



PERSEVERE IN YOUR WITNESS

Perplexed but not in Despair



OPENING WORSHIP:

“Perplexed, Not Crushed”

May 4, 2026

Called into a Shared Journey

We gather from many places,
carrying stories, burdens, and hope.
We come as members of a global
communion—
perplexed, but not crushed;
questioning, yet still walking.

Leader: When the road is unclear—
All: The Spirit walks with us.

Leader: When the weight is heavy—
All: We do not carry it alone.

Leader: When witness feels fragile—
All: God is still at work among us.

D D/F# G A

Ven, Es - pi - ri - tu San - to, ven, a - tien - de nues - tro lla -

Detailed description: This system of musical notation is for the first line of the song. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Ven, Es - pi - ri - tu San - to, ven, a - tien - de nues - tro lla -'. Above the staff, the chords D, D/F#, G, and A are indicated.

D G A Bm

ma - do, ven y/en - sé - ña - nos cual pue - blo/en es - pe -

Detailed description: This system of musical notation is for the second line of the song. It continues with the same treble and bass clefs and key signature. The melody and bass line are shown. The lyrics are: 'ma - do, ven y/en - sé - ña - nos cual pue - blo/en es - pe -'. Above the staff, the chords D, G, A, and Bm are indicated.

1. E7 A sus4 A 2. Em A D

ran - za li - be - ra - do. ran - za li - be - ra - do.

Detailed description: This system of musical notation is for the third line of the song, showing two endings. The first ending is marked '1. E7 A sus4 A' and the second ending is marked '2. Em A D'. The lyrics are: 'ran - za li - be - ra - do. ran - za li - be - ra - do.'. The notation includes repeat signs and a double bar line at the end of the second ending.

Ven. Espíritu Santo

Louis Marcelo Illenseer (Brasil)

// Ven, Espíritu Santo,
ven, atiende nuestro
llamado,
ven y enséñanos cual pueblo
en esperanza liberado. //

Prayer of Confession (unison):

God of justice and mercy,

we confess that we are often perplexed—

by war and the misuse of power for the sake of greed,
by conflict, by injustice, by our own limits.

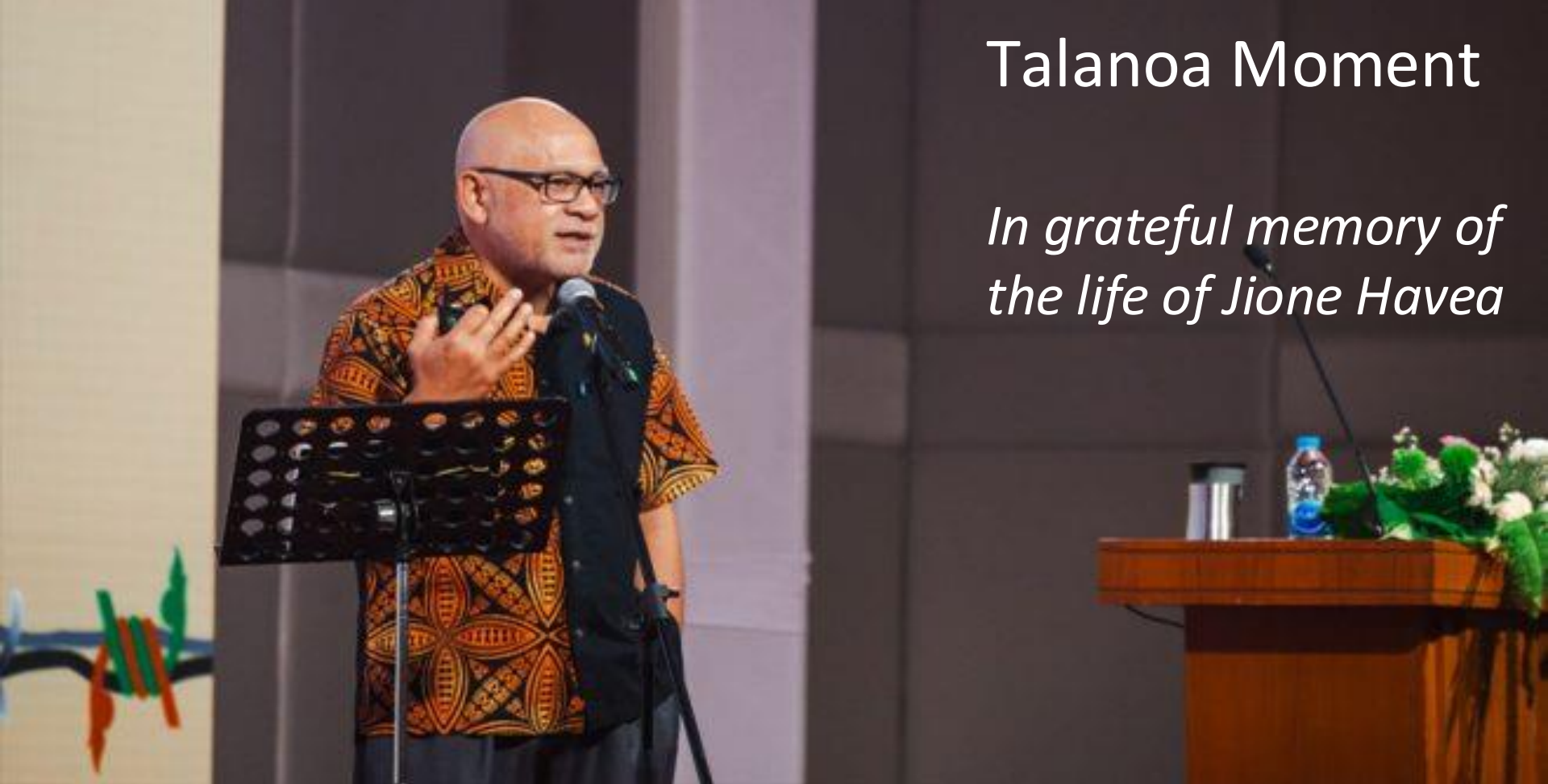
We grow tired in our witness. We lose clarity, courage, and
compassion.

At times, we carry burdens alone instead of trusting your
Spirit and one another.

Forgive us. Re-center us. Call us again into your way. Amen.

Talanoa Moment

*In grateful memory of
the life of Jione Havea*



Folofola Mai 'a Sīsū (*Tongan song*)

Folofola mai 'a Sīsū

Ke mou fou 'iate Au

Ko ia te ne kumi hala

Loi mo e kākā.

Fou ai

'I he folofola

'A māmani hono kotoa

'I he folofolá.



Tēvita Tuliakiono

Meditation

A photograph of a winding garden path. The path is composed of white pebbles and dark brown wooden planks. The path curves through a green lawn and is bordered by various green plants. The text is overlaid on the path.

John 14:1-8

Knowing the way

Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

Perplexed, not crushed

*// Perplexed, not crushed,
together we rise.
Steadfast, not lost,
our hope never dies:
by your Spirit, we move. //*

In the shadow of troubled times,
in a world of pain and war,
a hidden flame calls us to persevere.

In the cry of a wounded earth,
where justice bends beneath the weight,
your love still holds us in embrace.

Gerardo Oberman

Stone Path of Witness

We each carry something—
a concern, a struggle, a question for the
church and the world.

Today, we do not hide these burdens.

We bring them into the body...

(silence)

As you come forward,
name silently what you carry—
for your church, your people, your context.

Place your stone on the path.



Intercessions *(only mentioning the different intentions):*

- For regions in conflict
- For churches under pressure
- For creation groaning
- For justice that seems delayed
- For unity in diversity within the WCRC
- ...
- ...

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Lord, Hear My Prayer'. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The second staff starts at measure 6 with notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Em, Em/D, C6, D, G/B, C, F/A, Am7, B for the first staff; and Em, Em/D, C6, D, G6, Am, B, Em for the second staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Em Em/D C6 D G/B C F/A Am7 B

Oh Lord hear my prayer, oh Lord hear my prayer when I call, an - swer me. Oh

6 Em Em/D C6 D G6 Am B Em

Lord hear my prayer, oh Lord hear my prayer, come and lis - ten to me.

Jacques Berthier, Taizé

***Talanoa* of Faith**

We believe in God,
who calls us into a living communion across cultures and nations,
and gathers us in *talanoa*—
in open, honest sharing of story and life,
where truth is spoken and community is formed.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who meets us on the road,
walks with us in our confusion,
and is made known in the breaking of bread,
and in every *talanoa* where hearts are opened
and strangers become companions.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who sustains us when we are perplexed, but not in despair,
who breathes through our *talanoa*,
binding us together in justice and love,
and leading us to persevere in faithful witness.

We are one body,
called to walk together,
to listen deeply, speak truthfully,
and to live in *talanoa* with one another,
until God's justice and peace are made visible.
Amen.

We Are One in the Spirit

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll work in humility and love instead of pride.

Musical score for measures 14-18. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: "And they'll know we are Christians by our Love, by our Love, Yes, they'll".

19

Musical score for measures 19-23. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: "know we are Christ-ians by our Love. Love." Above the final measure of the treble staff, there are markings "1, 2, 3." and "4." indicating a four-measure repeat.

Blessing Around the Path

We go as those who are not alone.

We go as those who carry and are carried.

When we are perplexed— *may the Spirit give us wisdom.*

When we feel pressed— *may Christ be our strength.*

When the road is unclear— *may the communion of saints walk with us.*

And may this shared path remind us: we persevere—*together.*

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*



—
*Persevere in Your Witness:
Perplexed but not in Despair*
—





PERSEVERE IN YOUR WITNESS

Perplexed but not in Despair



**“At the Well
Perplexed, Yet Not Thirsting Alone”**

May 5, 2026

Coming to the Well

We come to the well—
from many places, many struggles, many
hopes,
carrying our stories, our pains, our
dreams...

We do not come as those who have enough,
but as those who thirst.

In our perplexity, in our searching,
in our longing for justice and life—
Christ meets us here.

Silence

Leader: Jesus said, “Give me a drink.”

All: And in our thirst, we are met.

Leader: Jesus said, “I will give you
living water.”

*All: And in our longing, we are
renewed.*

Leader: Come to the well.

*All: We come thirsty. We come
together.*

As a deer

As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after You
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You

You alone

Are my strength my shield

To You alone may my spirit yield

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship You



Martin Nystrom

Naming Our Thirst



Prayer (unison):

God of living water, we confess our thirst.
We thirst for justice in a wounded world.
We thirst for unity in a divided church.
We thirst for hope where despair has taken root.

Too often, we drink from shallow wells—
of power, of fear, of self-sufficiency.

Forgive us. Meet us again in our need.
Amen.

At this well, there is no need to pretend.

Silent reflection

MEDITATION

The Encounter at the Well

Dane Dea

Bible reading: John 4:13–15

Icon by *Jorge Vilchez Santisteban*
for the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches,
2022



Agua fresca / Fresh water

Give me, please, fresh water to drink,
weariness weighs on me and I'm thirsty.
Let us sit a moment, let us rest by the road,
let's drink of this fresh water, the gift of God.

Give me also, please, your words of love,
more than water calms down your peace and pardon;
time ceases its passing, when we have communion,
my spirit gives you worship, my Savior and Lord.

***Water that calls us
to the encounter,
water that you do not
drink all alone.
Water that nourishes
the tired soul,
clean, pure water:
solidarity and hope***

*Gerardo Oberman / Horacio Vivares
Transl. G. Oberman & Kathryn Ray*

Sitting in Thirst

Let us become aware of our thirst, of our need of living water.

(silence)

Takes a small amount of water from the central bowl

Lets it flow over other person hands



Prayers from the Well

From this place of thirst and renewal, we pray.

- For those who lack clean water and dignity
- For communities longing for justice
- For reconciliation across divisions
- For the global church (WCRC) in its witness
- For the healing of creation
- ... *(other intercessions)*

Response: “Living water, flow among us.”

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Em Em/D C6 D G/B C F/A Am7 B

Oh Lord hear my prayer, oh Lord hear my prayer when I call, an - swer me. Oh

6 Em Em/D C6 D G6 Am B Em

Lord hear my prayer, oh Lord hear my prayer, come and lis - ten to me.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Lord, Hear My Prayer'. It consists of two staves of music in the key of D major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff begins with a whole rest followed by a quarter rest, then the melody. The second staff starts at measure 6. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Jacques Berthier, Taizé

FAITH THAT OFFERS SAHDE

We believe in God, the source of living water,
who sustains all creation,
and lets grace seep into the ground
so that life may rise and flourish.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
who meets us in our thirst,
breaks down barriers,
and offers life that does not run dry—
water made reachable for all.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who becomes a spring within us,
flowing into acts of justice,
compassion, and hope,
like trees that grow to give shade
and ease the suffering of the weary.

We are one body,
called to draw deeply,
to share freely,
and to persevere in our witness.
Amen.



We Shall not be Moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved.

We shall not, we shall not be moved.

Just like a tree that's standing by the water

We shall not be moved.

We are young and old together...

We are black and white together...

We are reformed together...

Called to be a communion...

*Traditional African-American spiritual
(adapted)*

Leaving the Well

May the God of living water sustain us.

May Christ walk with us in every place of need.

May the Spirit flow through us— bringing life where there is dryness,
hope where there is despair, and courage where witness is costly.

Let us go, perplexed, but not crushed—
led by the Spirit, we shall not be moved.

Amen.



—
*Persevere in Your Witness:
Perplexed but not in Despair*
—





PERSEVERE IN YOUR WITNESS

Perplexed but not in Despair



“The seed that grows”

May 6, 2026

Spirit Among the People

Voice 1: May the Spirit be with you,

Voice 2: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Voice 1: When the night is cold and long.

Voice 2: WHEN THE JOURNEY FEELS TOO STRONG

TOGETHER: May God's Love lead us to justice and peace.

Voice 1: May the Spirit wake your faith

VOICE 2: AND BLESS YOU WITH GRACE.

Voice 1: Where the markets trade our lives

VOICE 2: THROUGH THE CRIES OF BROKEN HEARTS

TOGETHER: May God's love spur us for mercy and hope. Amen.

We Come with Seeds

We come as those already on the road—
not at the beginning,
not yet at the end.

***We come, carrying what has been spoken
and what still trembles in silence.***

We come with seeds beneath the soil—
hidden, opening, becoming—
with hopes learning how to breathe.

The Word has fallen like rain among us—
and something is growing we cannot rush.

As the heavens are higher than the earth—
so are God's ways,
beyond us, within us, before us.

We are being formed— slowly, deeply, together—
and we remain open.

We are being led— not by certainty,
but by the Spirit's quiet insistence—
and we will walk.

Perplexed—
but not crushed.



Let your Word fall on us

God of quiet growth,
of rain that falls without asking permission,
of seeds that break open in the dark—
you are at work where we do not see,
in ways we do not control.

In this time together, slow us down.

Let your Word fall on us like gentle rain—
not to overwhelm, but to awaken.

Root us. Soften us. Make space within us
for something to grow. *Amen.*

A Seed That Is Not Lost

Rev. Adon Naaman

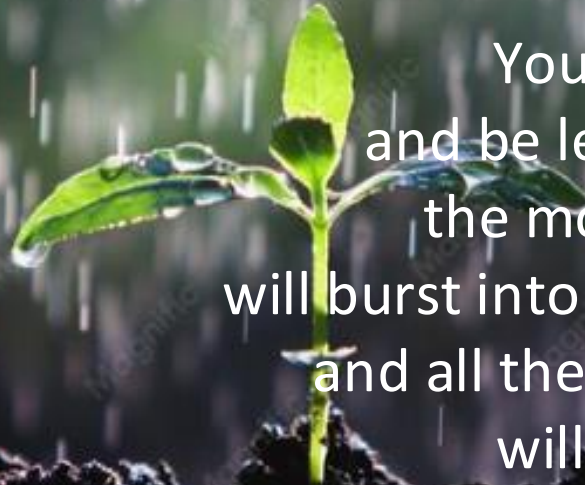
Bible reading: Isaiah 55:9-12



As the heavens are higher than
the earth, so are my ways
higher than your ways and my
thoughts than your thoughts.
As the rain and the snow come
down from heaven, and do not
return to it without watering
the earth and making it bud and
flourish, so that it yields seed
for the sower and bread for the
eater, so is my word that goes
out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for
which I sent it.

You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.



The summons

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?

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 pray'r In you and you in me?

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?

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.

John L. Bell

What Grows in Us

In our hands— something small. Almost nothing. A seed.

And yet—life.

This is how God works— not always in the visible,
not always in the immediate, but in the patient unfolding.

(Participants hold seeds in their hands)

We do not know what will grow from what we carry.

But we trust the One who gives the growth.

(Seeds are placed into soil)

What is planted in faith will not be lost.

Even now, something is becoming.



Santo, Santo, Santo

Flowing ♩ = 64

Argentina

San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! ¡Mi

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Se - ñor!

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!

Intercessions

God of seeds and seasons,
we pray for a world waiting to grow:
For lands torn by war, occupation, and displacement—
for places where fear and hatred are sown each day—
plant a just and lasting peace.

Your Word does not return empty.

For communities burdened by poverty, racism, and exclusion—
for those denied dignity, voice, and belonging—
restore life and justice again.

Your Word does not return empty.

For a creation wounded by climate crisis—
for forests burning, waters rising, and species fading—
renew the earth and awaken our care.

Your Word does not return empty.

For those who lead in these uncertain times—
amid conflict, migration, and deep division—
grant wisdom, humility, and courage for the common good.

Your Word does not return empty.

For your Church—
that we may not turn away from suffering,
but sow with courage, stand for truth,
and persevere in hope, even when we are perplexed, but not in despair.

Your Word does not return empty. Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Lord, Hear My Prayer'. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The second staff starts with a sixteenth rest, followed by G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, and ends with a whole rest. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Em, Em/D, C6, D, G/B, C, F/A, Am7, B, Em, Em/D, C6, D, G6, Am, B, Em.

Em Em/D C6 D G/B C F/A Am7 B

Oh Lord hear my prayer, oh Lord hear my prayer when I call, an - swer me. Oh

6 Em Em/D C6 D G6 Am B Em

Lord hear my prayer, oh Lord hear my prayer, come and lis - ten to me.

Jacques Berthier, Taizé

CALLED TO RESIST

We believe in God,
whose Word moves through creation
like rain upon the earth.

We believe in Christ, who walked among us
as seed, as bread, as life shared.

We believe in the Spirit,
who works in hidden places,
bringing forth justice,
even when we cannot see it.

We confess that we are called
to plant, to nurture, to resist, to hope—
not because we control the outcome,
but because God is faithful.

Even in perplexity—
we trust.

Even in uncertainty—
we persevere.

Amen.



Siyahamba

Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',
Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',
Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',
Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',
Siyahamba, siyahamba, oh,
Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'.
Siyahamba, siyahamba, oh,
Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'.

We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching, ooh,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching, ooh,
We are marching in the light of God.

The third time, sing it in your own language

Traditional Zulu song

Sending and Blessing

We go as those who have received seed.

We go as those who will plant.

We go without knowing the full harvest.

But trusting the promise.

May the God of quiet growth be patient with us.

May Christ, the living Word, walk beside us in every season.

May the Spirit break open what is closed in us and bring forth life.

We go together— perplexed, but not crushed.

Led by the Spirit, we persevere in witness.

Perplexed, not crushed

*// Perplexed, not crushed,
together we rise.
Steadfast, not lost,
our hope never dies:
by your Spirit, we move. //*

In the shadow of troubled times,
in a world of pain and war,
a hidden flame calls us to persevere.

In the cry of a wounded earth,
where justice bends beneath the weight,
your love still holds us in embrace.

Gerardo Oberman



—
*Persevere in Your Witness:
Perplexed but not in Despair*
—





PERSEVERE IN YOUR WITNESS

Perplexed but not in Despair



**““This Is the Time:
Remembering, Walking, Witnessing””**

May 7, 2026

This is the time

We gather in a world
of shifting seasons,
where joy and sorrow intertwine,
where endings and beginnings meet.
We come carrying what has been—
stones that show the way,
waters of life,



seeds that grow in us from you
and the weight of these days.
We come as those who are perplexed—
yet not crushed.
We come as those led by the Spirit—
to persevere in witness,
in every time under heaven.

For everything there is a season

For everything there is a season—

All: And a time for every matter under heaven.

A time to weep and a time to laugh—

All: A time to mourn and a time to dance.

A time to keep silence and a time to speak—

All: The Spirit teaches us when and how.

Even when we are perplexed—

All: We are not crushed. We persevere in hope.

Sarennam

G. Dyvasirvadam: India



Pronounced "sharenam," meaning "we surrender."

2. O the Lord of Love, sarennam.
O the Compassionate, sarennam.

3. O Son of Righteousness, sarennam.
O the Holy Spirit, sarennam.

Times we do not understand

God of all times and seasons,
we confess that we struggle to trust your timing.
We cling to what should be released,
and remain silent when it is time to speak.
In a world marked by violence and war,
we witness the misuse of power driven by greed,
and at times we feel powerless—or turn away.
We grow weary. We lose courage.
We forget that your Spirit is still at work.

*Forgive us.
Reorder our hearts.
Teach us again
the time for truth,
the time for justice,
the time for compassion.
Amen.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-12

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,



a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

What do workers gain from their toil?

I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race.

He has made everything beautiful in its time.

He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

Meditation

**A TIME FOR
EVERYTHING**

Kupa Munikwa



Pelas dores deste mundo

Pelas dores deste mundo, Ó Senhor, imploramos piedade
A um só tempo geme a criação
Teus ouvidos se inclinem ao clamor Desta gente oprimida.
Apressa-te com a tua salvação!
A tua paz, bendita e irmanada co'a justiça
Abraça o mundo inteiro. Tem compaixão!
O teu poder sustente o testemunho do teu povo.
Teu Reino venha a nós! Kyrie eleison!

Rodolfo Gaede Neto

For the troubles and the suffering the world

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,
God, we call upon your mercy: the whole creation's laboring in pain!
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help from oppressed and hopeless people.
Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!

We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice,
to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!

We pray for power, the power that will sustain your people's witness:
until your kingdom comes, Kyrie eleison!

Rodolfo Gaede Neto. Transl: Simeio Monteiro

A Time to Remember, A Time to Walk

The Teacher tells us: for everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.

There is a time to be silent—
and a time to speak.

A time to mourn—
and a time to seek justice.

What is the time for us?



KRIEGEREIS

A living witness to memory

We believe in God,
Creator of all times and seasons,
whose purposes unfold beyond our understanding.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
who entered our time,
walked our suffering,
and revealed hope in the midst of despair.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who gives us wisdom to discern,
courage to act,
and strength to persevere
when we are perplexed—
like the white scarves
of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo,
a living witness to memory, truth, and steadfast hope.

We believe we are called
to faithful witness in this time—
together, as one body. Amen.



From living memory to living hope

From memory that breathes,
we rise into a hope that sings—
heaven's joy breaking into our midst,
lifting our voices beyond what we have seen,
carrying us from sorrow into praise,
until earth and heaven echo together:
Hallelujah.

El Cielo canta alegría

El cielo canta alegría, Aleluya!
Porque a tu vida y la mía
las une el amor de Dios

Aleluya!, aleluya! Aleluya!, aleluya!

El cielo canta alegría, Aleluya!
Porque en tu vida y la mía
brilla la gloria de Dios

El cielo canta alegría, Aleluya!
Porque tu vida y la mía
proclamarán al Señor

Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia
For your life and mine
unite in the Love of our God

Alleluia, alleluia! ¡Alleluia, alleluia!

Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia
For in your life and mine
is shining the Glory of God

Heaven is singing for joy, alleluia
For your life and mine
will always bear Witness to God

Time to Go, Time to Live Forward...

We go as people who read the seasons—
not because they are easy, but because the Spirit is faithful.

When it is time to speak, we will not be silent;
when it is time to remember, we will not forget;
when it is time to act, we will not withdraw.

Even in perplexity, we trust every season is held in God's care.

May the Source of life guide us,
Christ walk with us, and the Spirit sustain us—
that we may be sown in hope and bear fruit in justice.

Amen.



—
*Persevere in Your Witness:
Perplexed but not in Despair*
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PERSEVERE IN YOUR WITNESS

Perplexed but not in Despair





**“The Holy Interruption”
Closing Worship**

May 8, 2026

God meets us

We came with agendas.

We came with reports, a strategic plan,
decisions, responsibilities.

But God meets us in interruption.

In the wilderness— in the unexpected—
in what burns but is not consumed.

We turn aside to see.

For we are:

Perplexed, but not crushed.

Led by the Spirit,

we persevere in witness.



Laudate omnes gentes

Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum.

Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum,

Sing praises all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord.

Sing praises all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord.

(Taizé)

You call us

God of fire and presence,
you meet your people in places we did not plan to stop.

You call us by name.

You reveal your holiness.

You send us into the pain of the world.

Interrupt us again today.

Call us again.

And send us again.

In the name of the One who is present,

“I AM WHO I AM.” *Amen.*

Before the Burning Presence

God of mercy and truth,
we confess that we often remain at a distance.

We see suffering— yet turn away.

We hear cries for justice— yet hesitate.

We witness the misuse of power,
the violence of war,

and the weight of injustice—
and we feel overwhelmed, uncertain, silent.

At times we say, “Who am I?”
and hide behind our limits.

At times we say, “Send someone else,”
and withdraw from your call.

Forgive us.

Free us from fear.

Draw us closer
to your holy ground.

Meditation

A dramatic landscape featuring a tree that is completely engulfed in bright yellow and orange flames. The tree stands in a dark, sandy desert under a deep blue night sky filled with stars. In the background, dark, jagged rock formations are visible. The bottom of the image shows a wooden plank floor, suggesting the scene is viewed from an elevated perspective.

Exodus 3:1–12

Rev. Philip Peacock

Soñamos / We are dreaming

Soñamos con un mundo de justicia,
soñamos con un mundo de amor.
Soñamos con un mundo sin violencia,
soñamos con un mundo sin rencor.
Soñamos que _en Jesús somos hermanos,
soñamos que luchamos con valor.
Soñamos que _está viva la _esperanza,
soñamos que no _existe el dolor.
Soñamos, soñamos
porque _hay que soñar,
soñamos un mundo de libertad.
Soñamos, soñamos
con pueblos hermanos
donde tu Reino se _haga realidad.

We're dreaming of a world that runs on justice,
where love and kindness wait at every door.
We're dreaming of a world that knows no violence,
where bitterness and rancour are no more.
We're dreaming that we're truly one in Jesus,
with courage waging peace in place of war.
We're dreaming, as our hope renews each season,
that no mind is depressed, no heart is sore.
We're dreaming, we're dreaming,
with faith, not with fear.
We must keep on dreaming:
freedom, come near!
We're dreaming, we're dreaming
with all kindred souls,
'til, real and amazing, your reign now is here.

Eleazar Torreglosa
Trans. Andrew Donaldson

We believe we are called

We believe in God,
who sees the suffering of the people
and hears their cry.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
who walks with the oppressed,
who enters the depths of human pain
and is not overcome.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who burns within us like a living light,
awakening us, guiding us,
and sending us forth.

We believe that God stands against injustice
and calls us to resist systems that destroy life.

We remember the witness of those
who, in places marked by terror and death,
still chose compassion, solidarity, and hope.

We believe we are not alone—
that even in perplexity,
we are not crushed.

We believe we are called
to persevere in witness,
to protect the dignity of every human life,
to seek justice for the poor,
to care for creation,
and to resist all that denies God's life. Amen.

Remove your sandals: step into the call

Moses said, “I must turn aside and see.”

And God said:

“Remove your sandals, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” Today, we draw near.

We ask you to remove shoes and to come to the liturgical centre, pause before the flame, and respond with a gesture:

- *Hand on heart* → *Here I am* / • *Open hands* → *Send me*
- *Hand on heart* → *Here WE am* / • *Right hand extended to neighbor* → *Send US*



Lord I'm here

Lord I'm here. Lord I'm here

Lord I'm here. Waiting for you

Where should I go?

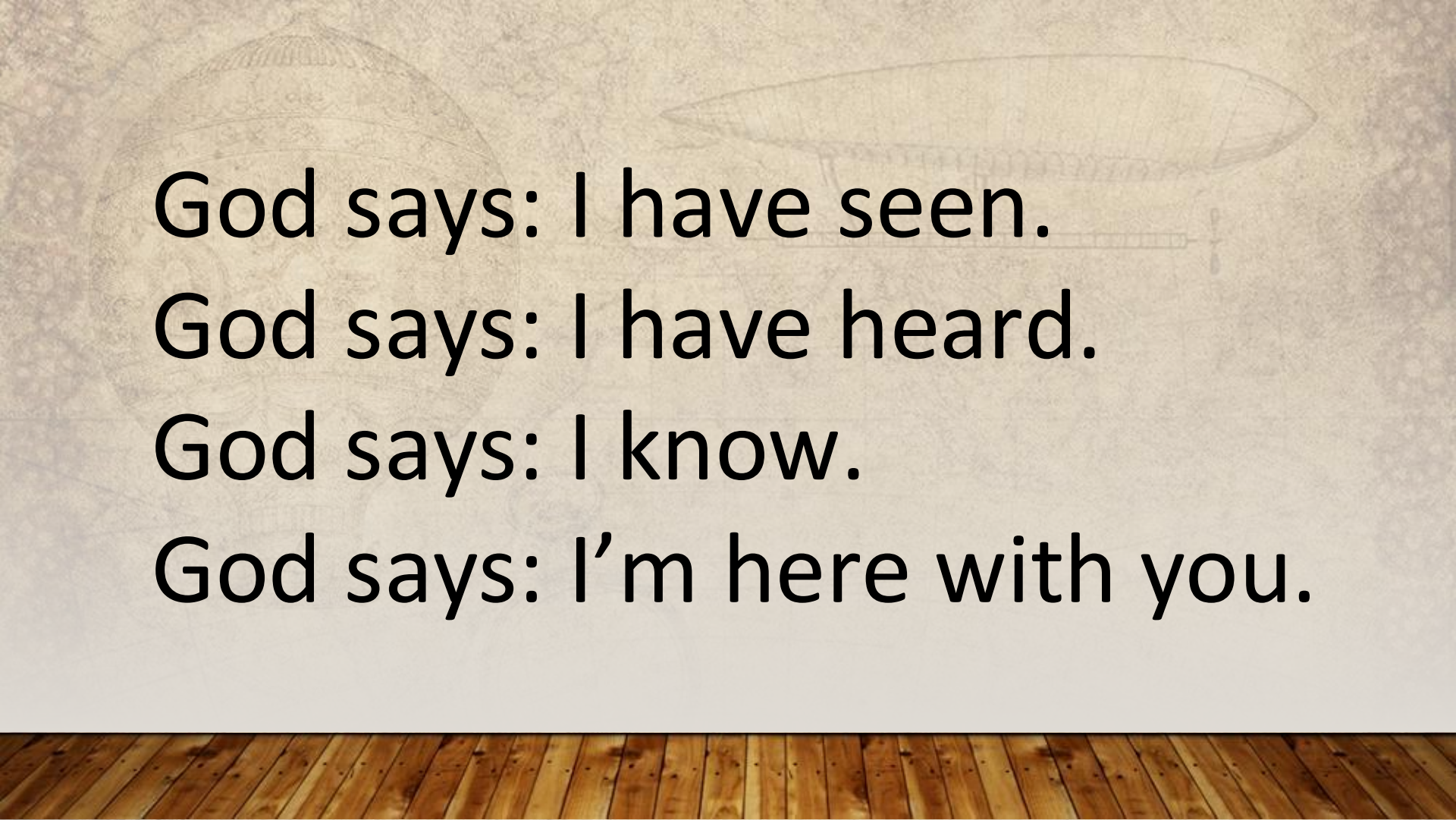
Who should I meet ?

No one is there, I came to you

Lord I'm here, Lord I'm here,

Lord I'm here before you.




The background features faint, light-colored sketches of a dome on the left and a zeppelin or blimp on the right, set against a textured, parchment-like background.

God says: I have seen.

God says: I have heard.

God says: I know.

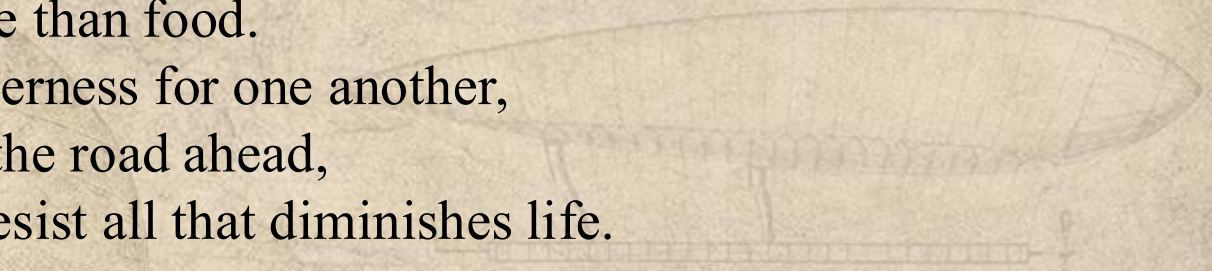
God says: I'm here with you.

A horizontal strip at the bottom of the image shows a wooden floor with vertical planks.


Fed by your grace we go...

Holy One of grace,
in these days we have walked through questions,
through memories that still ache,
through moments when hope felt fragile.
Yet you have not abandoned us.
Perplexed, yes— but not in despair.
Now you gather us at this table.
In the bread, we taste your sustaining love.
In the cup, we remember life poured out
so that courage, justice,
and compassion might rise again among us.





Feed us with more than food.
Feed us with tenderness for one another,
with wisdom for the road ahead,
with strength to resist all that diminishes life.
Fed by your grace, we go—
not with every answer, but with hearts renewed;
not without fear, but with trust that your Spirit walks beside us.
As bread is shared, make us people who share hope.
As the cup is lifted, make us people who carry healing.
And as we leave this gathering,
may we become signs of your love
in a wounded and waiting world.
Amen.



The Meal that Sends Us Forth



Perplexed, but never in despair



We have stood on holy ground.

We have heard the voice that calls.

We have seen the fire that does not consume.

Now we go— not as observers, but as those sent.

We go where cries rise, where injustice persists,
where creation groans. God says: “I will be with you.”
So, we will go perplexed, but not in despair.



Sent by the Lord

Sent by the Lord am I, my hands are ready now

To make the earth a place in which the Kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain

Into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is mine to do, to set it really free.

O help me to obey, help me to do your will.

José Aguiar. Transl. Scott Anderson

We will keep persevering

We go as those who have turned aside.

We go as those who have been called by name.

We go as those who have stood on holy ground.

When we are perplexed— we will not be crushed.

When we are sent— we will not go alone.

When we face the fire— we will not be consumed.

May the God who sees and hears send us.

May Jesus walk before us into the struggle.

May the Spirit burn within us giving us courage

to persevere in witness.



Kirisuto

Izumi Shiota: Japan



Ki - ri - su - to no he - i - wa ga wa - ta - shi - ta - chi no ko - ko - ro no
su - mi - zu - mi ni ma - de yu - ki - wa - ta - ri ma - su yo - o - ni.

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May the peace of Christ be with you.
May the love of God dwell deep in your heart.
May the Spirit enlighten your way.
May you walk in the comfort of God's care.

Jesucristo nos de su paz,
que su amor nos llene el corazón.
Que el Espíritu nos de su luz
para andar en confianza y sin temor.

English: Lori True / Spanish: Gerardo Oberman

Perplexed, not crushed

*// Perplexed, not crushed,
together we rise.
Steadfast, not lost,
our hope never dies:
by your Spirit, we move. //*

In the shadow of troubled times,
in a world of pain and war,
a hidden flame calls us to persevere.

In the cry of a wounded earth,
where justice bends beneath the weight,
your love still holds us in embrace.

Gerardo Oberman



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