



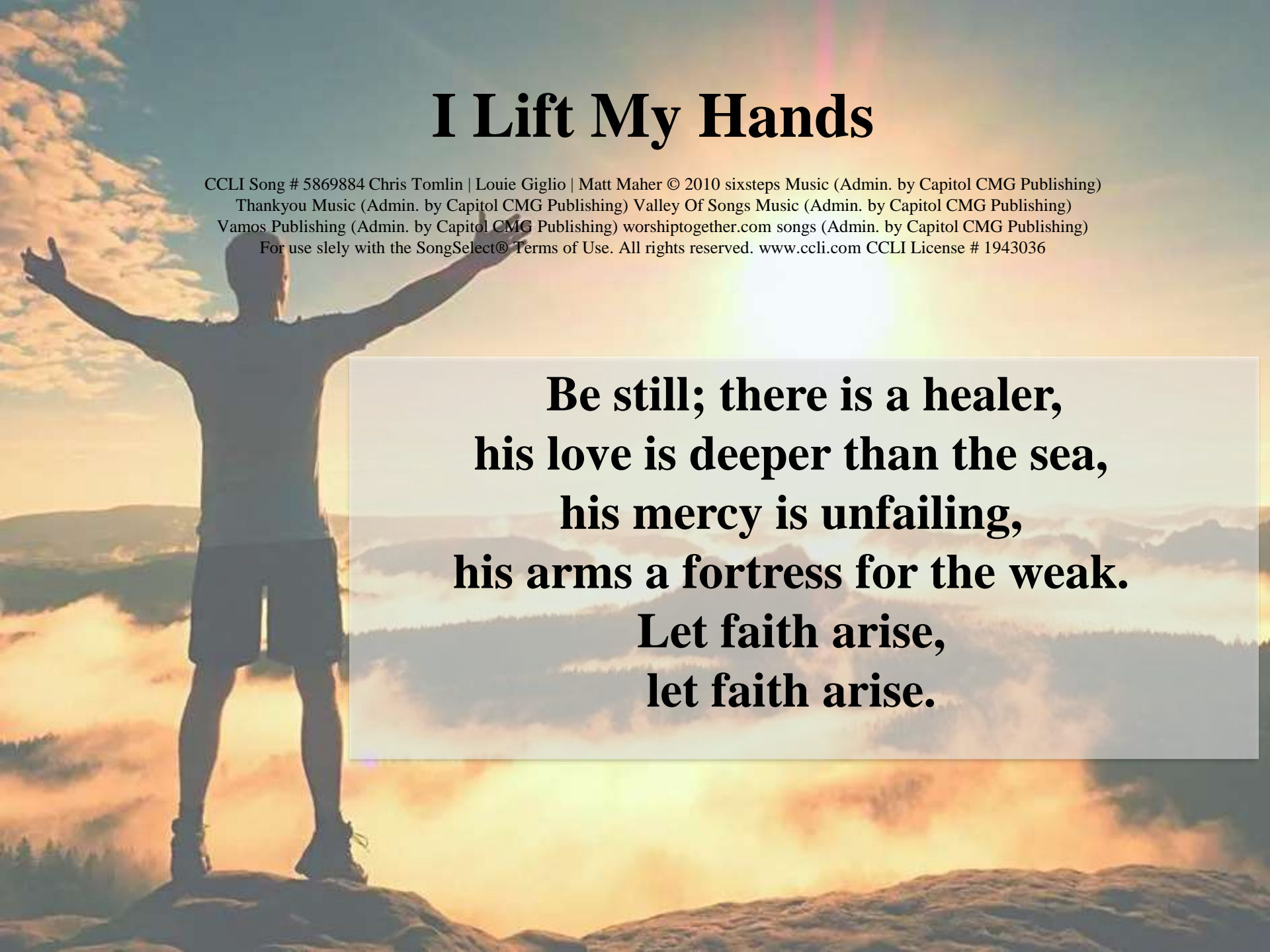
*Welcome to
Worship at
Zion Lutheran Church*

*Sunday, April 28, 2024
9:00 am*

Island of Moorea, French Polynesia
Photo by Nancy Brandli

I Lift My Hands

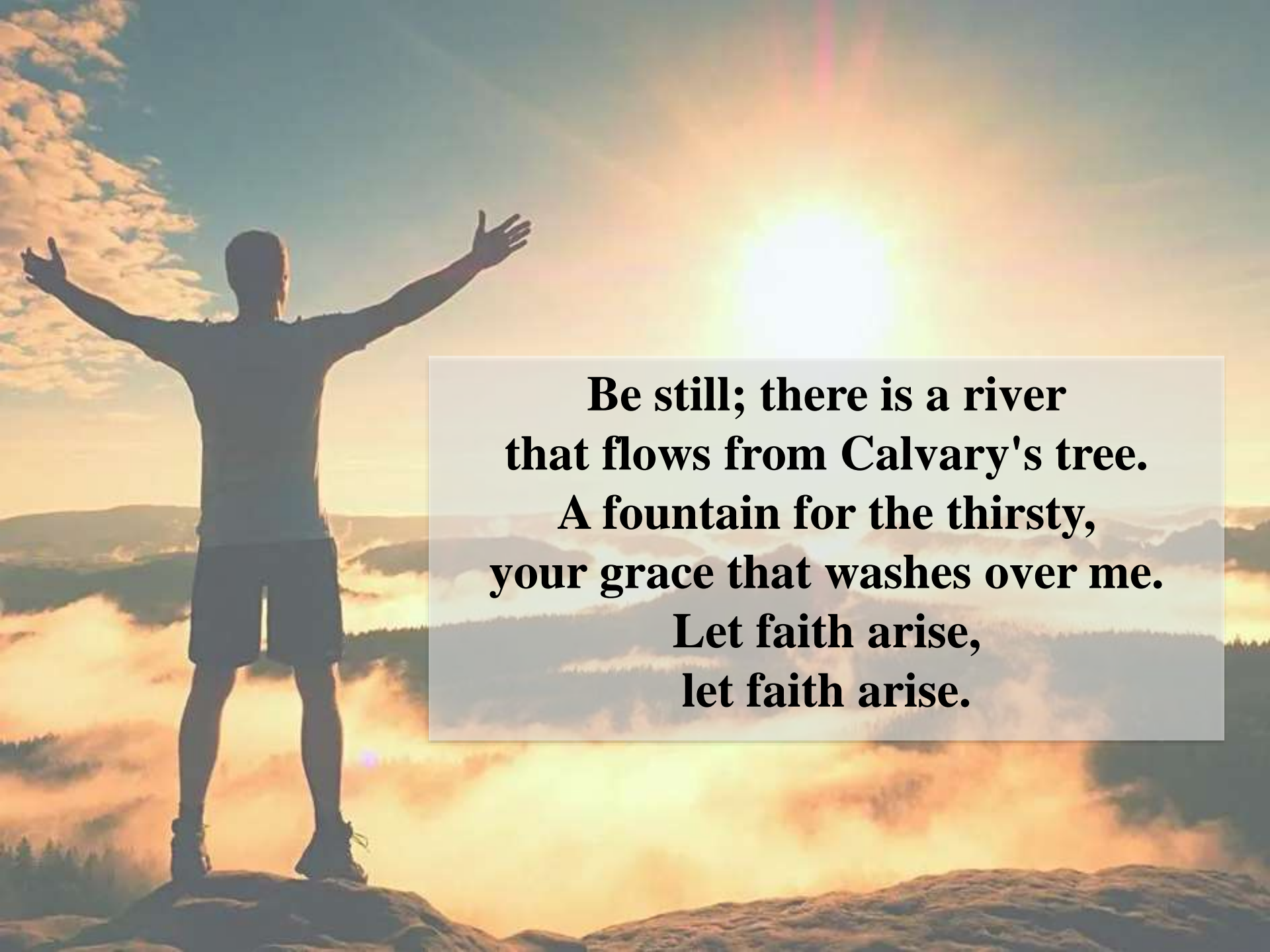
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**Be still; there is a healer,
his love is deeper than the sea,
his mercy is unfailing,
his arms a fortress for the weak.
Let faith arise,
let faith arise.**




**I lift my hands to believe again.
You are my refuge,
you are my strength.
As I pour out my heart,
these things I remember:
You are faithful, God, forever.**



**Be still; there is a river
that flows from Calvary's tree.
A fountain for the thirsty,
your grace that washes over me.
Let faith arise,
let faith arise.**




**I lift my hands to believe again.
You are my refuge,
you are my strength,
as I pour out my heart,
these things I remember:
You are faithful, God, forever.**



**I lift my hands to believe again.
You are my refuge,
you are my strength,
as I pour out my heart,
these things I remember:
You are faithful, God, forever.**



**Let faith arise, let faith arise.
Open my eyes, open my eyes.
Let faith arise, let faith arise.
Open my eyes, open my eyes.**



**I lift my hands to believe again.
You are my refuge,
you are my strength.
As I pour out my heart,
These things I remember:
You are faithful, God, forever.**



I lift my hands to believe again.

**You are my refuge,
you are my strength.**

**As I pour out my heart,
these things I remember:**

**You are faithful, God,
you're faithful, God, forever.**

**Let faith arise,
let faith arise.**

Jesus Does

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- 1. Who tells the sun to rise every morning,
colors the sky with the shades of his glory,
wakes us with mercy and love?
Jesus does.**
- 2. Who holds the orphan, comforts the widow,
cries for injustice, feels every sorrow,
carries the pain of his children?
Jesus does.**

So we sing:

Praise to the Father who gave us the Son.

Praise to the Spirit who's living in us.

When I was a sinner,

he saved me from who I was.

('Cause) that's what Jesus does.

- 3. Who understands the heart of the sinner,
showers his grace over all our mistakes,
washes us clean with his blood?
Jesus does.**
- 4. Who sings the song of sweet forgiveness?
Who stole the keys to hell and the grave?
Who has the power to save?
Jesus does.**

So we sing:

Praise to the Father who gave us the Son.

Praise to the Spirit who's living in us.

When I was a sinner,

he saved me from who I was.

('Cause) that's what Jesus does.

**Oh what a friend,
oh what a Savior,
he's always been good,
he's always been faithful.
He came to my rescue
when I needed him most
and saved my soul.**

So we sing:

Praise to the Father who gave us the Son.

Praise to the Spirit who's living in us.

When I was a sinner,

he saved me from who I was.

So we sing:

Praise to the Father who gave us the Son.

Praise to the Spirit who's living in us.

When I was a sinner,

he saved me from who I was.

That's what Jesus does.

Hear Our Praises

CCLI Song # 2543402

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**May our homes be filled with dancing,
may our streets be filled with joy;
May injustice bow to Jesus,
as the people turn and pray.**

**From the mountain to the valley,
hear our praises rise to you;
From the heavens to the nations,
hear the singing fill the air.**

**May our light shine in the darkness,
as we walk before the cross;
May your glory fill the whole earth,
as the water over seas.**

**From the mountain to the valley,
hear our praises rise to you;
From the heavens to the nations,
hear the singing fill the air.**

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**From the mountain to the valley,
hear our praises rise to you;
From the heavens to the nations,
hear the singing fill the air.**

Welcome and Announcements



First Communion

**First Communion will be celebrated
May 5 and May 8!**

Contact Pastor Keith with questions.



Sharing the Peace



Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

L: In the name of the one who created us to be perfectly imperfect, who gives us room to grow and grace to learn from our mistakes; in the name of the one who believes in us even when we are down on ourselves; In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

C: **Amen.**

L: Holy God, you gather us this morning to save us from the biggest mistake: pretending that we are already complete. Instead, you invite us to grow in your spirit.

C: Come and dwell among us. Let us experience the fullness of your grace.

L: Holy God, you gather us this morning because we are not righteous or perfect, but we are sinners and imperfect. You are the one who can transform our flaws.

C: Turn fear into courage, anxiety into hope, over-confidence into humility.

L: Holy God, you are with us in this place that we call our life, whether we are at home, in school, at work, in times of trouble or in times of joy and peace. You are the anchor that holds us.

C: Bring to us the sure knowledge of your presence and your unlimited power of love.

L: Lord we come to you this morning with open hearts and open hands.

C: Fill us with your grace. Amen.

Enough

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**All of you is more than enough for all of me.
For every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love,
and all I have in you
is more than enough.**



**You're my supply, my breath of life,
Still more awesome than I know.
You're my reward, worth living for,
Still more awesome than I know.**



**All of you is more than enough for all of me.
For every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love,
and all I have in you is more than enough.**



**You're my sacrifice of greatest price,
Still more awesome than I know.
You're my coming King,
You are everything,
Still more awesome than I know.**



**All of you is more than enough for all of me.
For every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love,
and all I have in you...**

**All of you is more than enough for all of me.
For every thirst and every need.
You satisfy me with your love,
and all I have in you is more than enough.**



Confession and Forgiveness

- L:** You call us to love as you love, care as you care, seek justice, mercy, and truth in a world that has yet to feel the warmth of your embrace.
- C:** **But we fail to heed your call, draw back from those in need, say nothing when we see injustice, preferring to be invisible.**

L: Forgive us, you whose love is better than life, you whose Grace extends to all.
Forgive us, and enable us to be the people we could be, that your name might be on the lips of all people.

C: **Amen**

L: Jesus said: “If you reside in me, and my words reside in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you.” Friends, we have asked for forgiveness. It has been truly done for us. It is being done for us. And it will be done for us.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”

³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The background of the slide is a light cream color with a subtle floral pattern. On the left and right sides, there are vertical bands of pink flowers, possibly gerberas, with green leaves. The flowers are rendered in a soft, painterly style.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31

L: ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

C: ²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts live forever!**

L: ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

C: ²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

L: ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

C: ³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

L: ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW #512

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**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow
and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

Jesus said: ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Jenée Provance

Who You Say I Am

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**Who am I that the highest King
would welcome me.**

I was lost but he brought me in.

Oh, his love for me.

Oh, his love for me.

**Who the Son sets free,
oh is free indeed.**

**I'm a child of God,
yes I am.**

**Free at last,
he has ransomed me,
his grace runs deep.
While I was a slave to sin,
Jesus died for me.
Yes, he died for me.**

**Who the Son sets free,
oh is free indeed.
I'm a child of God,
yes I am.**

**In my Father's house
there's a place for me.
I'm a child of God,
yes I am.**

**I am chosen, not forsaken.
I am who you say I am.
You are for me, not against me.
I am who you say I am.**

**I am chosen, not forsaken,
I am who you say I am.
You are for me, not against me.
I am who you say I am,
I am who you say I am.**

**Who the Son sets free,
oh is free indeed.
I'm a child of God,
yes I am.**

**In my Father's house
there's a place for me.
I'm a child of God,
yes I am.**

**I am chosen not forsaken.
I am who you say I am.
You are for me not against me.
I am who you say I am.**

**I am chosen, not forsaken,
I am who you say I am.
You are for me, not against me.
I am who you say I am,
I am who you say I am.
Yes, I am who you say I am.**

**Who the Son sets free,
oh is free indeed.
I'm a child of God,
yes I am.**

**In my Father's house
there's a place for me.
I'm a child of God,
yes I am.**



Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living 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.

Offering
with
Special Music



OFFERINGS AND OFFERINGS

Offering Prayer

All: Gracious God, as we offer our gifts today, we recognize our role as branches, connected to you, the source of our strength and vitality. Help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



Prayers of Intercession

Blessing

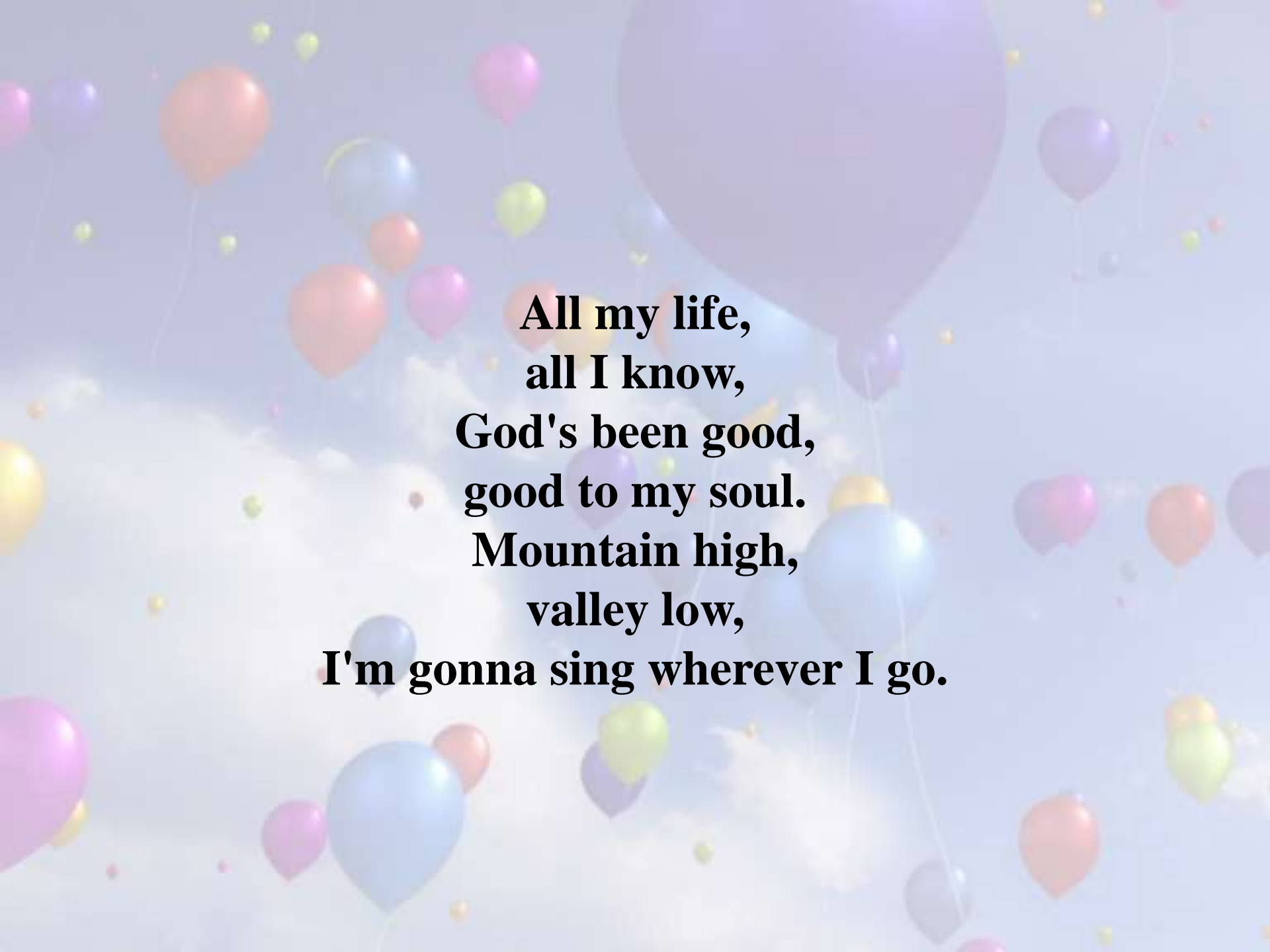
L: May God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful; May Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life; And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.

All: Amen.


Sing Wherever I Go

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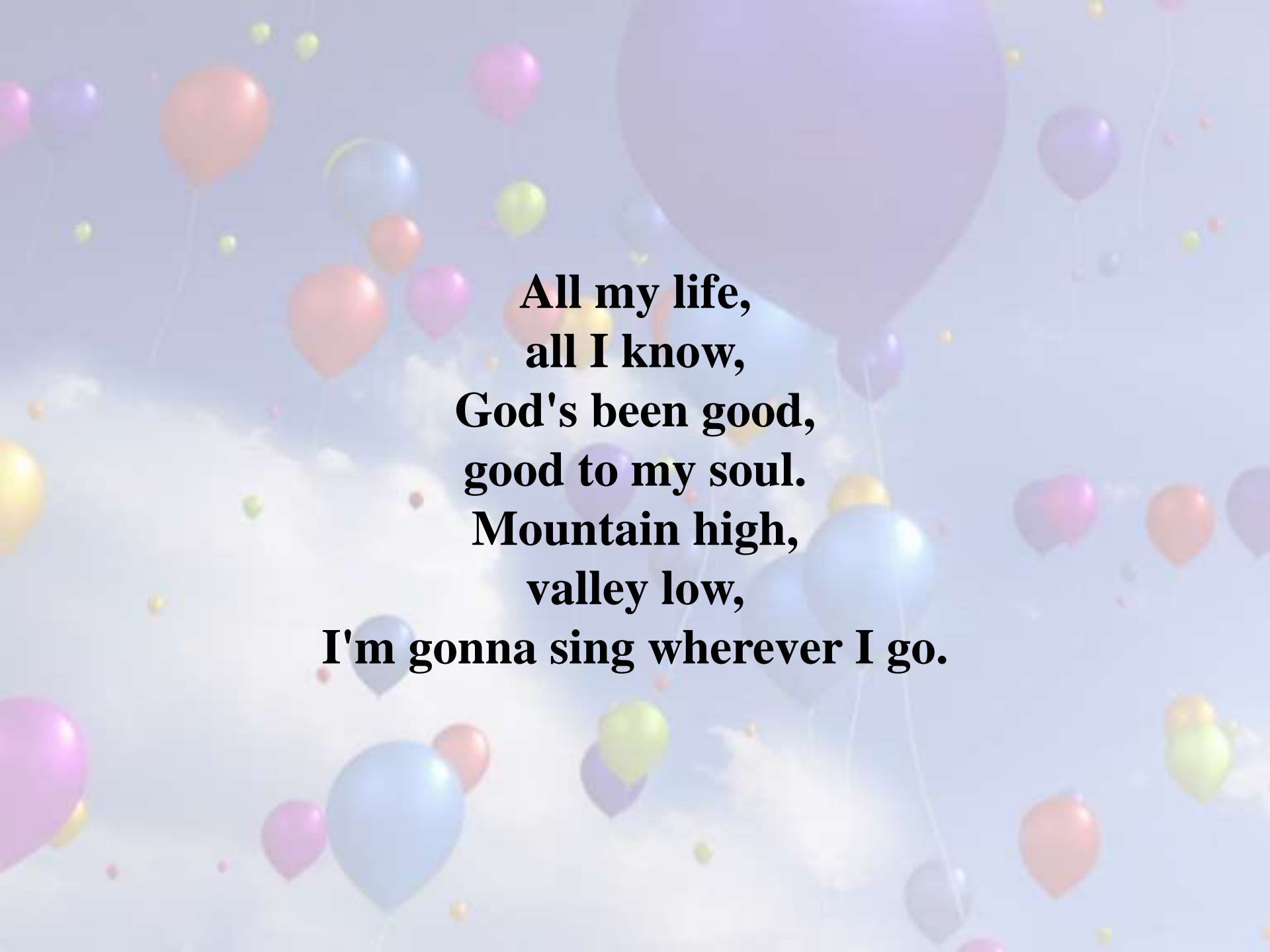
**All my life,
all I know,
God's been good,
good to my soul.
Mountain high,
valley low,
I'm gonna sing wherever I go.**



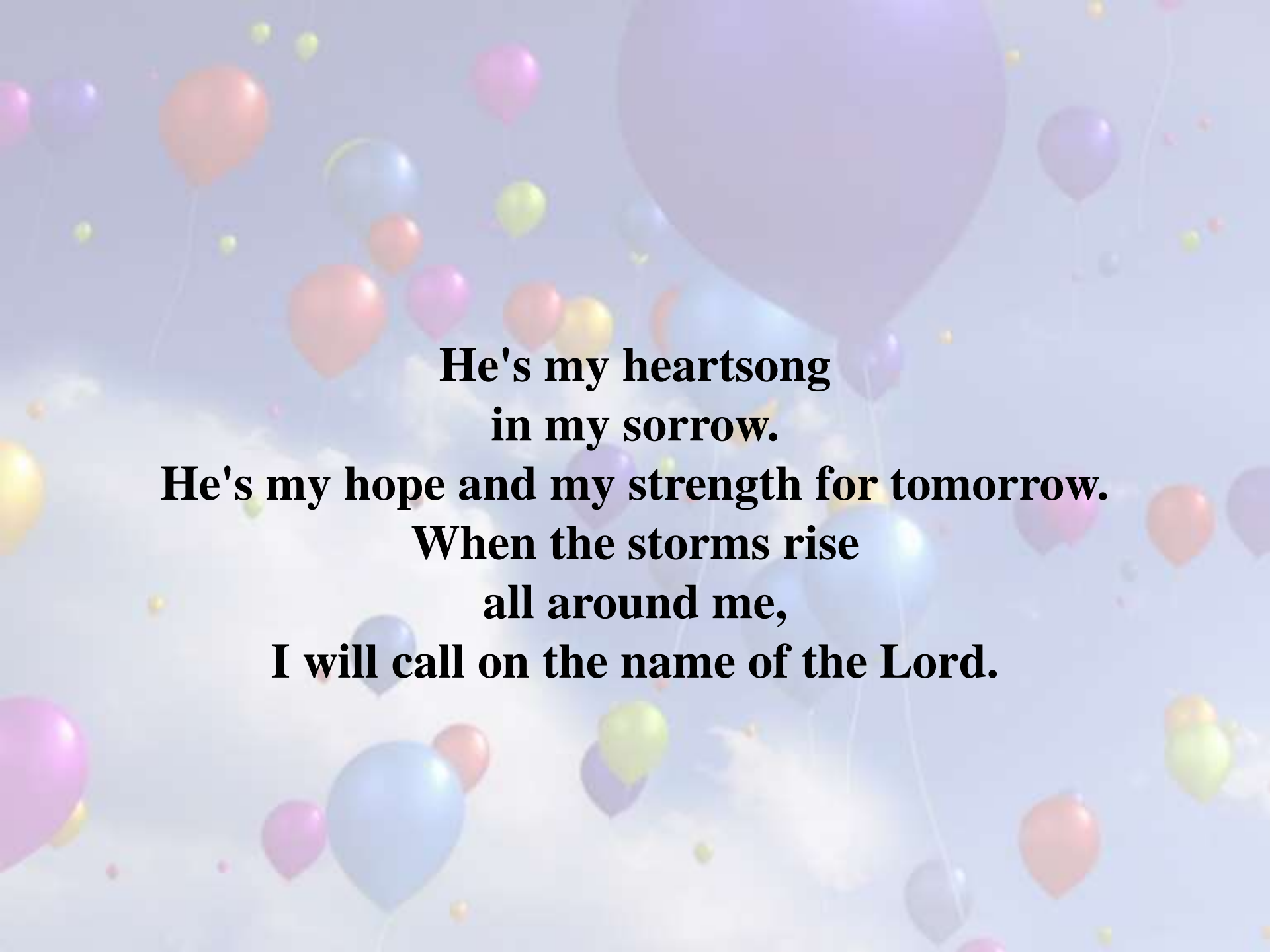
**All my life,
all I know,
God's been good,
good to my soul.
Mountain high,
valley low,
I'm gonna sing wherever I go.**



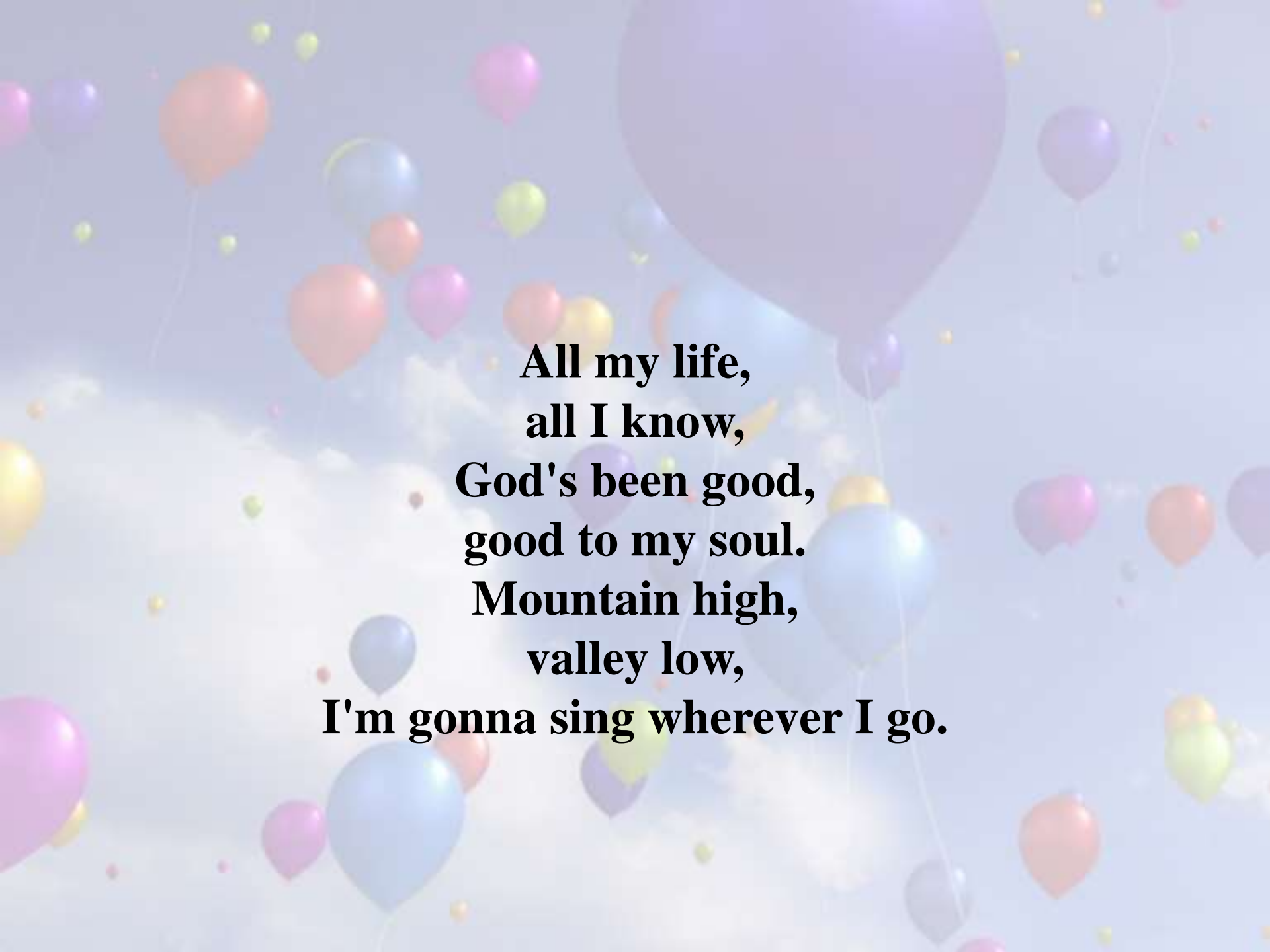
**God is for me,
he's not against me.
I will hold to the plans he has for me.
When I'm broken,
he will fix me.
I will call on the name of the Lord.**



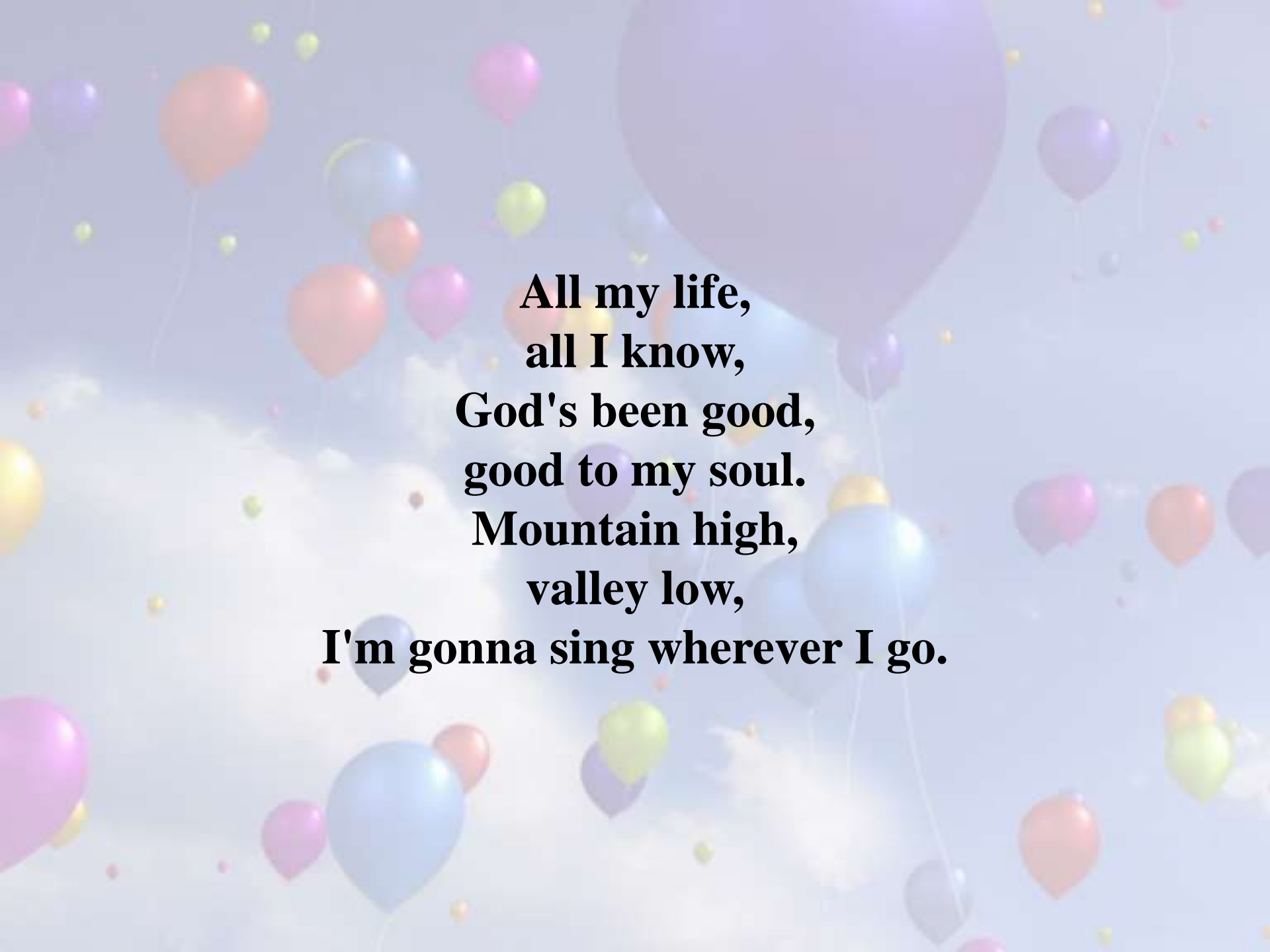
**All my life,
all I know,
God's been good,
good to my soul.
Mountain high,
valley low,
I'm gonna sing wherever I go.**




**He's my heartsong
in my sorrow.
He's my hope and my strength for tomorrow.
When the storms rise
all around me,
I will call on the name of the Lord.**



**All my life,
all I know,
God's been good,
good to my soul.
Mountain high,
valley low,
I'm gonna sing wherever I go.**

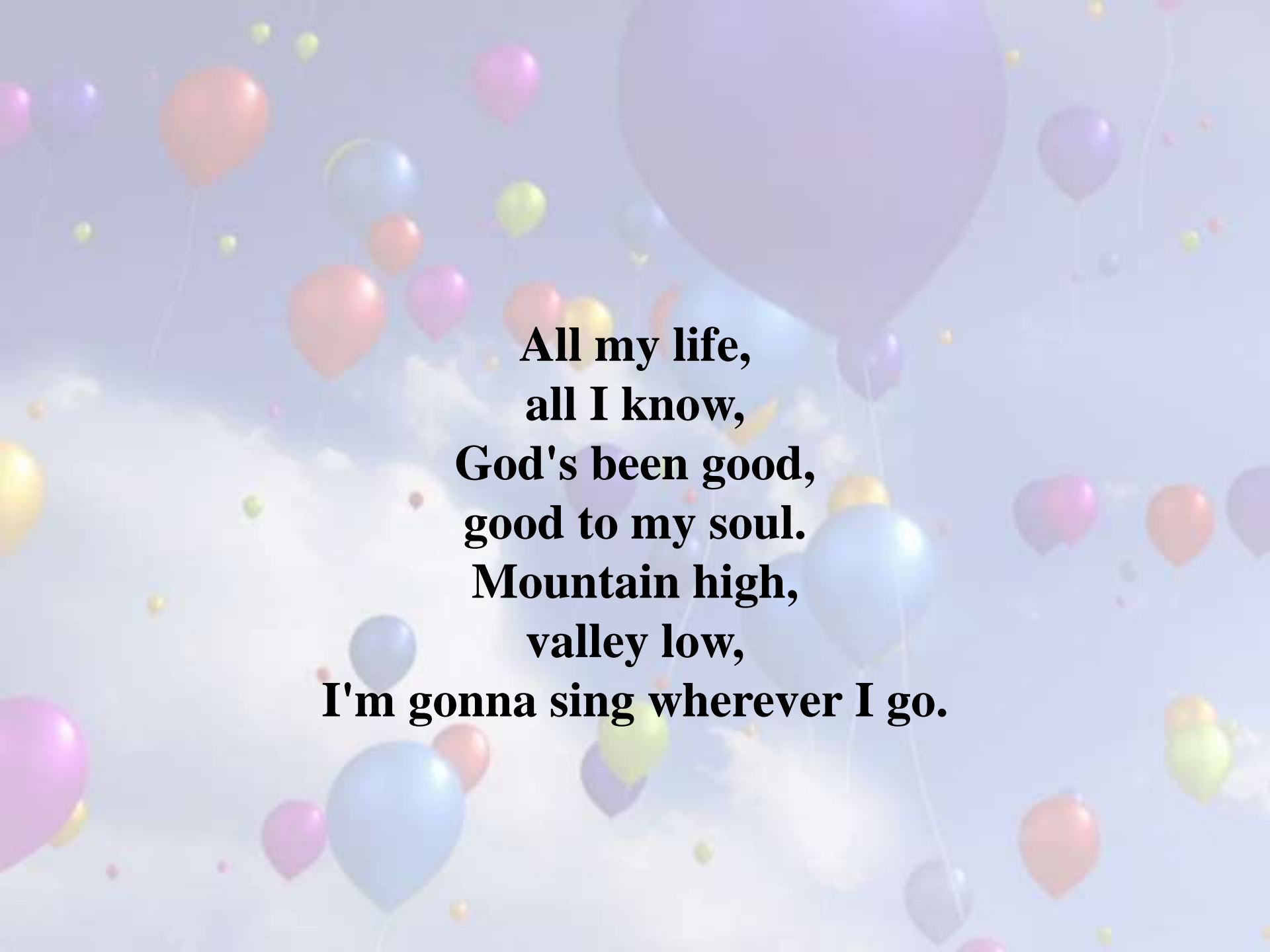


**All my life,
all I know,
God's been good,
good to my soul.
Mountain high,
valley low,
I'm gonna sing wherever I go.**

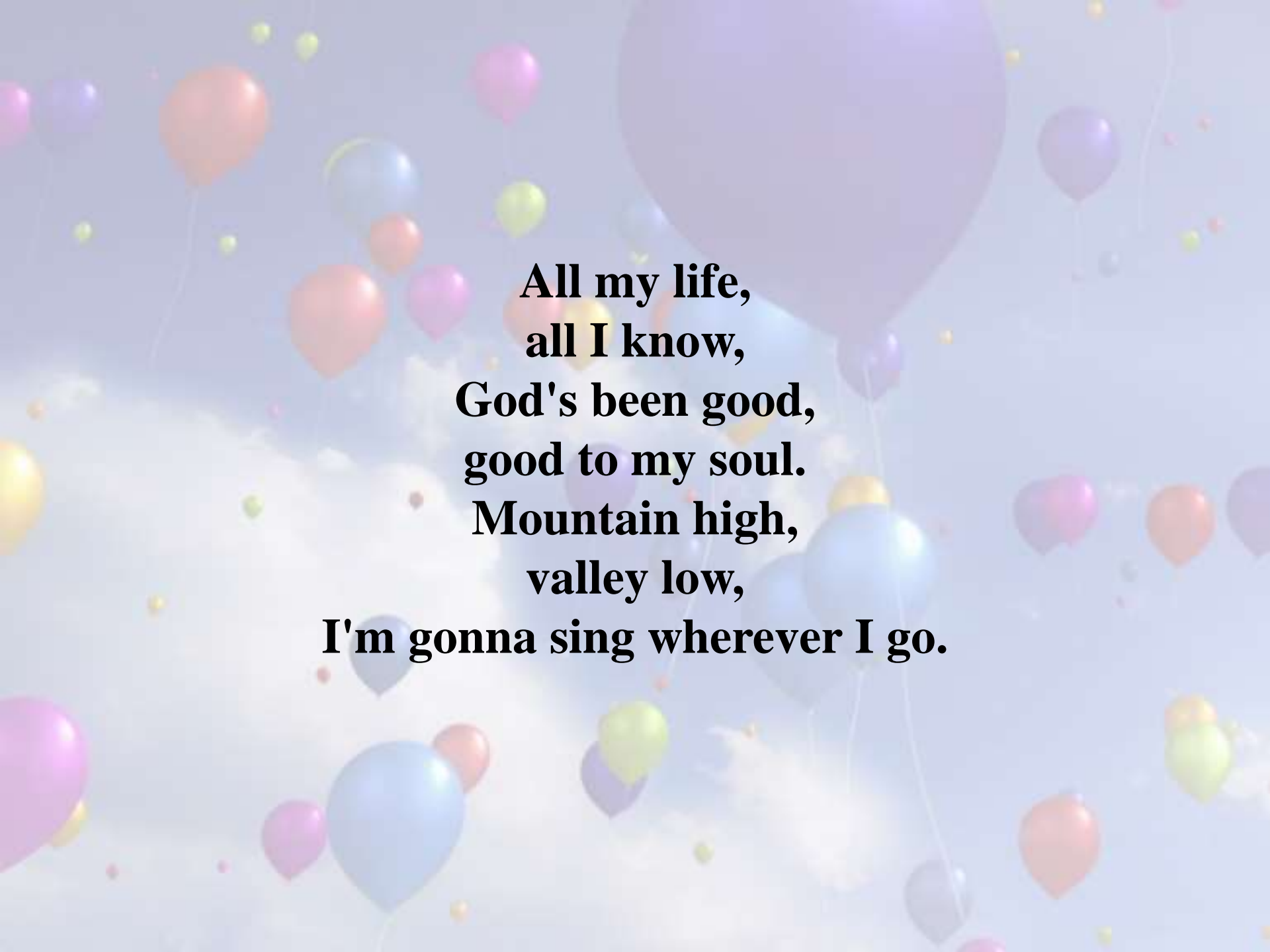


**I got joy, joy, joy
deep in my soul!**

**I will sing, sing, sing
wherever I go!**



**All my life,
all I know,
God's been good,
good to my soul.
Mountain high,
valley low,
I'm gonna sing wherever I go.**



**All my life,
all I know,
God's been good,
good to my soul.
Mountain high,
valley low,
I'm gonna sing wherever I go.**

Dismissal

L: Go now, love one another, be fruitful!

C: **Thanks be to God.**



*Thank you
for worshipping
with us!*

God bless you!

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