

# WELCOME TO SELAH

## סלה

Enter the season of light, the season after the Epiphany.

It's really good to have you here. Thanks for coming.

# The Carnival Season



# Living on the Edge

## Of heaven and earth



Trying to *be* the church as we learn to live life with God in this world.



# THE INVITATORY

Worship:  
*offering  
our hearts,  
our minds,  
our bodies &  
our souls  
to God*

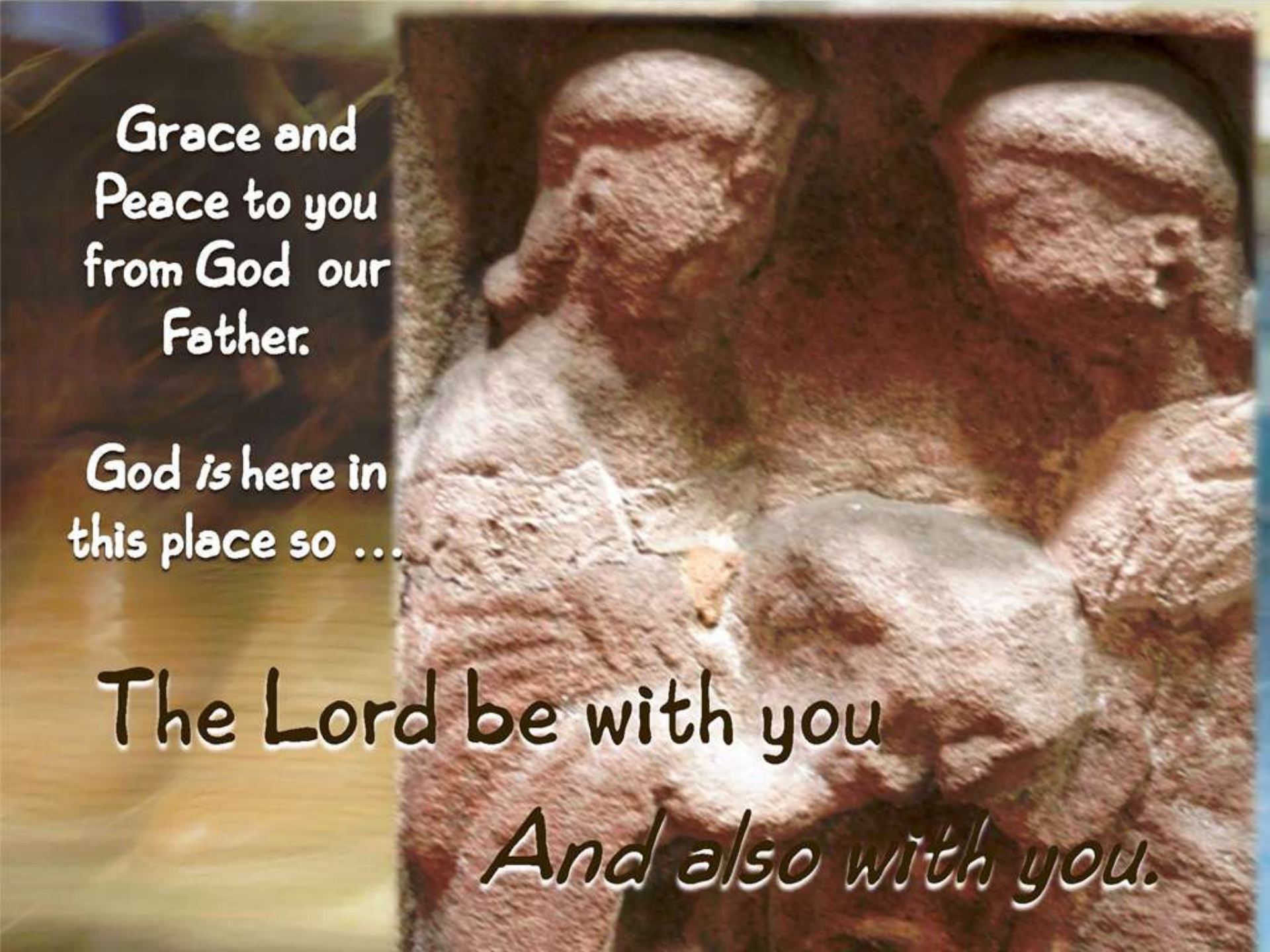


# THE INVITATORY

Worship:

*Anything that  
brings delight  
to God.*

*Anything that  
says to God:  
I love you, too.*




Grace and  
Peace to you  
from God our  
Father.

God is here in  
this place so ...

The Lord be with you

*And also with you.*



The Lord be with you  
*And Also with you.*

Christ has come.  
*Christ is here.*



Light from Light,  
*True God from true God.*

God revealed to us.  
*God present in our world.*

All that I speak  
*Be blessed to me O God.*

All that I hear  
*Be blessed to me O God.*

All that I see  
*Be blessed to me O God.*

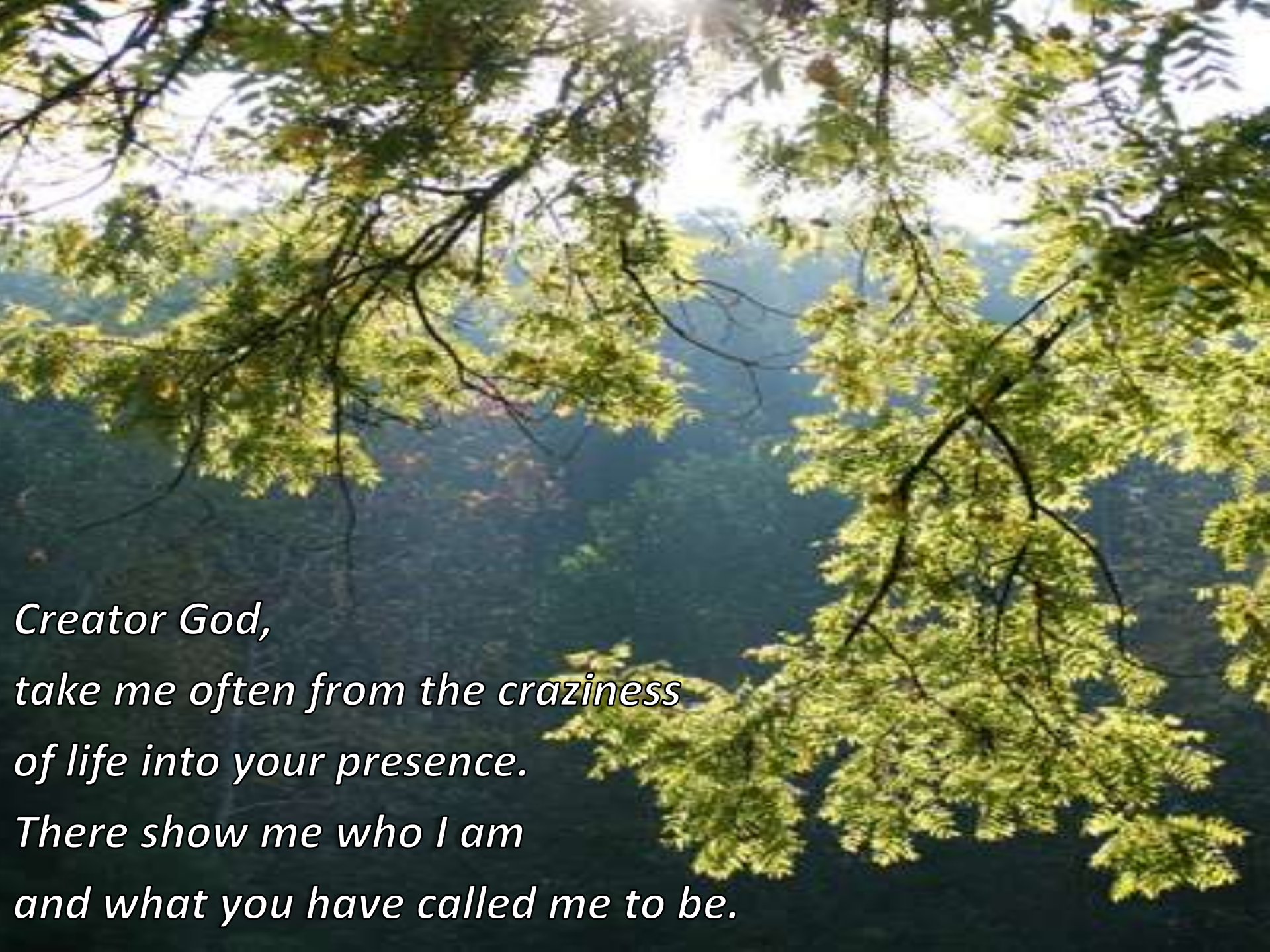
All that I touch  
*Be blessed to me O God.*

All that I taste  
*Be blessed to me O God.*

All that I find  
*Be blessed to me O God.*







*Creator God,  
take me often from the craziness  
of life into your presence.  
There show me who I am  
and what you have called me to be.*

A Versicle: Sound Bite from God

*“the lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd and he will guide them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”*

From the Revelation of John, Ch 7, vs 17.

*Step out of the traffic...*



*Cease striving. Just be.*

*Remember what matters. Remember what's real.*

*What do you need to step away from?*



What do you need to step towards this evening?  
What do you need from God this evening?

Cease striving & step out of the traffic  
& take a long loving look at God -Ps 41

# THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SHARE  
THE  
ROAD



Together:



Lord Jesus stay with us for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the Way. Kindle our hearts and awaken hope so that we might know you through the scriptures and the breaking of bread.

# Being Thankful

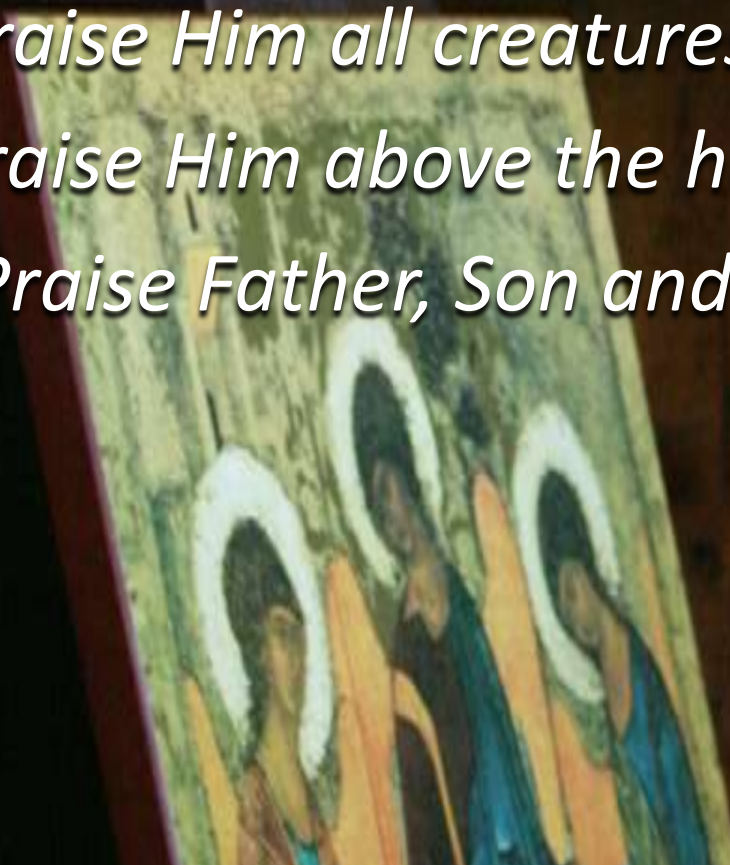
## The Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise Him all creatures here below.*

*Praise Him above the heavenly host.*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*



A wooden picnic table stands in the center of a forest floor covered in fallen autumn leaves. The trees are mostly bare, with some green foliage visible in the background. The lighting is soft, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting.

Being the church:  
Gathering around the table:

*Give thanks for each other being here.*



# ***THE SEARCHING***

**THE LORD IS WITH YOU WHEN YOU ARE WITH HIM.  
IF YOU SEEK HIM, HE WILL BE FOUND BY YOU.**

**FROM 2 CHRONICLES 15:2**

***Living on the Edge: The Practice***

are marked in the Bible.

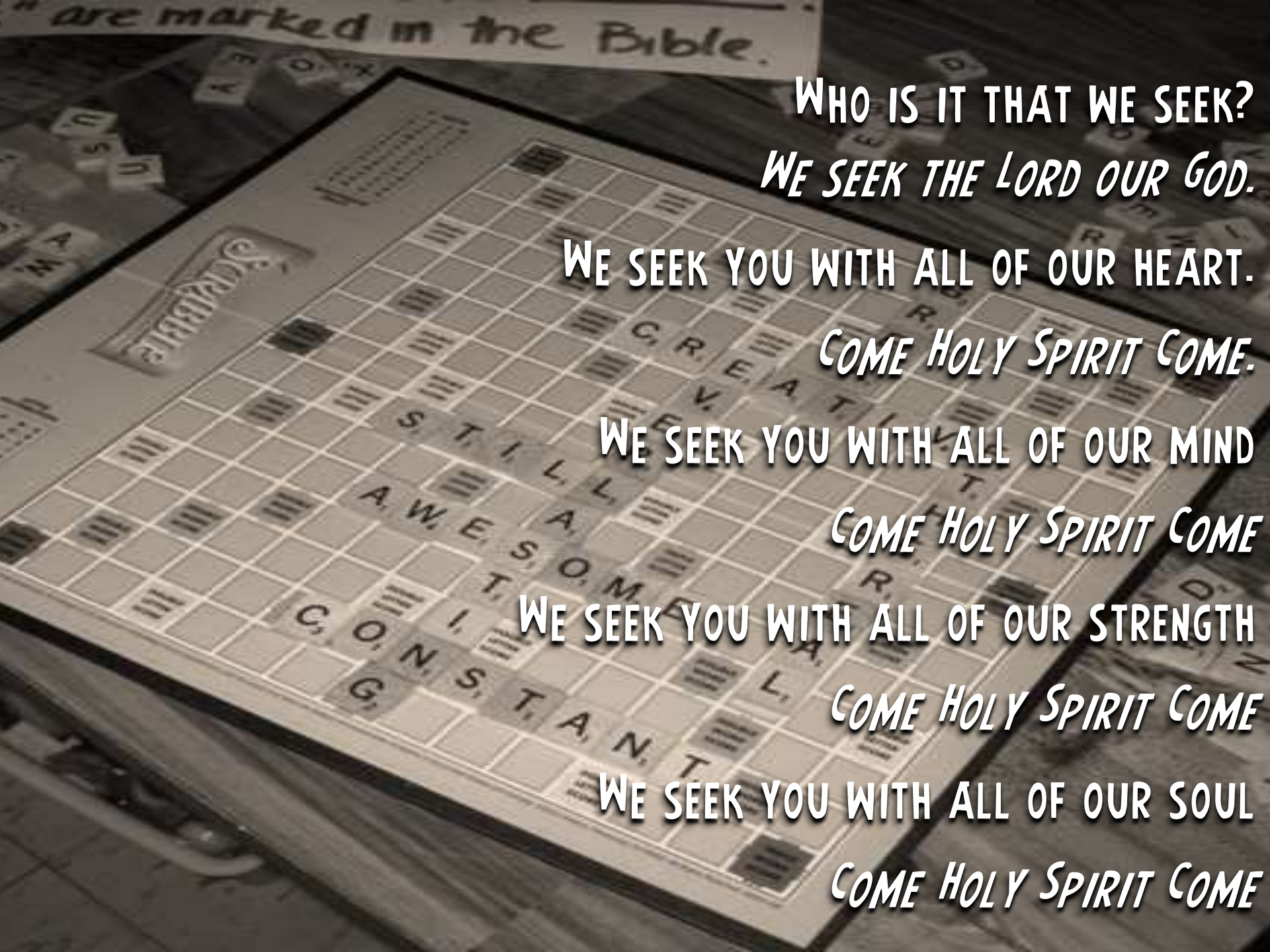
**WHO IS IT THAT WE SEEK?**  
*WE SEEK THE LORD OUR GOD.*

**WE SEEK YOU WITH ALL OF OUR HEART.**  
*COME HOLY SPIRIT COME.*

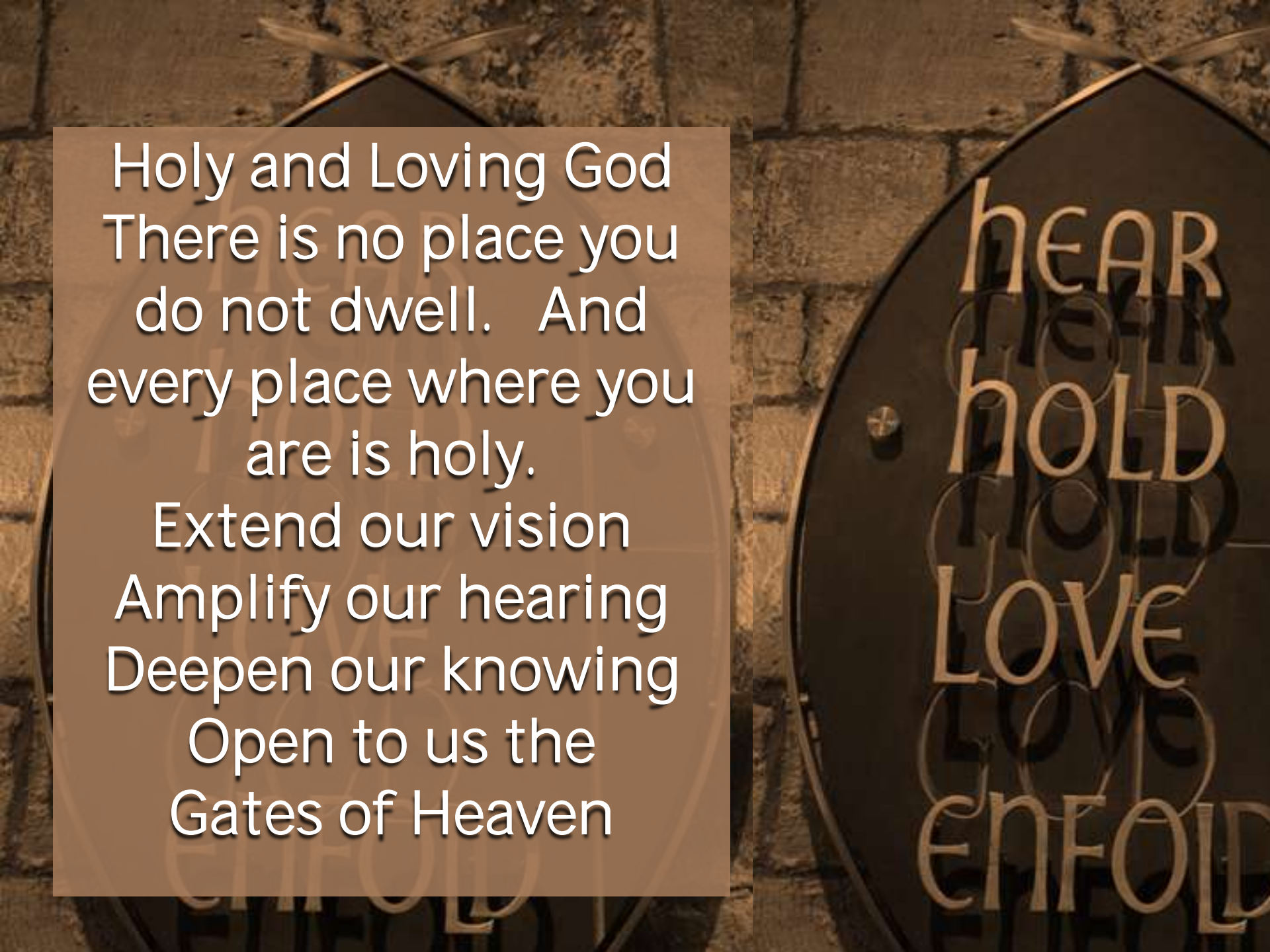
**WE SEEK YOU WITH ALL OF OUR MIND**  
*COME HOLY SPIRIT COME*

**WE SEEK YOU WITH ALL OF OUR STRENGTH**  
*COME HOLY SPIRIT COME*

**WE SEEK YOU WITH ALL OF OUR SOUL**  
*COME HOLY SPIRIT COME*







Holy and Loving God  
There is no place you  
do not dwell. And  
every place where you  
are is holy.

Extend our vision  
Amplify our hearing  
Deepen our knowing  
Open to us the  
Gates of Heaven

HEAR  
HOLD  
LOVE  
ENFOLD



# *The Spoken Prayers of our Community*

*i.e. the prayers of the people*

# **Step by Step**

**Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise you.**

**Oh God, You are my God  
And I will ever praise you.**

A photograph of a path lined with trees in autumn. The ground is covered in fallen leaves, and the trees have sparse foliage. The text is overlaid on the image.

**And I will seek you in the morning**

**And I will learn to walk in your ways**

**And step by step you lead me**

**And I will follow you all of my days**

A photograph of a two-lane asphalt road winding through a forest. The trees on the left have vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, red, and yellow. The trees on the right are mostly evergreens and some bare deciduous trees. The road has a white shoulder line on the left and double yellow lines in the center. The sky is overcast and grey.

**I will follow you all of my days.**

**I will follow you all of my days.**

**And step by step you lead me.**

**And I will follow you all of my days.**





**And I will seek you in the morning**

**And I will learn to walk in your ways**

**And step by step you lead me**

**And I will follow you all of my days**

# *The Song of Hannah*

*From 1 Samuel Chapter 2*

Hannah prayed: I'm bursting with GOD-news! I'm walking on air. I'm laughing at my rivals. I'm dancing my salvation. Nothing and no one is holy like GOD, no rock mountain like our God.

Don't dare talk pretentiously— not a word of boasting, ever! For GOD knows what's going on. He takes the measure of everything that happens. The weapons of the strong are smashed to pieces, while the weak are infused with fresh strength.

The well-fed are out begging in the streets for crusts, while the hungry are getting second helpings. The barren woman has a houseful of children, while the mother of many is bereft.

GOD brings death and GOD brings life, brings down to the grave and raises up. GOD brings poverty and GOD brings wealth; he lowers, he also lifts up.

He puts poor people on their feet again; he rekindles burned-out lives with fresh hope, Restoring dignity and respect to their lives— a place in the sun!

For the very structures of earth are GOD's; he has laid out his operations on a firm foundation. He protectively cares for his faithful friends, step by step, but leaves the wicked to stumble in the dark.

No one makes it in this life by sheer muscle! GOD's enemies will be blasted out of the sky, crashed in a heap and burned. GOD will set things right all over the earth, he'll give strength to his king, he'll set his anointed on top of the world!

# PEACE BE STILL

A silhouette of a person with their arms outstretched, standing on a rocky outcrop overlooking the ocean. The background is a dramatic sunset sky with vibrant colors of orange, red, and purple. The person's silhouette is dark against the bright, colorful sky.

**Peace be still,  
Peace be still,  
The storm rages  
Peace, be still.**



Surely God

Surely God is in this place

Holy Ground

Surely God is in this place

Holy Ground

Bless The Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul,

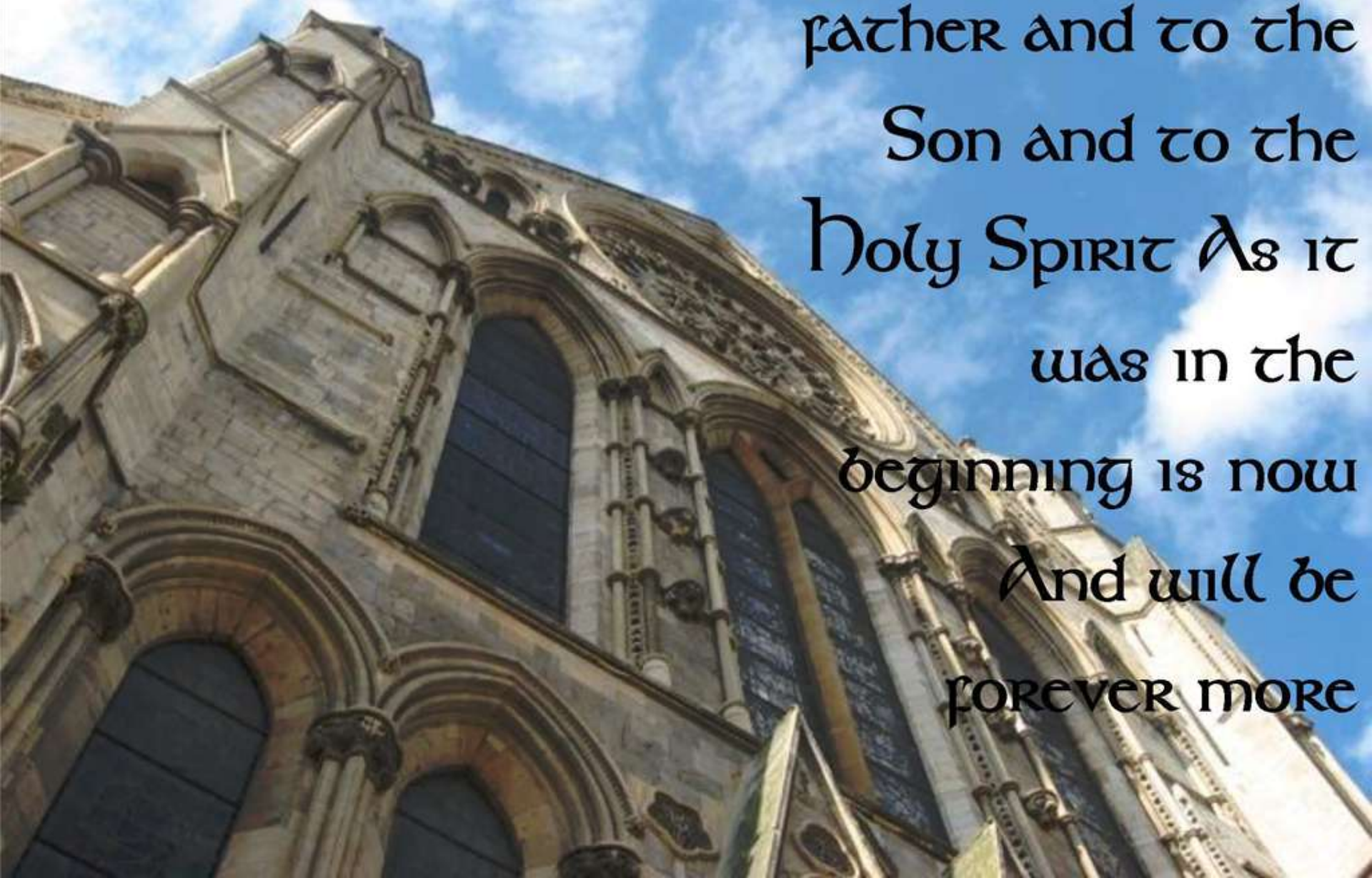
And bless God's holy name.

Bless The Lord, my soul,

Who leads me into life.

Offering together *the Song of the Church:*

GLORY to the  
father and to the  
Son and to the  
Holy Spirit As it  
was in the  
beginning is now  
And will be  
forever more



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

*From the prophet Isaiah, Ch 1.*

**IN SEARCH OF: GOOD POSTURE**



# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- Author: Luke
- Written: 63-65 AD
- Audience: Theophilus
- Purpose:
  - Reassure and Encourage
  - Historical record

**“Supernatural intervention, astounding miracles, powerful preaching, breathtaking Escapes, harrowing journeys, life and death decisions, courtroom dramas, thrilling Rescues, action, mystery adventure.”**

*This is the life that Jesus came to bring us; the life that Jesus calls us too.*





– GROUNDED, COMMUNAL, OPEN-ENDED, ALIVE

*IT'S NOT JUST THEIR STORY, IT'S OUR STORY*

*IT DIDN'T JUST HAPPEN, IT STILL HAPPENS.*

– HOLY GROUND – A MEETING PLACE -- AN EDGE.

– HELPS US MAKE SENSE OF THE STORY WE'RE LIVING IN.

WHY SCRIPTURE?

# Ekklesia

"Where the church today finds itself stagnant, unattractive, humdrum and shrinking...it's time to read Acts 2:42-47 again, get down on our knees and ask what isn't happening that should be happening. The gospel hasn't changed. God's power hasn't diminished. People still need rescuing. What are we doing about it?"

## **Nothing to Hide**

## **GOOD POSTURE?**

<sup>1-4</sup>While Peter and John were addressing the people, the priests, the chief of the Temple police, and some Sadducees came up, indignant that these upstart apostles were instructing the people and proclaiming that the resurrection from the dead had taken place in Jesus. They arrested them and threw them in jail until morning, for by now it was late in the evening. But many of those who listened had already believed the Message—in round numbers about five thousand! <sup>5-7</sup>The next day a meeting was called in Jerusalem. The rulers, religious leaders, religion scholars, Annas the Chief Priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander—everybody who was anybody was there. They stood Peter and John in the middle of the room and grilled them: "Who put you in charge here? What business do you have doing this?"

<sup>8-12</sup>With that, Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, let loose: "Rulers and leaders of the people, if we have been brought to trial today for helping a sick man, put under investigation regarding this healing, I'll be completely frank with you—we have nothing to hide. By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the One you killed on a cross, the One God raised from the dead, by means of his name this man stands before you healthy and whole. Jesus is 'the stone you masons threw out, which is now the cornerstone.' Salvation comes no other way; no other name has been or will be given to us by which we can be saved, only this one."

*From the Acts of the Apostles, Ch 4*

13-14 They couldn't take their eyes off them—Peter and John standing there so confident, so sure of themselves! Their fascination deepened when they realized these two were laymen with no training in Scripture or formal education. They recognized them as companions of Jesus, but with the man right before them, seeing him standing there so upright—so healed!—what could they say against that?

15-17 They sent them out of the room so they could work out a plan. They talked it over: "What can we do with these men? By now it's known all over town that a miracle has occurred, and that they are behind it. There is no way we can refute that. But so that it doesn't go any further, let's silence them with threats so they won't dare to use Jesus' name ever again with anyone."

18-20 They called them back and warned them that they were on no account ever again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John spoke right back, "Whether it's right in God's eyes to listen to you rather than to God, you decide. As for us, there's no question—we can't keep quiet about what we've seen and heard."

21-22 The religious leaders renewed their threats, but then released them. They couldn't come up with a charge that would stick, that would keep them in jail. The people wouldn't have stood for it—they were all praising God over what had happened. The man who had been miraculously healed was over forty

**GOOD POSTURE?**

## **One Heart, One Mind**

<sup>23-26</sup>As soon as Peter and John were let go, they went to their friends and told them what the high priests and religious leaders had said. Hearing the report, they lifted their voices in a wonderful harmony in prayer: "Strong God, you made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. By the Holy Spirit you spoke through the mouth of your servant and our father, David:

Why the big noise, nations? — Why the mean plots, peoples?

Earth's leaders push for position, Potentates meet for summit talks,

The God-deniers, the Messiah-defiers!

<sup>27-28</sup>"For in fact they did meet—Herod and Pontius Pilate with nations and peoples, even Israel itself!—met in this very city to plot against your holy Son Jesus, the One you made Messiah, to carry out the plans you long ago set in motion.

<sup>29-30</sup>"And now they're at it again! Take care of their threats and give your servants fearless confidence in preaching your Message, as you stretch out your hand to us in healings and miracles and wonders done in the name of your holy servant Jesus."

<sup>31</sup>While they were praying, the place where they were meeting trembled and shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God's Word with fearless confidence.

**GOOD POSTURE?**

## **One Heart, One Mind**

<sup>32-33</sup>The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them.

<sup>34-35</sup>And so it turned out that not a person among them was needy. Those who owned fields or houses sold them and brought the price of the sale to the apostles and made an offering of it. The apostles then distributed it according to each person's need.

<sup>36-37</sup>Joseph, called by the apostles "Barnabas" (which means "Son of Comfort"), a Levite born in Cyprus, sold a field that he owned, brought the money, and made an offering of it to the apostles.

**GOOD POSTURE?**

# Conversations: Our response to God



## THE OFFERING: A POSTURE

Because we don't want to just talk about it, we want to work it into the details of our everyday lives.

And because ***WE'RE IN THIS THING TOGETHER.***

# Announcements:

- **Next Week Sunday: Processional Cross dedication as our invitatory.**
- **Friday Night Lights this FRIDAY!!!**
- **Thanksgiving Weekend: No Se\*lah; Advent Wreathes at 10am.**



# THE OFFERING.



# The Blessing

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

May you find new ways this week to remember God amidst your crazy busy days finding edges & gates & doors & windows to Heaven everywhere

May you find Peter and John's posture to speak with boldness, courageously led by the Spirit knowing undoubtedly that you don't need a diploma or a title or even a collar to be a vocal and active part of God's plan for Resurrection in this world!

And may you remember as you leave here, that just like Peter and John, Jesus chooses you.

***The PEACE OF THE LORD be always with you!***