God of life, we praise you
for your abiding presence
from generation to generation,
blessing your people,
strengthening us to lives of service,
and empowering us to witness.
Hear our prayers, strengthen our hearts,
calm our minds, and grant us rest in You. Amen.



# OPENING PRAYER

The Story of
the People
of God
ORDINARY TIME
JUN. JUL. AUG. SEP. OCT. NOV.

# THE GOOD/BEAUTIFUL YOU

You Have a ***Soul*** and a ***Sacred Body***

You Are ***Desired*** and ***Loved***

You Are ***Made for God***

You Are ***Forgiven,*** Have Been
Made ***Alive,*** and Are ***Holy***

You Have a ***Sacred Story,***
You Are ***Called,*** and
You Will Be ***Glorified***



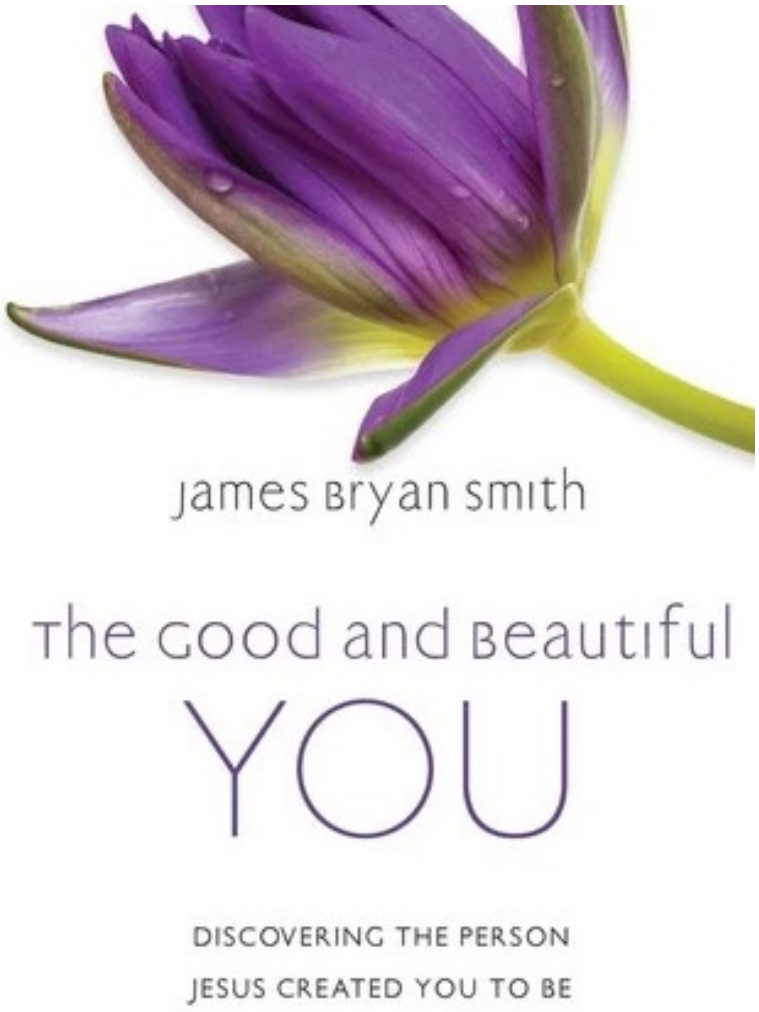
# THIN PLACES

sacred locations or moments in Celtic mythology and Christian tradition where the boundary, or "veil," between the physical world and the spiritual realm (or heaven) is experienced as especially porous and thin



# TRANSCENDENCE

That which goes beyond
or rises above the things
of the material, physical world;
something you experience
– or long to experience –
as tangible-yet-ethereal,
something you know to be
“real” or “true,” but have
difficulty putting into words






PINE HAVEN CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY





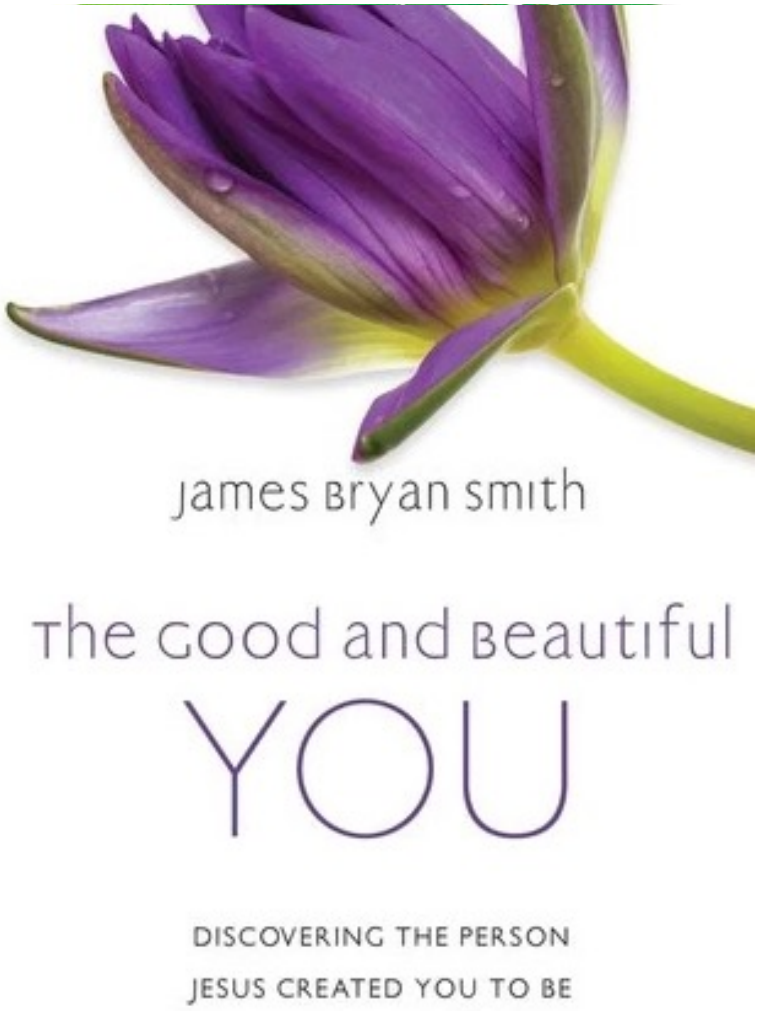




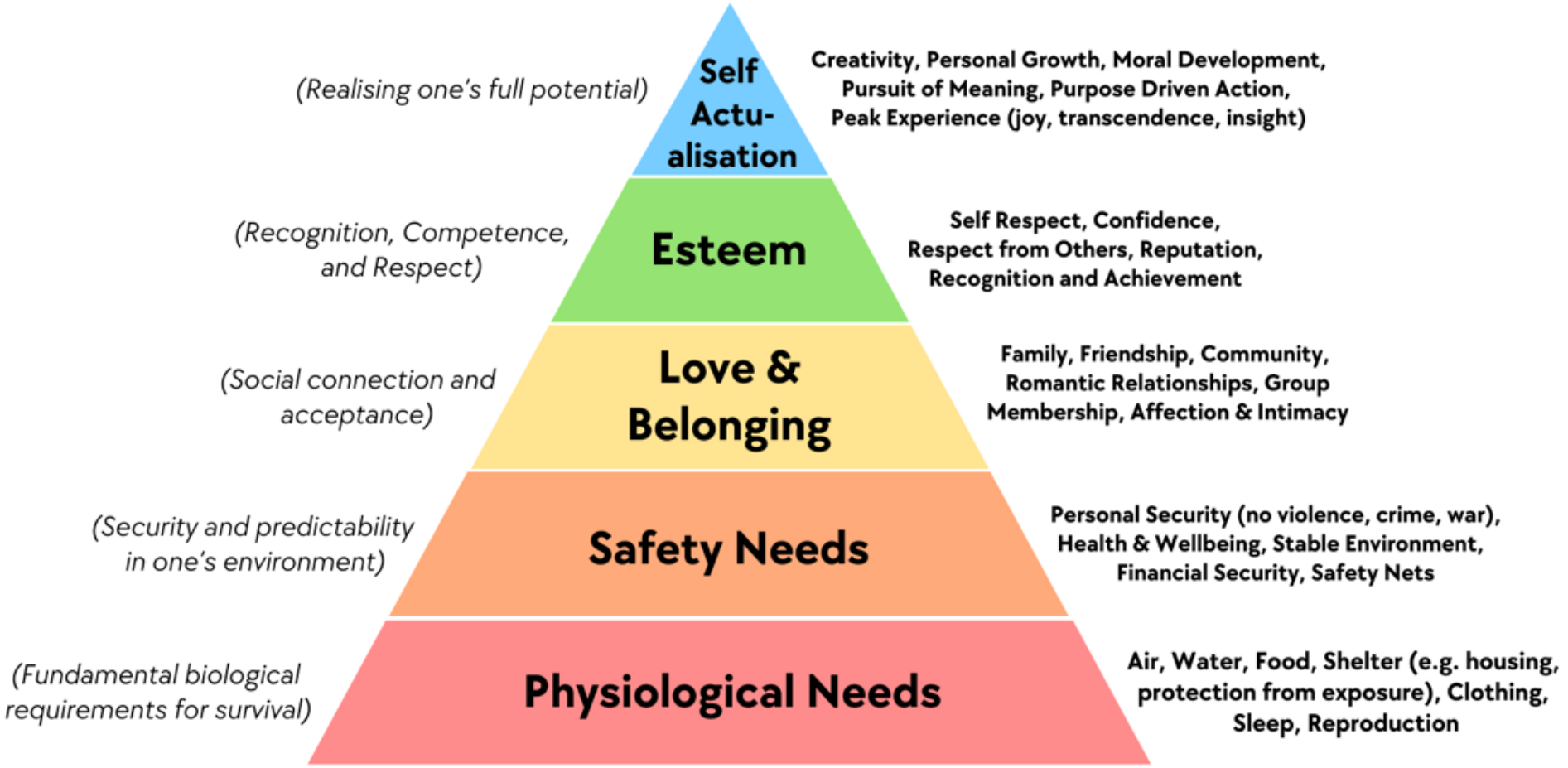

How about you?
Do you have
a “thin place”?
How do you
experience it?

## FALSE NARRATIVE

People and things can fulfill our deepest longings (different from our basic human, physiological needs)



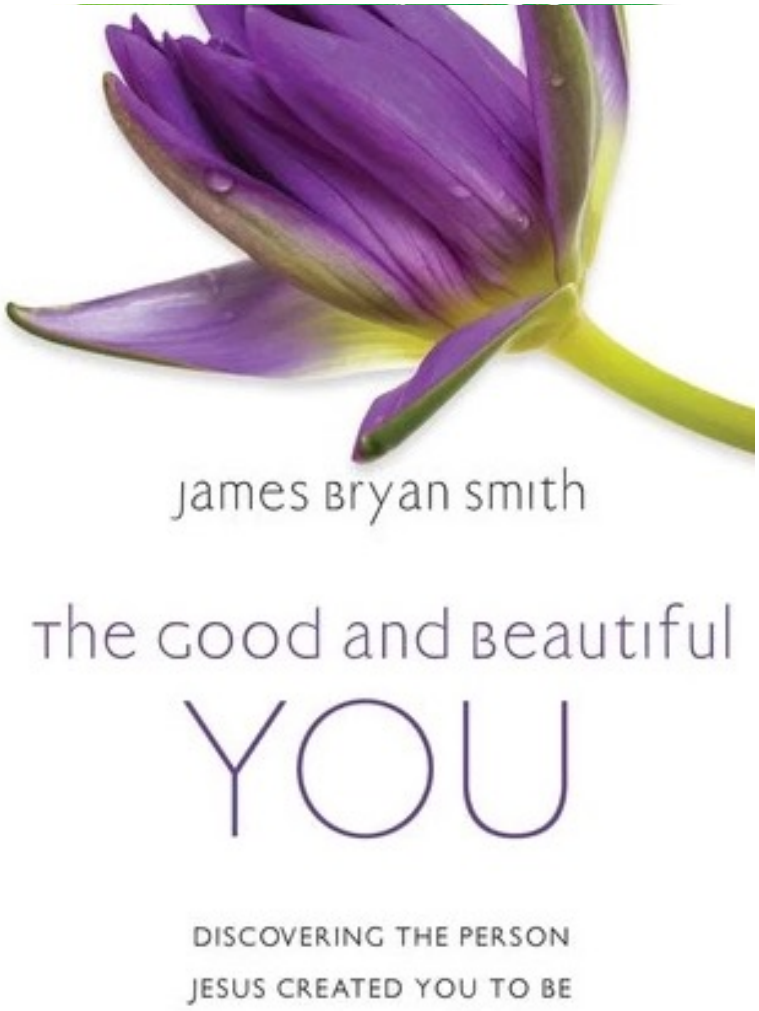
# MASLOW'S PYRAMID of NEEDS/MOTIVATION



## FALSE NARRATIVE

If we can just:

- Find a soulmate…
- Accumulate more wealth…
- Have more power…
- Make more friends…
- Deny spiritual needs exist…

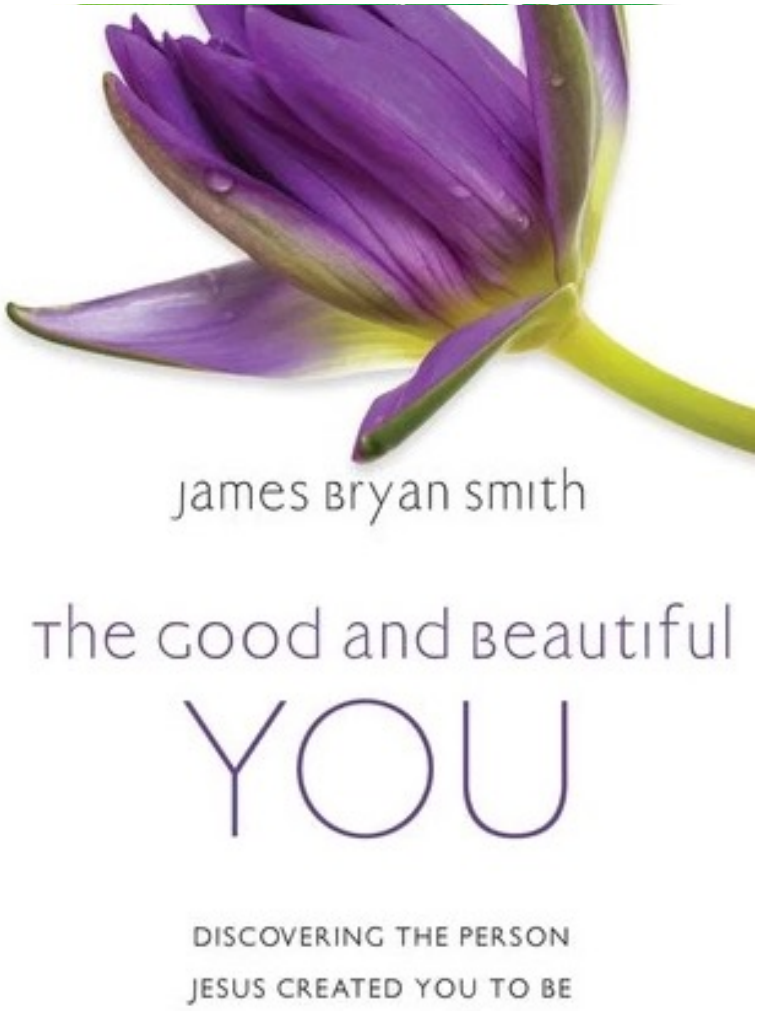


## FALSE NARRATIVE

People and things can fulfill
our deepest longings

## TRUE NARRATIVE

Only God can satisfy
our deepest longings



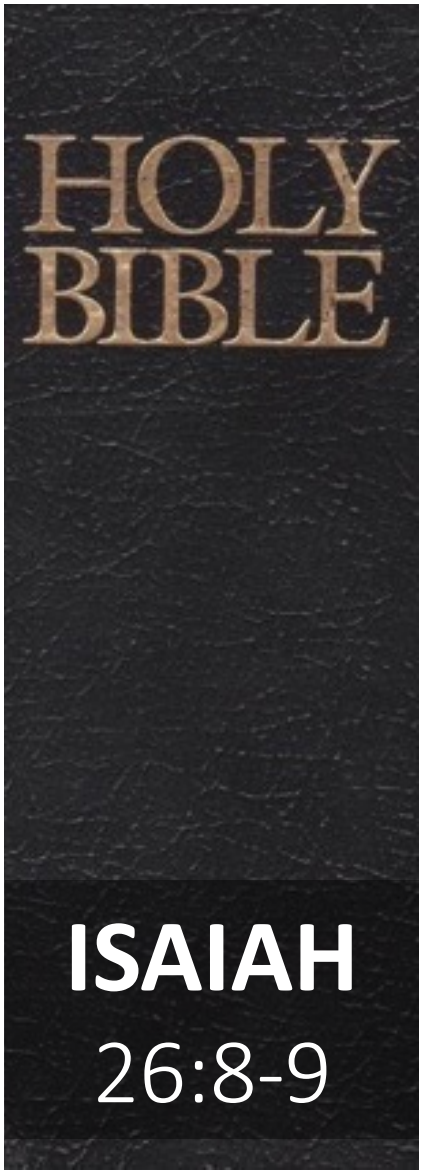
Our Maker created us with this longing to be connected because our Maker longs to be connected to us. But the divine connection requires humility and trust, authenticity and vulnerability…
If I make my career my god, I still maintain control. If I make my body an idol, I get to worship myself…



If material success is my ultimate aim, then I get to possess my possessions. (These illusions are also) competitive. I don't just find fulfillment in having money; I want to have more money than others. (And this competitiveness) leads to bigotry, racism, and classism. We don't see each other as sacred spiritual beings, but as more/less…

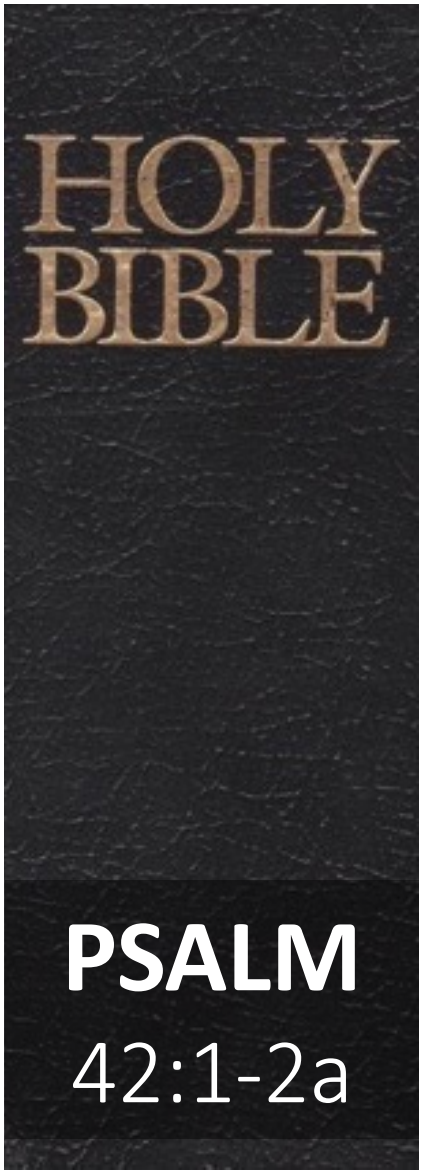


*Your name and your renown*
*are my soul's desire.*
*My soul years for you in the night,*
*my spirit within me earnestly seeks you.*




**ISAIAH**
26:8-9

*As a deer longs for flowing streams,*
*so my soul longs for you, O God.*
*My soul thirsts for God,*
*for the living God.*



And whereas God created this void in all of us, he did so in order to fill it completely and to satisfy our deepest longings with the perfect love of the Trinity. What we are searching for cannot be measured or fully quantified by our senses or by the sciences. But we all know it when we find it, if only for a moment.



Because the longing itself is a power, a dynamic, a gifted disrupter that will shake us out of our complacency and drive us deeper into the heart of God.



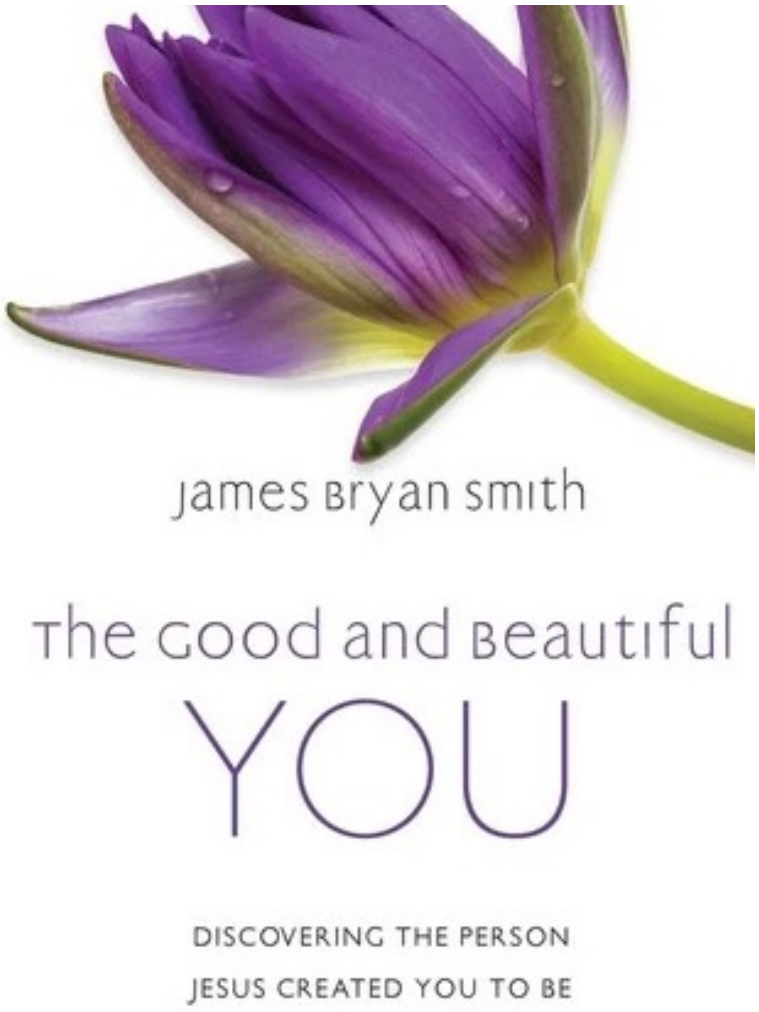
If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.



# SOUL TRAINING EXERCISE

***Intentionality in worship***

- Make a plan, set aside time
- Prepare our body, heart, mind:
  - Go to bed early on Saturday
  - Get to church early to connect, be still, and listen
  - Ask for a sense of God's presence and the Spirit's voice



You let us choose, O God,
between you and the false gods of this world.
In the midst of the night of sin and death,
wake us from our slumber
and call us forth to greet Christ,
so that with eyes and hearts fixed on him,
we may follow to eternal light.
Amen.



# CLOSING PRAYER