

PARTICIPATION

Sarah Small





HEBREWS 12

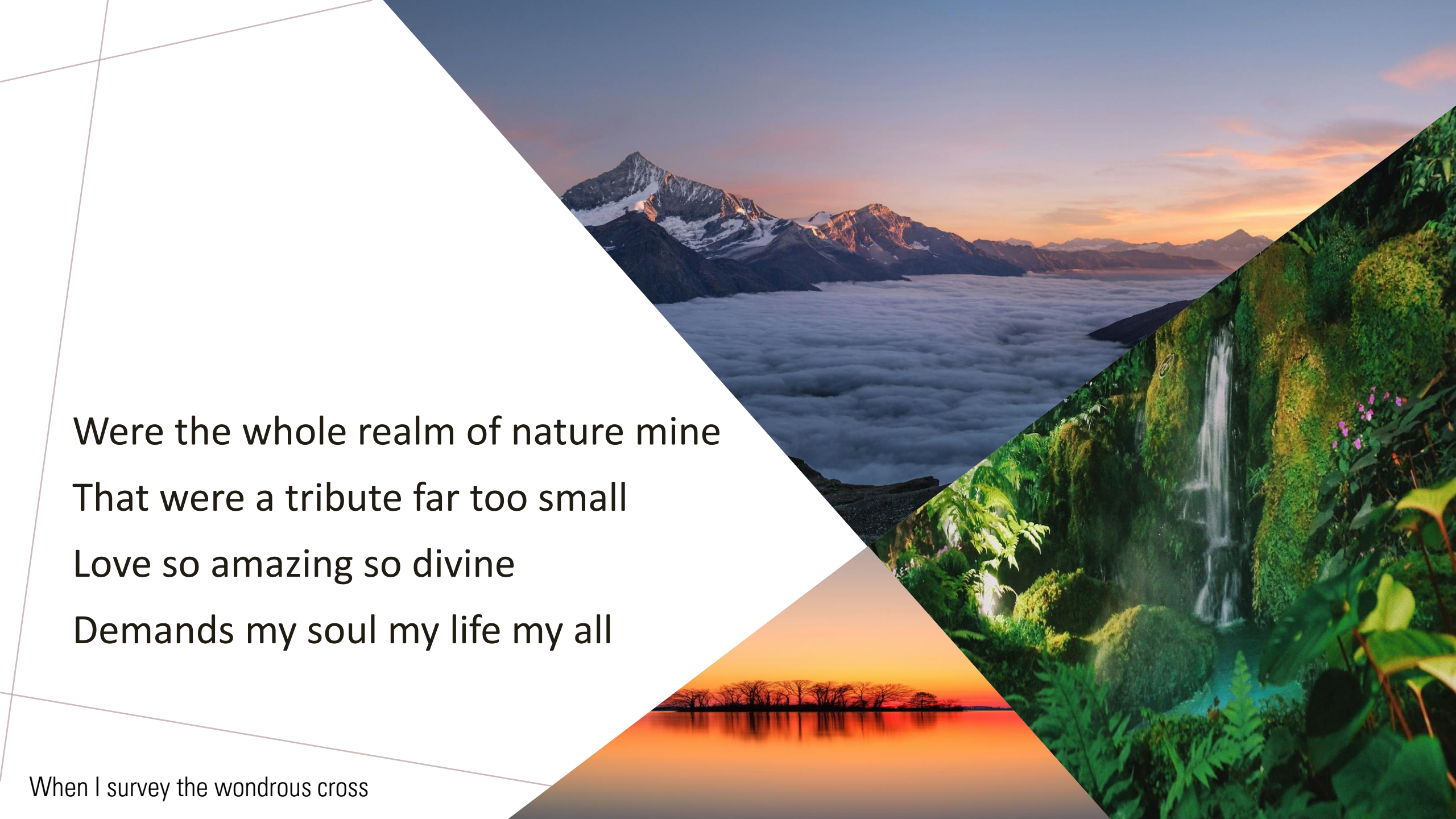
1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



Churches in Europe are facing a major existential crisis; some even fearing for their very existence. This is evidenced by: falling numbers in the congregations of their respective churches; diminishing human resources with a shortage of willing people to participate in God's mission via the Church; and when people do participate it is as volunteers and not disciples (that is, people often do what fits their free time and not what their faith demands).

Professor Anthony Reddie



Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were a tribute far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all

When I survey the wondrous cross

1. LOVE OF GOD

As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Abide in my love.

John 15:9

2. MISSION OF GOD



3. SUFFERING OF GOD

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him.

Philippians 1:29

3. JOY OF GOD

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Matthew 25:23