



WELCOME
TO
SELAH
סלה

Our annual journey to the cross is here

Relax. Rest. Breathe. For the next two hours nothing else matters but you, us, & God.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS



LENT




*A reminder of invitation in this
season of Lent*

We are a community of seekers trying to live with God in this world




**Our liturgy, Our service to God,
Our work of God, Our Opus Dei**



Blow the Rams Horn:
The Shekinah Glory of
the Lord rests on us
in this place.

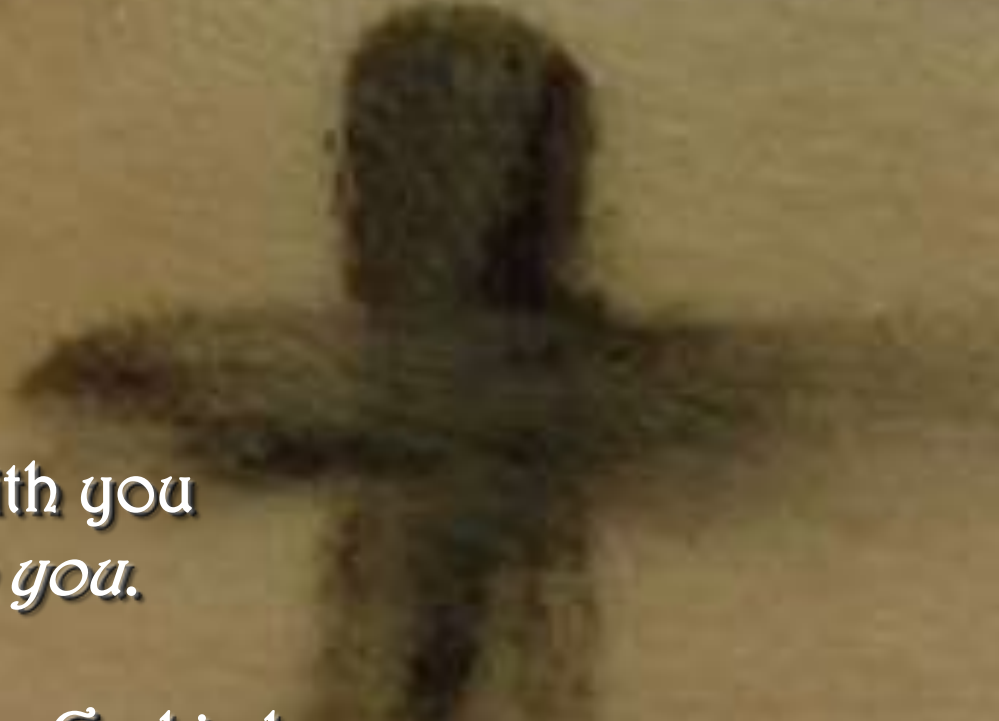
The Invitatory

A close-up portrait of Neytiri, a Na'vi character from the movie Avatar: The Way of Water. She has blue skin, yellow eyes, and is wearing traditional braided hair and a necklace. The background is a blurred, glowing blue-green forest.

I not only
see you.

But I hear you too.

- God



The Lord be with you
And Also with you.

Breathe deeply, God is here.
Here is this place of rest and refuge.

God we return to you
Restore us so we might help you restore this world.

All that I am Lord, *I place into your hands*
All that I do Lord, *I place into your hands*
All that I work for Lord, *I place into your hands*
All that I hope for Lord, *I place into your hands*
The troubles that worry me Lord, *I place into your hands*
The worries that weary me Lord, *I place into your hands*
All that I care for Lord, *I place into your hands*
All that I pray for Lord, *I place into your hands*



A Sound bite from our ancient brothers and sisters:



I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—
on the road God called you to travel.

I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone
strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere.

And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts,
but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other
in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

From the letter of Paul to the church in Ephesus, Ch 4, vs 1.



COME.
STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC...

FOR TWO HOURS STEP AWAY FROM... FOR TWO HOURS STEP OUT OF...
FOR TWO HOURS LEAVE BEHIND...
FOR TWO HOURS...

Step out of the traffic & take a long loving look at God



Be here. Be with each other. Be with God.

The lighting of the candles



Praying with Church



For He is my Helper and Protector.

He is my God and I glorify Him.

**God of my father, grandfather, and all grandfathers before me
is He and I exalt Him.**

I exalt Him, for He is greatly glorified.

-Ancient Liturgy of the Church

We are a thankful people.

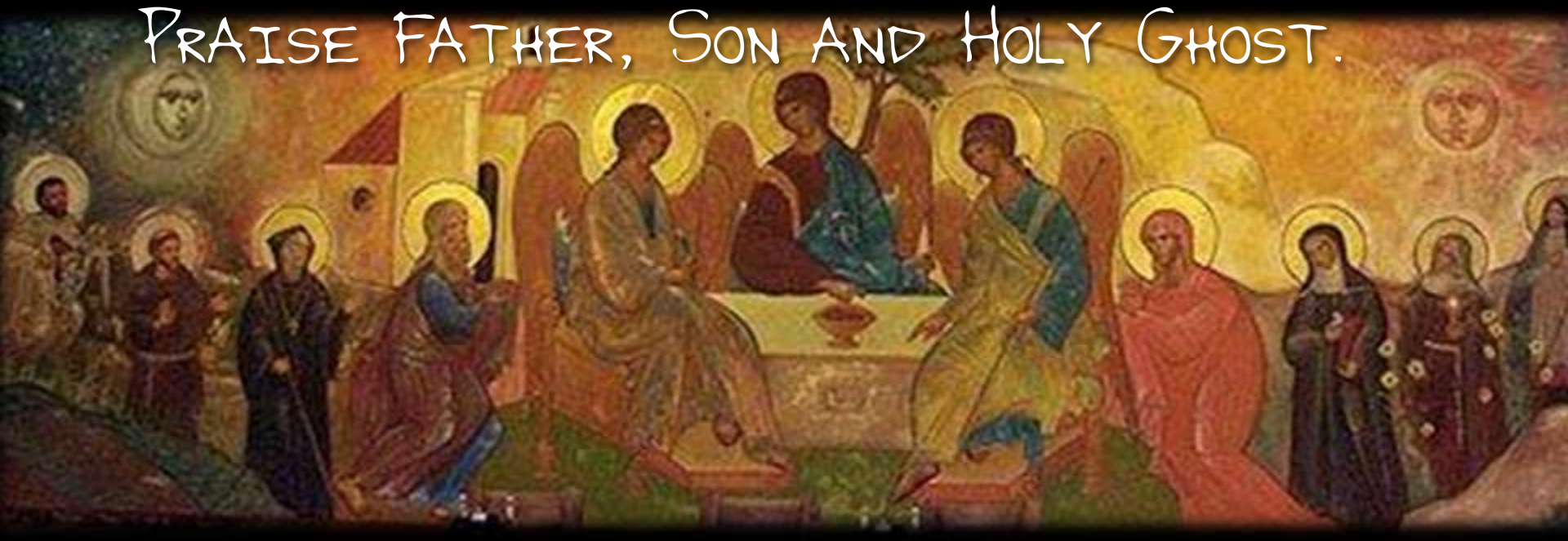
We give thanks to God:

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

PRAISE HIM ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW

PRAISE HIM ABOVE YE HEAVENLY HOSTS

PRAISE FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST.



We are a thankful people.

We pause to remember
Our friend Affisu
And our commitment
To be community with him.



We are thankful for the food that has been
lovingly prepared for us by our parents.

And we give thanks for each other:



LET'S

Eat

the Searching

*Hear God's invitation
Hear God's call*



In lent we are encouraged to care for those things which ultimately matter and to leave behind those things which inhibit our participation in the life of God and the life around us”

- Steven Purcell

The Lenten Practice.



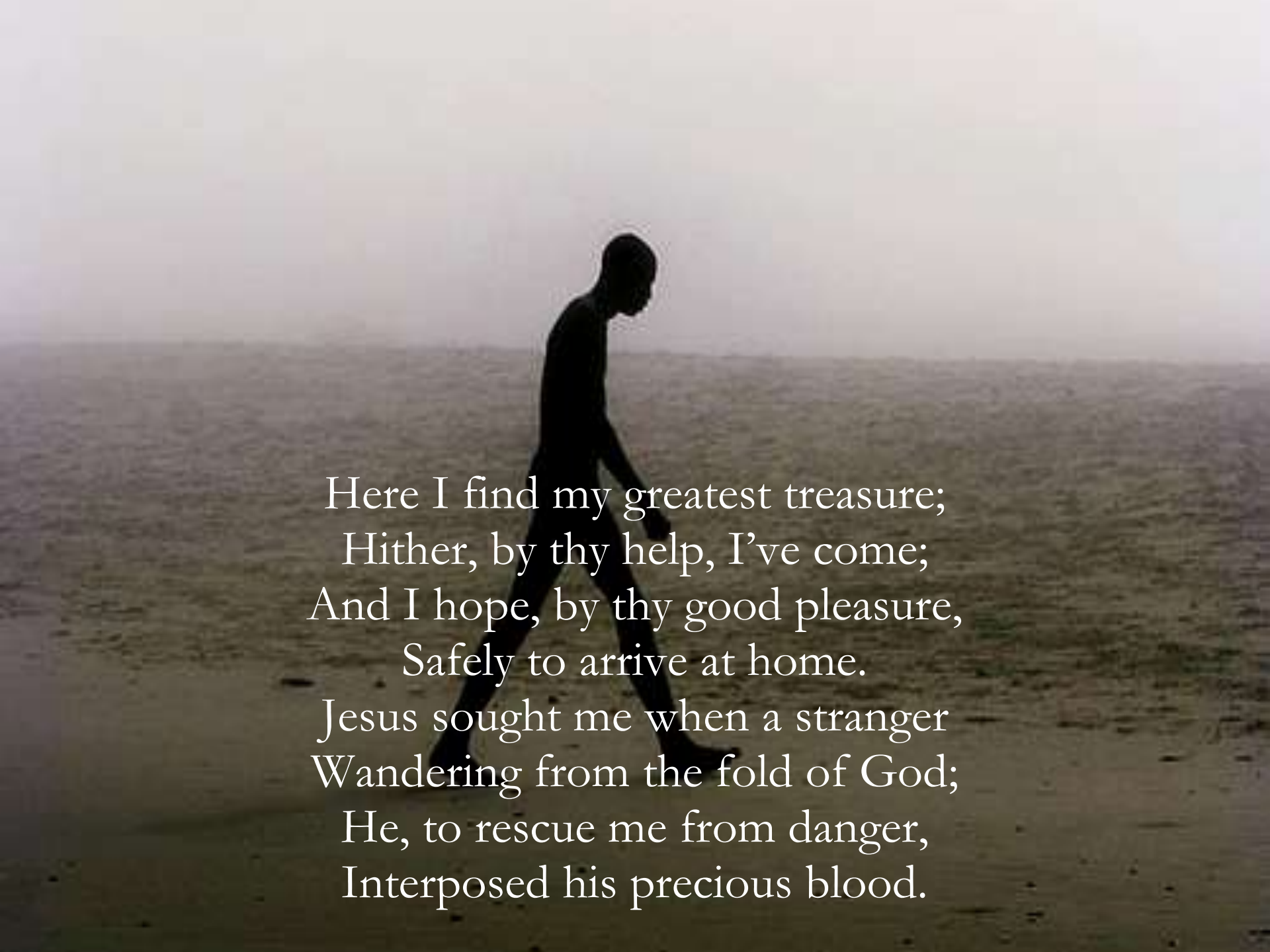
Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me
and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is
any offensive way in me, and lead me in *the way*
everlasting. *From Psalm 139*





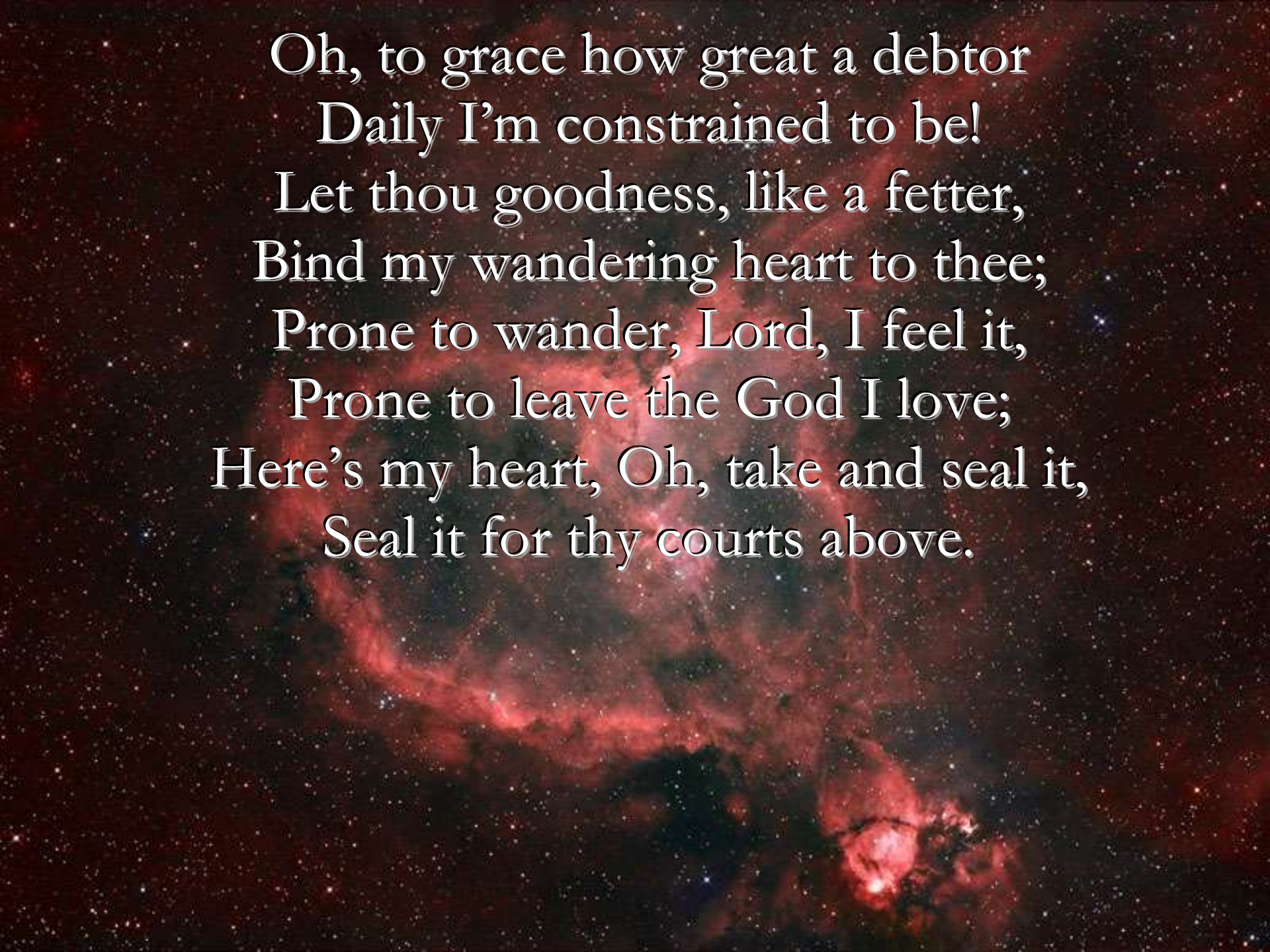
COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

A silhouette of a person walking on a beach at sunset or sunrise, with the ocean in the background. The person is walking from left to right, and the sky is a mix of orange and grey. The text is overlaid on the image in a white serif font.

Here I find my greatest treasure;
Hither, by thy help, I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.



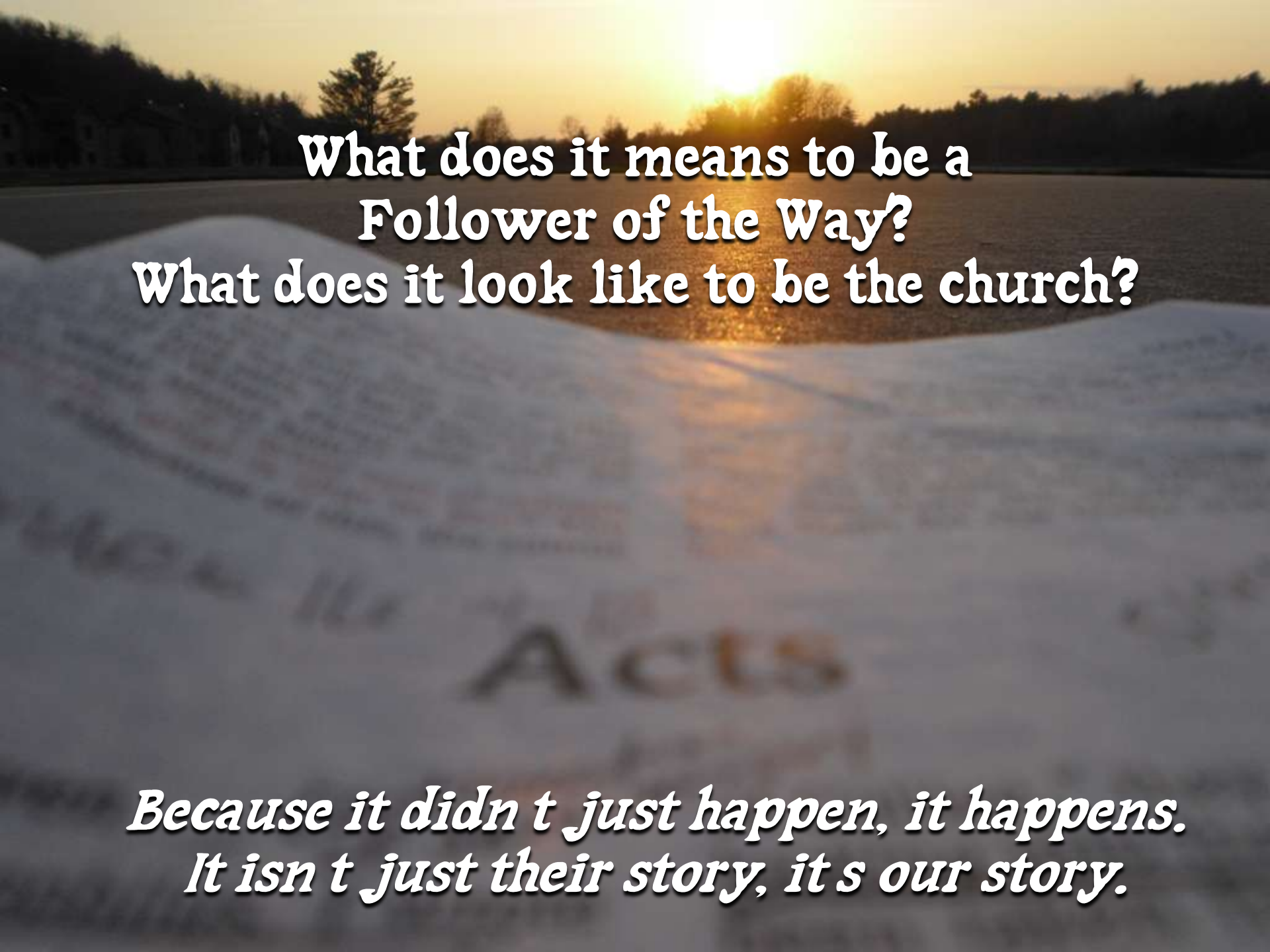
Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thou goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee;
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Oh, take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

***“Come let us reason together”
says the Lord.***

From the prophet Isaiah, Ch 1.

IN SEARCH OF: STONES.



A photograph of a snowy landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. A path of snow leads from the foreground towards the sun. The background shows a line of trees under a hazy sky.

**What does it mean to be a
Follower of the Way?
What does it look like to be the church?**

*Because it didn't just happen, it happens.
It isn't just their story, it's our story.*

Seven Chosen to Serve

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Stephen Is Seized

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Stephen, Full of the Holy Spirit

¹Then the Chief Priest said, "What do you have to say for yourself?"

²⁻³Stephen replied, "Friends, fathers, and brothers, the God of glory

appeared to our father Abraham when he was still in Mesopotamia, before the move to Haran, and told him, 'Leave your country and family and go to the land I'll show you.' ⁴⁻⁷"So he left the country of the Chaldees and moved to Haran. After the death of his father, he immigrated to this country where you now live, but God gave him nothing, not so much as a foothold. He did promise to give the country to him and his son later on, even though Abraham had no son at the time. God let him know that his offspring would move to an alien country where they would be enslaved and brutalized for four hundred years. 'But,' God said, 'I will step in and take care of those slaveholders and bring my people out so they can worship me in this place.'

⁸"Then he made a covenant with him and signed it in Abraham's flesh by circumcision. When Abraham had his son Isaac, within eight days he reproduced the sign of circumcision in him. Isaac became father of Jacob, and Jacob father of twelve 'fathers,' each faithfully passing on the covenant sign.

⁹⁻¹⁰"But then those 'fathers,' burning up with jealousy, sent Joseph off to Egypt as a slave. God was right there with him, though—he not only rescued him from all his troubles but brought him to the attention of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. He was so impressed with Joseph that he put him in charge of the whole country, including his own personal affairs.

¹¹⁻¹⁵"Later a famine descended on that entire region, stretching from Egypt to Canaan, bringing terrific hardship. Our hungry fathers looked high and low for food, but the cupboard was bare. Jacob heard there was food in Egypt and sent our fathers to scout it out. Having confirmed the report, they went back to Egypt a second time to get food. On that visit, Joseph revealed his true identity to his brothers and introduced the Jacob family to Pharaoh. Then Joseph sent for his father, Jacob, and everyone else in the family, seventy-five in all. That's how the Jacob family got to Egypt.

Stephen, Full of the Holy Spirit

- 15-16" Jacob died, and our fathers after him. They were taken to Shechem and buried in the tomb for which Abraham paid a good price to the sons of Hamor.
- 17-19" When the four hundred years were nearly up, the time God promised Abraham for deliverance, the population of our people in Egypt had become very large. And there was now a king over Egypt who had never heard of Joseph. He exploited our race mercilessly. He went so far as forcing us to abandon our newborn infants, exposing them to the elements to die a cruel death.
- 20-22" In just such a time Moses was born, a most beautiful baby. He was hidden at home for three months. When he could be hidden no longer, he was put outside—and immediately rescued by Pharaoh's daughter, who mothered him as her own son. Moses was educated in the best schools in Egypt. He was equally impressive as a thinker and an athlete.
- 23-26" When he was forty years old, he wondered how everything was going with his Hebrew kin and went out to look things over. He saw an Egyptian abusing one of them and stepped in, avenging his underdog brother by knocking the Egyptian flat. He thought his brothers would be glad that he was on their side, and even see him as an instrument of God to deliver them. But they didn't see it that way. The next day two of them were fighting and he tried to break it up, told them to shake hands and get along with each other: 'Friends, you are brothers, why are you beating up on each other?'
- 27-29" The one who had started the fight said, 'Who put you in charge of us? Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian yesterday?' When Moses heard that, realizing that the word was out, he ran for his life and lived in exile over in Midian. During the years of exile, two sons were born to him.
- 30-32" Forty years later, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, an angel appeared to him in the guise of flames of a burning bush. Moses, not believing his eyes, went up to take a closer look. He heard God's voice: 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' Frightened nearly out of his skin, Moses shut his eyes and turned away.

From the Acts of the Apostles, Ch 6

33-34"God said, 'Kneel and pray. You are in a holy place, on holy ground. I've seen the agony of my people in Egypt. I've heard their groans. I've come to help them. So get yourself ready; I'm sending you back to Egypt.'

35-39" This is the same Moses whom they earlier rejected, saying, 'Who put you in charge of us?' This is the Moses that God, using the angel flaming in the burning bush, sent back as ruler and redeemer. He led them out of their slavery. He did wonderful things, setting up God-signs all through Egypt, down at the Red Sea, and out in the wilderness for forty years. This is the Moses who said to his congregation, 'God will raise up a prophet just like me from your descendants.' This is the Moses who stood between the angel speaking at Sinai and your fathers assembled in the wilderness and took the life-giving words given to him and handed them over to us, words our fathers would have nothing to do with.

39-41" They craved the old Egyptian ways, whining to Aaron, 'Make us gods we can see and follow. This Moses who got us out here miles from nowhere—who knows what's happened to him!' That was the time when they made a calf-idol, brought sacrifices to it, and congratulated each other on the wonderful religious program they had put together.

42-43" God wasn't at all pleased; but he let them do it their way, worship every new god that came down the pike—and live with the consequences, consequences described by the prophet Amos:

Did you bring me offerings of animals and grains
those forty wilderness years, O Israel?
Hardly. You were too busy building shrines
to war gods, to sex goddesses,
Worshiping them with all your might.
That's why I put you in exile in Babylon.

44-47" And all this time our ancestors had a tent shrine for true worship, made to the exact specifications God provided Moses. They had it with them as they followed Joshua, when God cleared the land of pagans, and still had it right down to the time of David. David asked God for a permanent place for worship. But Solomon built it.

48-50"Yet that doesn't mean that Most High God lives in a building made by carpenters and masons. The prophet Isaiah put it well when he wrote,

"Heaven is my throne room;
I rest my feet on earth.

So what kind of house
will you build me?" says God.

"Where I can get away and relax?
It's already built, and I built it."

51-53"And you continue, so bullheaded! Calluses on your hearts, flaps on your ears! Deliberately ignoring the Holy Spirit, you're just like your ancestors. Was there ever a prophet who didn't get the same treatment? Your ancestors killed anyone who dared talk about the coming of the Just One. And you've kept up the family tradition—traitors and murderers, all of you. You had God's Law handed to you by angels—gift-wrapped!—and you squandered it!"

54-56At that point they went wild, a rioting mob of catcalls and whistles and invective. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, hardly noticed—he only had eyes for God, whom he saw in all his glory with Jesus standing at his side. He said, "Oh! I see heaven wide open and the Son of Man standing at God's side!"

57-58Yelling and hissing, the mob drowned him out. Now in full stampede, they dragged him out of town and pelted him with rocks. The ringleaders took off their coats and asked a young man named Saul to watch them.

59And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Responding to God's words to us

- Reading
- Ruminating
- Responding
- Resting

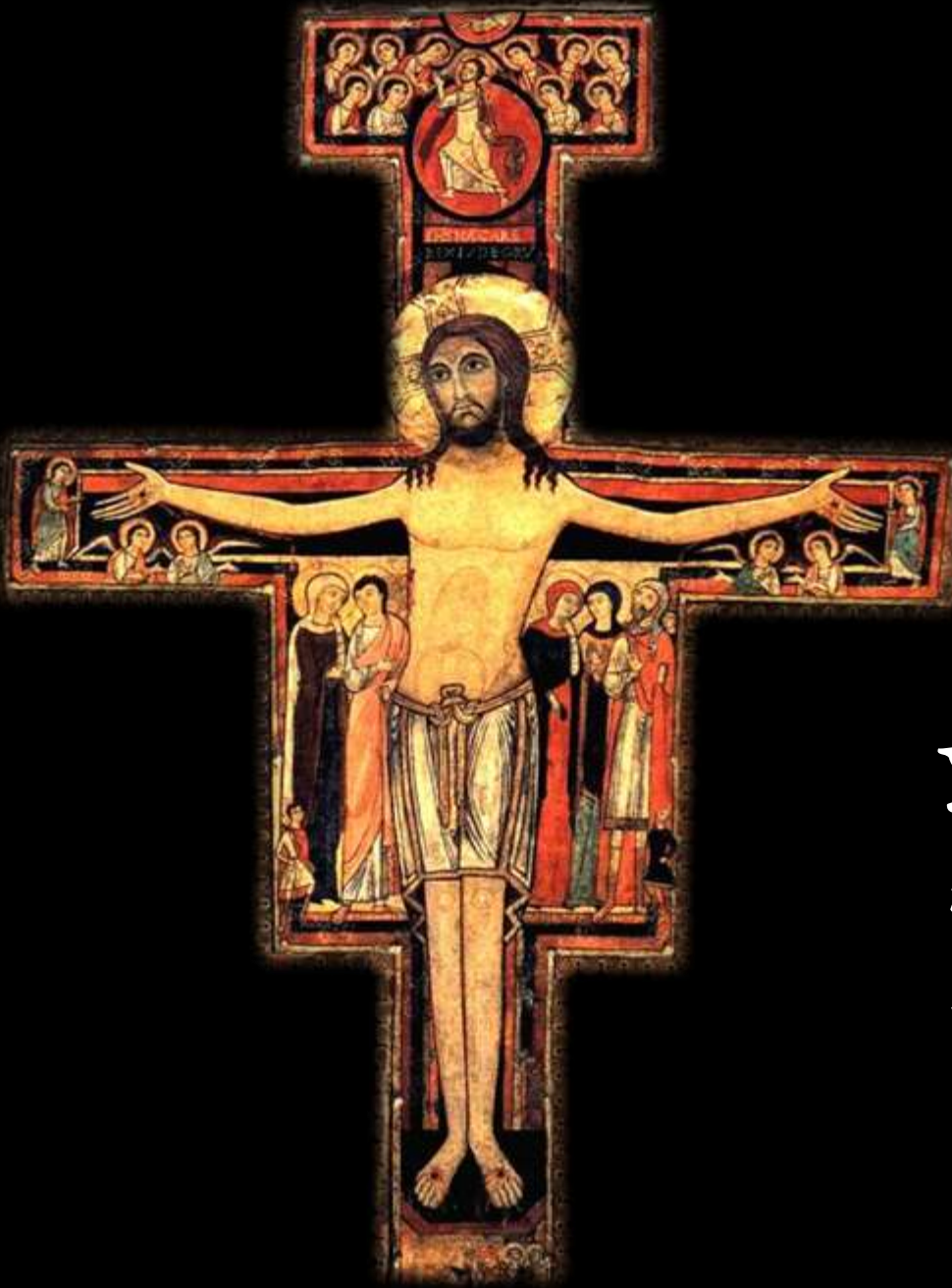
Lectio
Divina



A black and white photograph of a person kneeling in prayer in a church. The person is in the foreground, seen from behind, with their head bowed. In the background, a large, illuminated cross is visible on the wall. The scene is dimly lit, creating a solemn and reverent atmosphere.

**Jesus Christ
Son of God
Have Mercy
On Me.**

My Hope Is In You
(Psalm 25)



You are God, my
Savior, and my
hope is in You
all day long

A stone Celtic cross stands in the foreground, with a stone wall on the left and a coastal landscape in the background. The cross is made of dark stone and has intricate carvings. The wall is made of rough-hewn stones. In the background, there is a body of water, a town, and hills under a cloudy sky.

*As it was
in the
beginning
Is now
And will be
FOREVER MORE*

CONVERSATIONS

Because *WE'RE IN THIS THING TOGETHER.*



LENT As TRAINING GROUND

And we don't want to just talk about it but we want
To work this out into the details of our everyday life.



Silhouettes for a Season:

*An invitation to fast and pray during Lent,
centering around our participation
in God's restoration of this world.*

***Silhouette Retreat: Feb 26-28th
Camp Cumberland Pines***

The 30 Hour Famine reborn.

The Retreat



- Two weeks from now, Feb 26-28th
- We need registrations by next Sunday
- \$35 plus money for lunch on the way home
- Leaving 4:30pm from the church, be back Sunday after lunch.
- We are going to Pines.
- Expect the usual: creative ways of prayer & worship, fabulous big games, service projects on Saturday, conversation, music, sabbath

- Expect the unusual: Fasting. *Eat a snack afterschool on Friday and a good lunch.*
- We've got some money to raise and we have to decide what to raise money for.
- Registration Form and even more info can be downloaded from the website!

Announcements:

- Registrations for Silhouettes really need to be in today!!!!!!
- An experiment in being the church for Lent:
Looking for 10 people to join Brett and I!

A mosaic of Jesus Christ with a beard and long hair, wearing a blue robe and a red sash. He is looking directly at the viewer with a serious expression. The background is a golden mosaic pattern.

The Blessing

May you go from here with the strength and joy to *be* the church out there in the world.

May you live believing that the same Spirit that was given to the first Christians is given to you.

May you live believing that heaven and earth still meet in us as followers of the One we call the Way.

May you live as martyrs of the faith!

The PEACE OF THE LORD be always with you!

Benediction:

May you go from here unafraid and in peace holding close the hands with which you share this way. May you find yourself this lent returning to life as it should be, life lived with God and with each other. May you hear God inviting you to get in on his work in this world. And may you come to find your place in the story God has been telling since the beginning of time.

Go in peace and heal your world.

SHALOM



Peace · Be · Unto · You

Our Father...
Who is in heaven...
Holy is your name..
Your kingdom come...
Your way be done...
On earth as it is in heaven...
Give us this day our daily bread
Forgive us our trespasses...
as we forgive those who trespass against us....
And lead us not into temptation...

Lent:
Stripping
Things
Back
To
The
Basics