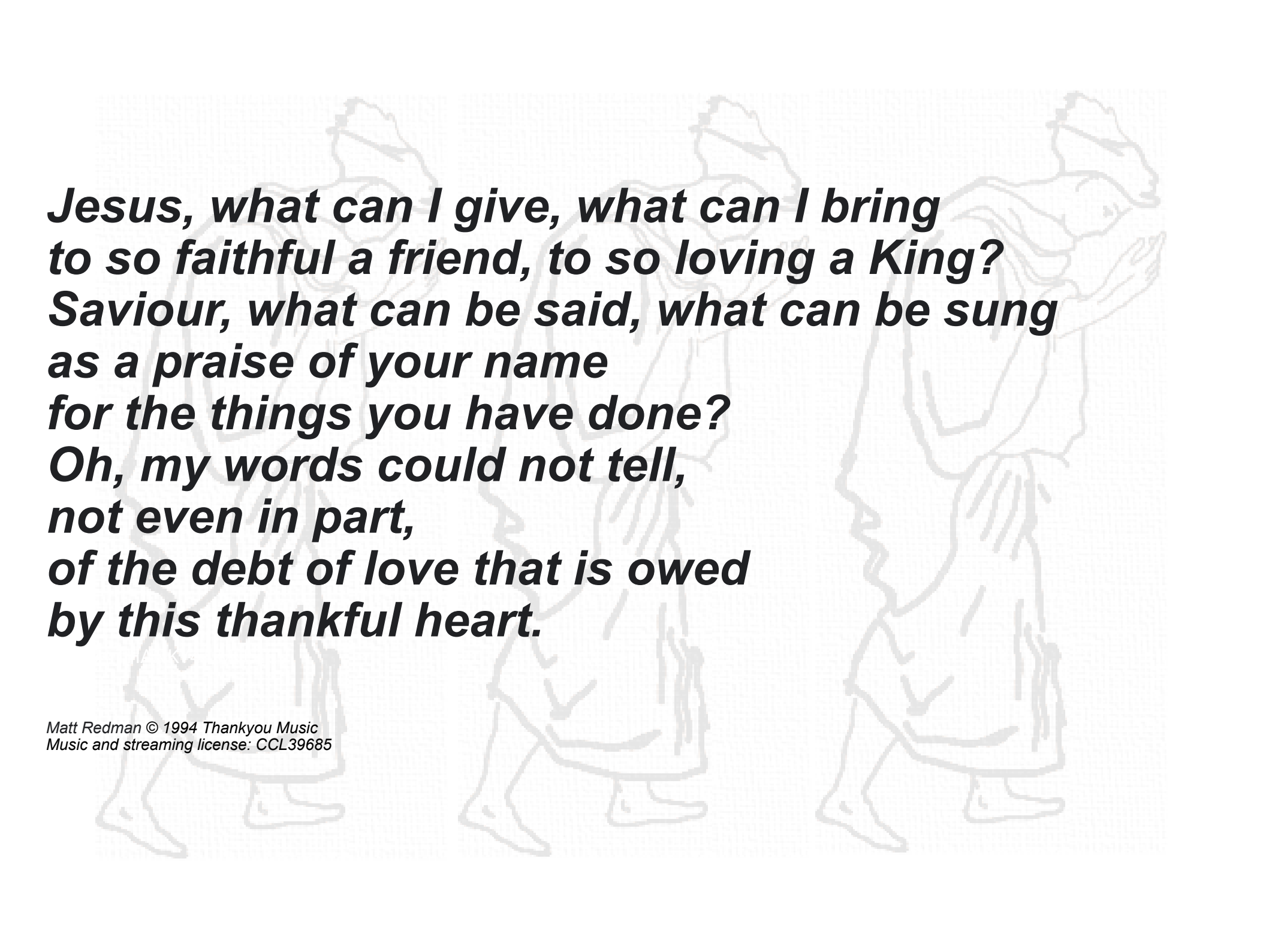
***Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
to so faithful a friend, to so loving a King?
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung
as a praise of your name
for the things you have done?
Oh, my words could not tell,
not even in part,
of the debt of love that is owed
by this thankful heart.***





2. You deserve my every breath
for you've paid the great cost;
giving up your life to death,
even death on a cross.

You took all my shame away,
there defeated my sin,
opened up the gates of heaven,
and have beckoned me in.



***Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
to so faithful a friend, to so loving a King?
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung
as a praise of your name
for the things you have done?
Oh, my words could not tell,
not even in part,
of the debt of love that is owed
by this thankful heart.***