



Theme: "Safety in the Caring Arms of the Risen Saviour"

WE GATHER IN EASTER WORSHIP

Gathering Song(s): Resurrection Hymn

See what a morning gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem
Folded the grave-clothes tomb filled with light
As the angels announce Christ is risen
See God's salvation plan wrought in love
Borne in pain paid in sacrifice
Fulfilled in Christ the Man for He lives
Christ is risen from the dead

See Mary weeping where is He laid
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb
Hears a voice speaking calling her name
It's the Master the Lord raised to life again
The voice that spans the years
Speaking life stirring hope bringing peace to us
Will sound till He appears
For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

One with the Father Ancient of Days
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty
Honour and blessing glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority
And we are raised with Him
Death is dead love has won Christ has conquered
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

CCLI Song # 4108797

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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Call to Worship & Greeting:

Let us worship God in the name of Jesus the Christ, the good shepherd,
who offers us abundant life.

Let us worship God in the name of the one who leads us by still waters,
and restores our souls.

Let us worship God in the name of the one who prepares a banquet for
us,
and fills our cups to overflowing.

WE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Hymn: Man of Sorrows

Man of sorrows Lamb of God
By His own betrayed
The sin of man and wrath of God
Has been on Jesus laid


Silent as He stood accused
Beaten mocked and scorned
Bowing to the Father's will
He took a crown of thorns

**Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee**

Sent of heaven God's own Son
To purchase and redeem
And reconcile the very ones
Who nailed Him to that tree

***Now my debt is paid, It is paid in full
By the precious blood, That my Jesus spilled
Now the curse of sin, Has no hold on me
Whom the Son sets free, Oh is free indeed***

See the stone is rolled away, Behold the empty tomb
Hallelujah God be praised, He's risen from the grave



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Brooke Ligertwood | Matt Crocker
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Prayer Adoration and Confession

Generous and loving God,
Your steadfast love endures throughout the ages.
Generation after generation,
you offer renewal and rest
to all who are lost or who carry heavy burdens.

However far we have strayed,
you find us and guide us beside still waters.
You restore our souls,
you lead us in path of righteousness,
and remain with us even in the darkest of valleys.
You prepare a table before us and gift us with abundant life.
You are our hope, life and happiness.
At all times and in all circumstances, you are perfect grace and endless
love and we are moved to worship you as the Creating One,
the redeeming Son, and the leading Spirit.


Hear us now as we confess the sins we have committed against you and
one another:

**Ever-patient God, endless in love and abundant in mercy
trusting in your great loving-kindness we confess that
while we were created to love, too often we have withheld forgiveness,
kindness and friendship;
while we have been called to be compassionate, too often we are cold
and full of judgment;
while we have been called to follow, too often we are distracted by our
own desires and plans.
Forgive us for the ways we fall short and renew a right spirit within us.**

(Silence)

Hymn/Song of Assurance "**Dear Lord and Father of Mankind**"

Bop # 451



A time of Sharing with the Youth: **"He Knows My Name"**

(He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. John 10:4)

Youth Song: **He Knows My Name**

I have a Maker, He formed my heart
Before even time began, My life was in His hand

**He knows my name, He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls, And hears me when I call**

I have a Father, He calls me His own
He'll never leave me, No matter where I go

**He knows my name, He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls, And hears me when I call**

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WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Larry Baker

Acts 2:42-47;
1 Peter 2:19-25;

Sermon: "Our Safety Guaranteed"

Text: 1 Peter 2: 19-25
Theme: "Our Safety Guaranteed"

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.



²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,^[1] so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds^[1] you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The writer of first Peter had four different names according to the New Testament:

1. His Hebrew name was Simeon (used in Acts 15:14 and 2 Peter 1:1)
2. His Greek name was Simon which was used 49 times in the NT.
3. Cephas (a Greek transliteration of the Aramaic word for rock)
4. Peter (Πέτρος) the leader and spokesman for the early disciples.

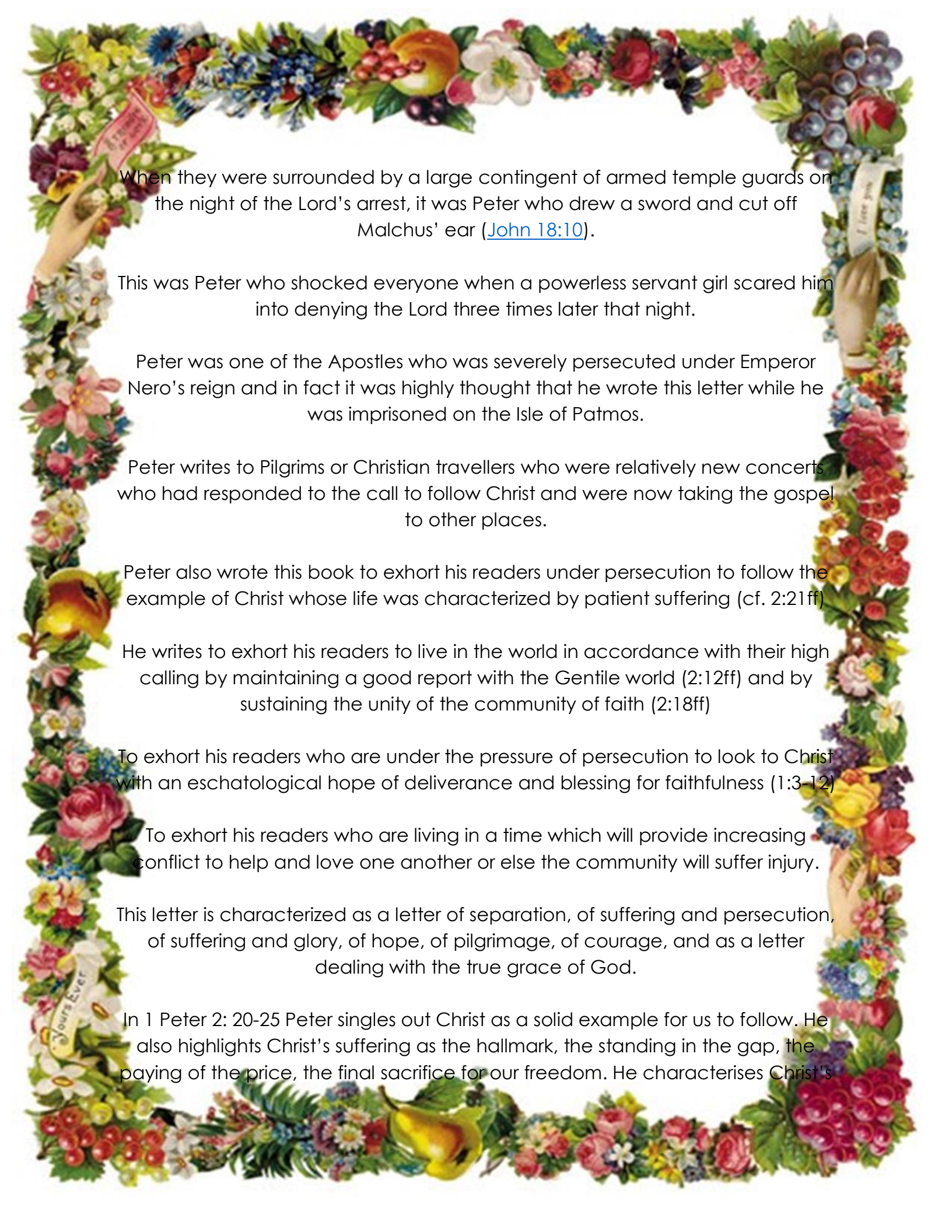
WHO WAS THIS PETER?

This was the same Peter, the Galilean fisherman whom Jesus called in Matthew 4:18-19 saying, "**Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.**"

As Jack Kelly puts it, "Peter's small town naiveté and unabashed machismo teamed up to make him a take charge kind of guy, and Jesus seemed to take a special delight in him. Peter's periodic bouts of "foot in mouth" disease must have given the Lord countless hours of laughter.

This was the same Peter that had his shortcomings, but it was his courage that most distinguished him. When Jesus approached the disciples' boat, walking on the water, it was Peter who got out of the boat and walked across the water toward him ([Matt. 14:28-31](#)).

It was Peter who made the first public declaration of the Lords' true identity as the Messiah of Israel ([Matt. 16:13-16](#)).



When they were surrounded by a large contingent of armed temple guards on the night of the Lord's arrest, it was Peter who drew a sword and cut off Malchus' ear ([John 18:10](#)).

This was Peter who shocked everyone when a powerless servant girl scared him into denying the Lord three times later that night.

Peter was one of the Apostles who was severely persecuted under Emperor Nero's reign and in fact it was highly thought that he wrote this letter while he was imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos.

Peter writes to Pilgrims or Christian travellers who were relatively new converts who had responded to the call to follow Christ and were now taking the gospel to other places.

Peter also wrote this book to exhort his readers under persecution to follow the example of Christ whose life was characterized by patient suffering (cf. 2:21ff)

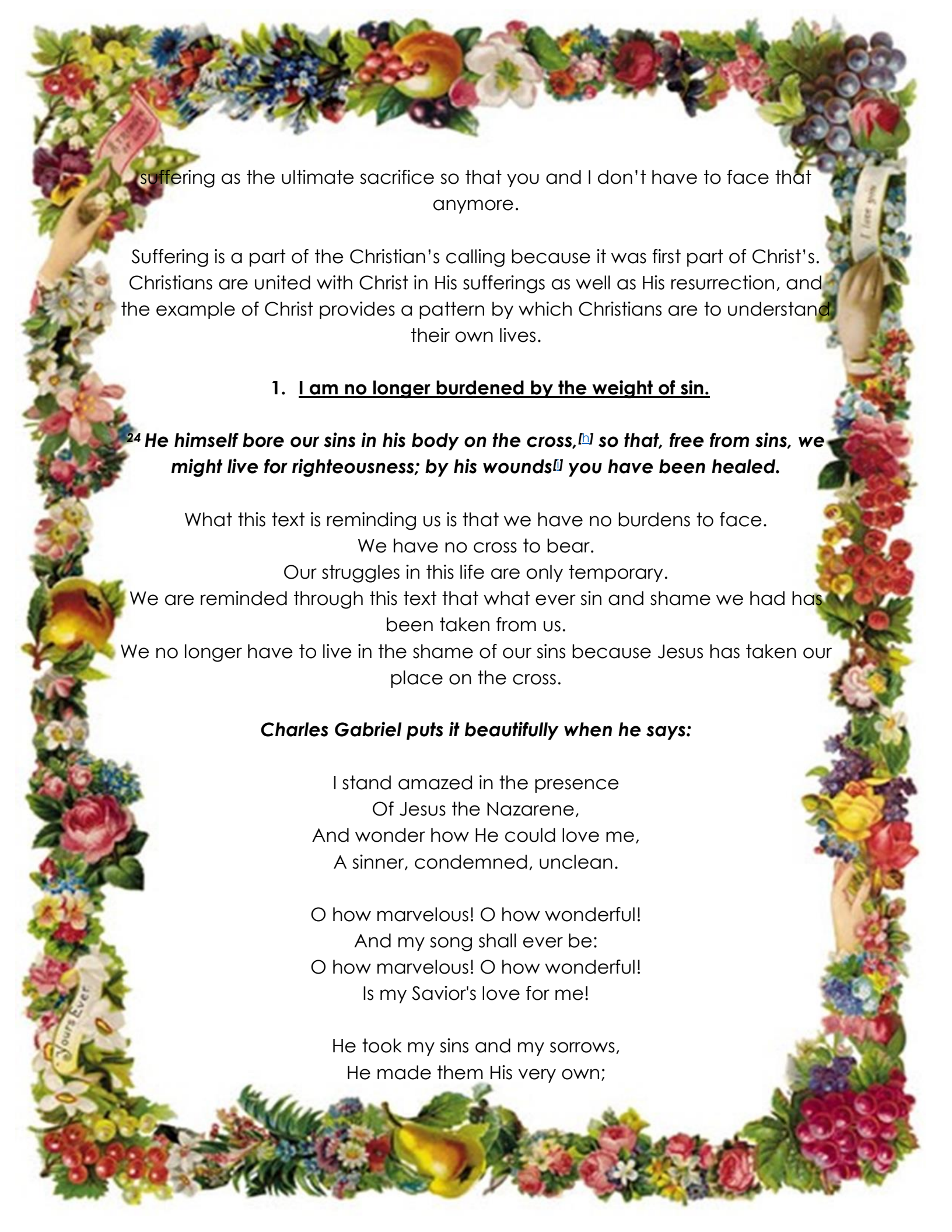
He writes to exhort his readers to live in the world in accordance with their high calling by maintaining a good report with the Gentile world (2:12ff) and by sustaining the unity of the community of faith (2:18ff)

To exhort his readers who are under the pressure of persecution to look to Christ with an eschatological hope of deliverance and blessing for faithfulness (1:3-12)

To exhort his readers who are living in a time which will provide increasing conflict to help and love one another or else the community will suffer injury.

This letter is characterized as a letter of separation, of suffering and persecution, of suffering and glory, of hope, of pilgrimage, of courage, and as a letter dealing with the true grace of God.

In 1 Peter 2: 20-25 Peter singles out Christ as a solid example for us to follow. He also highlights Christ's suffering as the hallmark, the standing in the gap, the paying of the price, the final sacrifice for our freedom. He characterises Christ's



suffering as the ultimate sacrifice so that you and I don't have to face that anymore.

Suffering is a part of the Christian's calling because it was first part of Christ's. Christians are united with Christ in His sufferings as well as His resurrection, and the example of Christ provides a pattern by which Christians are to understand their own lives.

1. **I am no longer burdened by the weight of sin.**

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, [1] so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds [2] you have been healed.

What this text is reminding us is that we have no burdens to face.

We have no cross to bear.

Our struggles in this life are only temporary.

We are reminded through this text that what ever sin and shame we had has been taken from us.

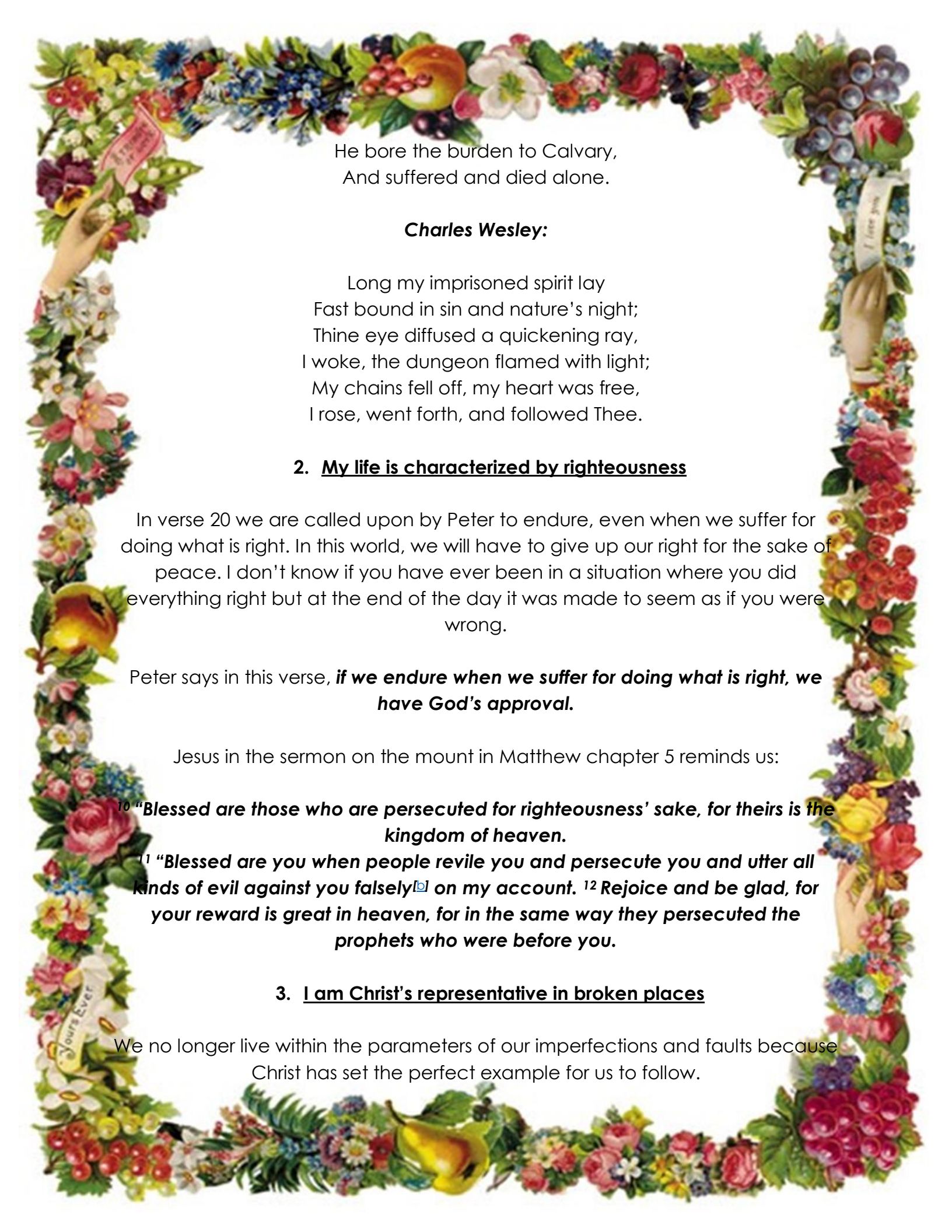
We no longer have to live in the shame of our sins because Jesus has taken our place on the cross.

Charles Gabriel puts it beautifully when he says:

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

O how marvelous! O how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
O how marvelous! O how wonderful!
Is my Savior's love for me!

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;



He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone.

Charles Wesley:

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

2. My life is characterized by righteousness

In verse 20 we are called upon by Peter to endure, even when we suffer for doing what is right. In this world, we will have to give up our right for the sake of peace. I don't know if you have ever been in a situation where you did everything right but at the end of the day it was made to seem as if you were wrong.

Peter says in this verse, ***if we endure when we suffer for doing what is right, we have God's approval.***

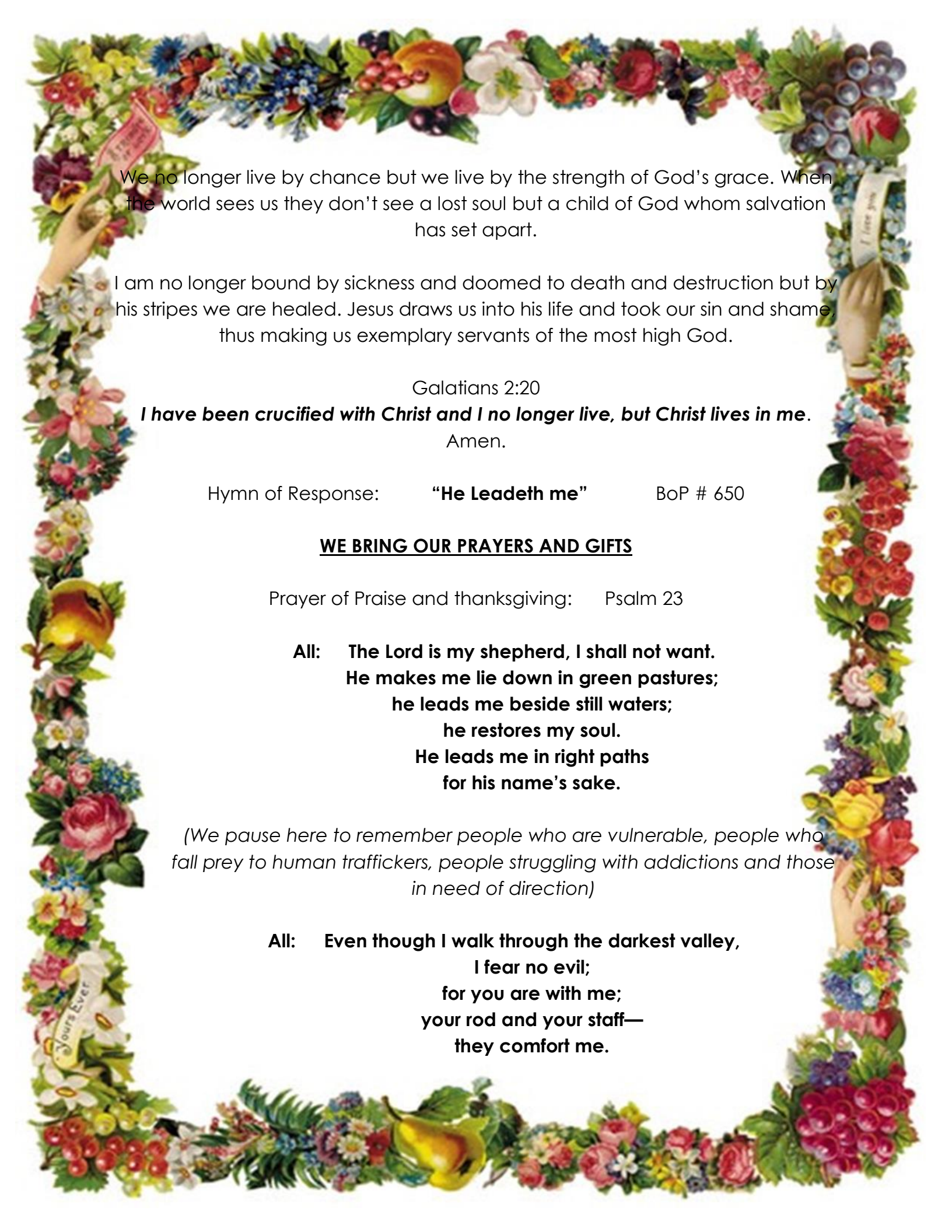
Jesus in the sermon on the mount in Matthew chapter 5 reminds us:

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely ¹² on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

3. I am Christ's representative in broken places

We no longer live within the parameters of our imperfections and faults because Christ has set the perfect example for us to follow.



We no longer live by chance but we live by the strength of God's grace. When the world sees us they don't see a lost soul but a child of God whom salvation has set apart.

I am no longer bound by sickness and doomed to death and destruction but by his stripes we are healed. Jesus draws us into his life and took our sin and shame, thus making us exemplary servants of the most high God.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Amen.

Hymn of Response: **"He Leadeth me"** BoP # 650


WE BRING OUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS

Prayer of Praise and thanksgiving: Psalm 23

**All: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.**

(We pause here to remember people who are vulnerable, people who fall prey to human traffickers, people struggling with addictions and those in need of direction)

**All: Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.**



(We pause to remember people who are grieving, people who are suffering from depression and anxiety, people who are mentally ill and Families who care for them. We pray for people who live alone or feel Alone, people who long for someone to communicate with and those Who need friendship and mentors.)

All: You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

(We pray for people who are at risk of hunger, famine and starvation: the people of Somalia, Libya, Burundi, Eritrea, Comoros, Timor Leste, Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, Yemen, Zambia and Haiti. We also pray for terminally ill and those who are suffering from any illness which is life altering or debilitating.)

**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

(Finally, we pray for those who serve their church, community and country
In various ways, for Pastors and church workers, teachers and other
Educators, nurses, doctors and other medical personnel, firemen and
Other emergency services, road and rail crews, City workers, Civil Servants
And volunteers.)

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving with Sung Response: **“Praise God, from Whom all Blessings
Flow”** BoP#79

WE GO OUT WITH EASTER JOY

The Benediction

Recessional Hymn: **“Lord of the Dance”**

Bop # 250

