

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

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

A photograph of a sunset over a vast, flat landscape. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, two people are sitting on the ground, their backs to the camera, looking out over the horizon. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

LIVING ON THE EDGE *Of heaven and earth*



worship

*Anything that brings
delight to God.*

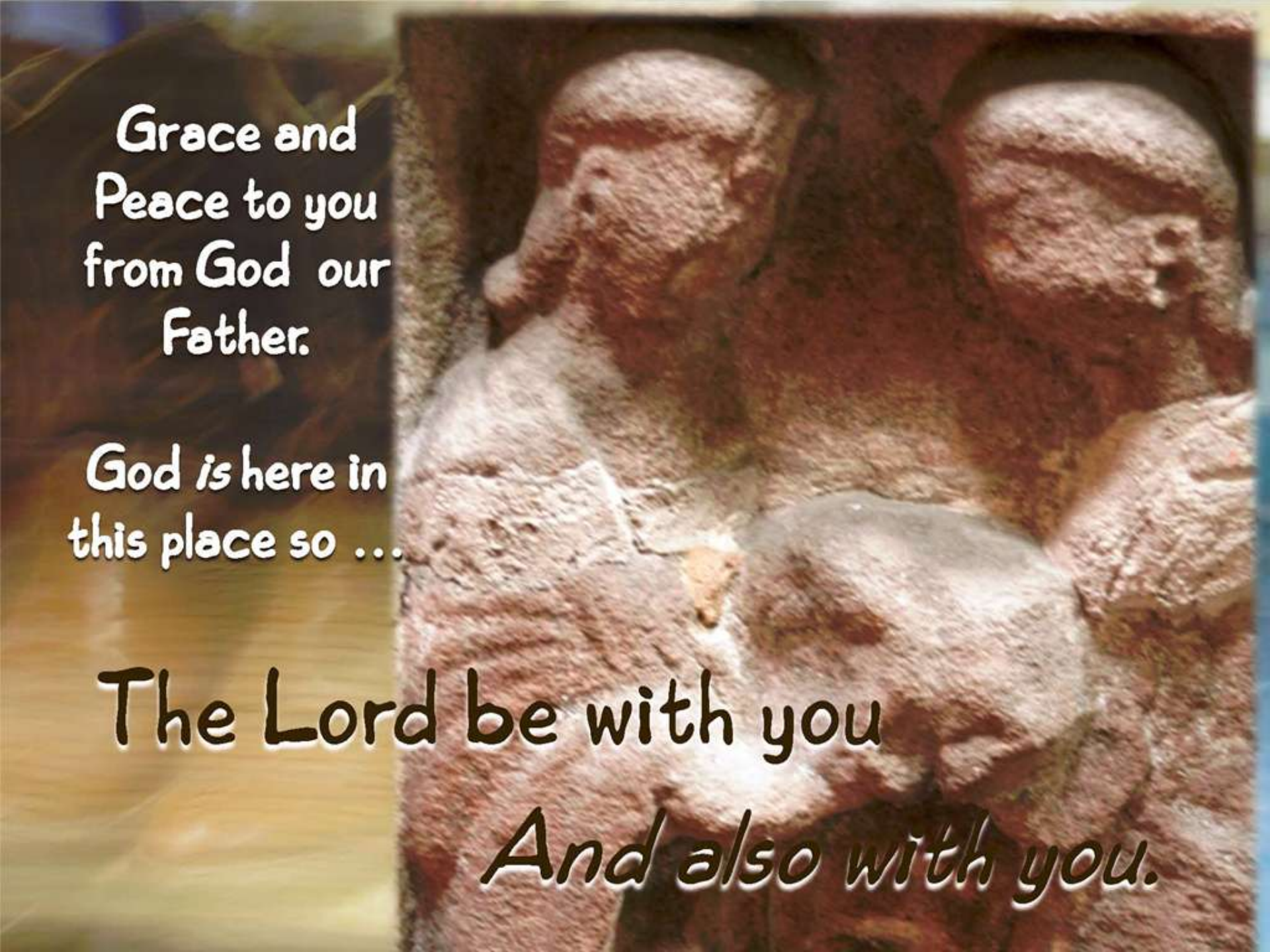
*Anything that says
to God:
I love you, too.*

*Offering God
our hearts,
our minds,
our bodies,
our souls,
our activity,
our lives.*

A photograph of a church interior. On the right side, there is a large, dark brown wooden door with a traditional panel design. Above the door, there is a window with three vertical panes of stained glass. The stained glass features a diamond or lattice pattern in various colors including blue, green, yellow, and red. The rest of the image is in deep shadow, showing a dark wooden altar area with a cross on the wall behind it.

THE INVITATORY:

COME TO ME. I'M HERE WAITING. -GOD



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.



*Christ has come. Christ is here.
The Light has shone. Lead us on.
God revealed to us. God present in our 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*



The Versicle: Letting God have the first word this evening.

Jesus said: Here's another way to put it:
You're here to be light, bringing out the
God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be
kept. We're going public with this, as public
as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers,
you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket,
do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that
've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine!

*From the Gospel of
Matthew
Ch 5; vs 14-16*



STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC...

WHAT IS IT YOU NEED TO STEP OUT OF SO YOU CAN BE FULLY PRESENT?
WHAT IS IT YOU NEED TO STEP TOWARDS?
WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM GOD THIS EVENING?

Step out of the traffic

And take a long loving look at God

Be still and be here.

Be still and be with each other

Be still and know God.



THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SHARE
THE
ROAD



A close-up photograph of a lit candle in a glass holder, with a blurred background of red fabric. The candle is lit, and its flame is bright yellow and orange. The background is a soft, out-of-focus red, possibly a curtain or a piece of fabric. The overall mood is warm and contemplative.

Praying with the Church:

**Almighty God,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
intelligence to understand you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
vision to behold you,
a heart to meditate on you,
a life to proclaim you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever. Amen**

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.



Give thanks for each other being here.




Being the church:
Gathering
around
the table



the Searching

Hear God's invitation to seek, to search, to look, to see, to listen, to reason, to know
To find and to be found, because

*God wishes to be seen, and He wishes to be sought,
and He wishes to be expected, and He wishes to be trusted
(Julian of Norwich).*



Keep your eyes open for GOD, watch for his works; be alert for signs of his presence. Remember the world of wonders he has made, his miracles, and the verdicts he's rendered

**SEEK THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH;
SEEK HIS PRESENCE CONTINUALLY.
WE SEEK YOU O GOD, OUR GOD.
BE KNOWN TO US IN OUR SEARCHING.**
Psalm 105:4 (ESV & Message)

a practice
of praying
for
windows.





Holy is the Lord

We stand and lift up our hands

For the joy of the Lord is our strength

We bow down, and worship him now

How great, how awesome is He.

And together we sing...



Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

The earth is filled with His glory



We stand and lift up our hands

For the joy of the Lord is our strength

We bow down, and worship him now

How great, how awesome is He.

And together we sing...

A serene sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright orange orb on the horizon, casting a reflection on the water. The sky is a soft gradient of pink and purple. A dark silhouette of a tree is visible on the right side of the frame. The water is calm, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

The earth is filled with His glory



It's the rising up, all around

It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

It's the rising up, all around

It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

And together we sing...

Everyone sing....



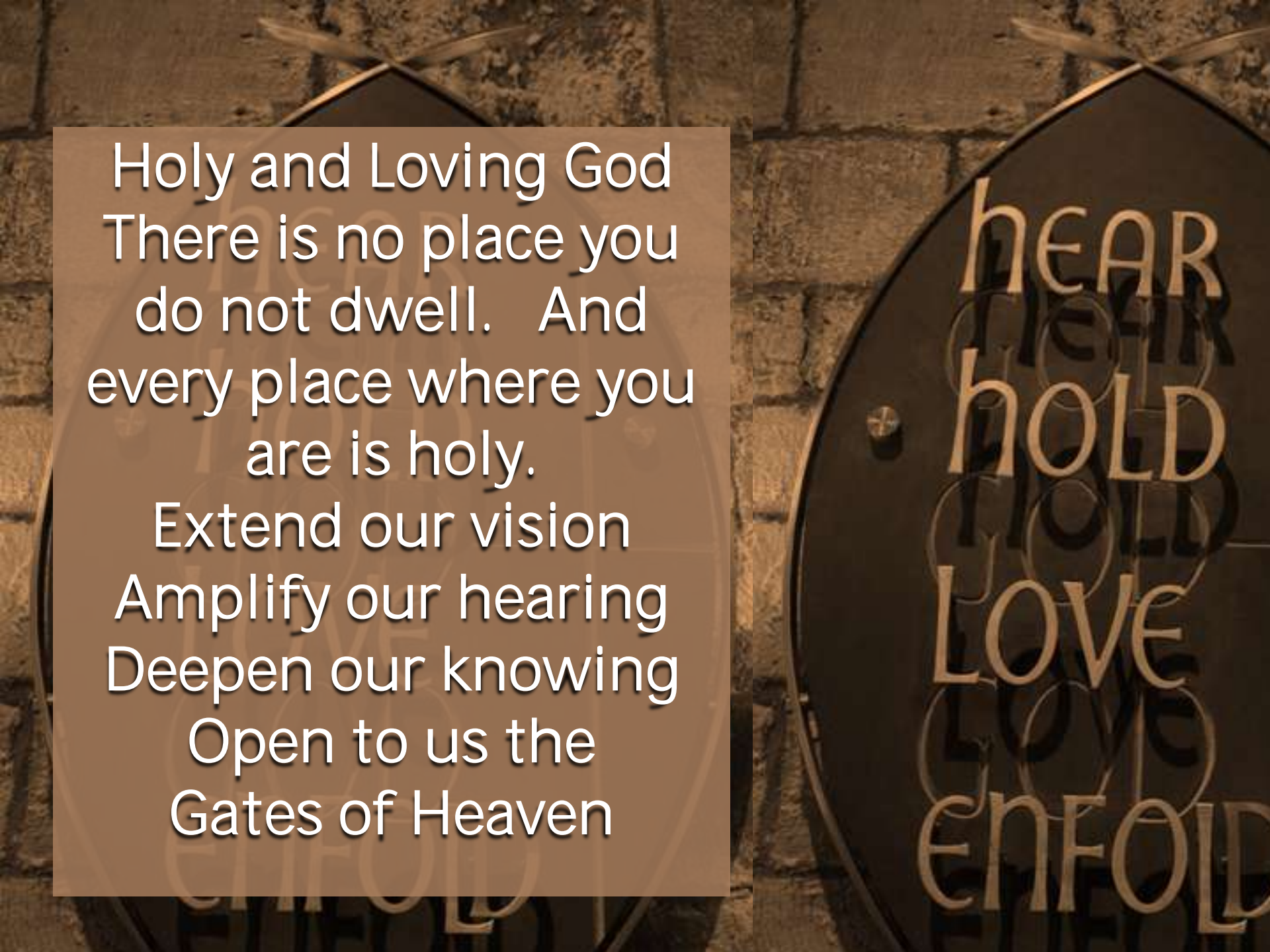
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

The earth is filled with His glory



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

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

From the prophet Isaiah, Ch 1.

IN SEARCH OF: EKKLESSIA.



are marked in the Bible.

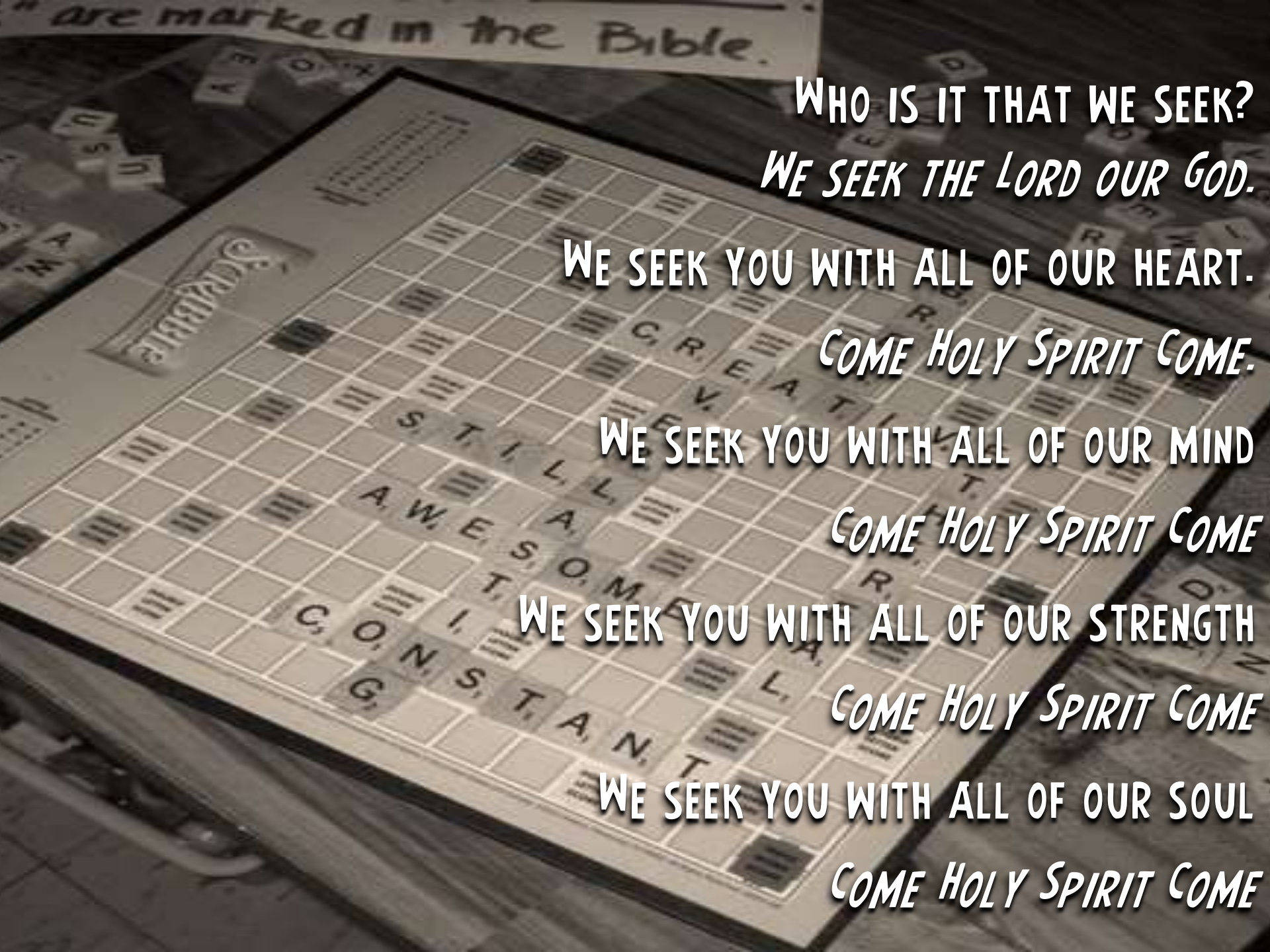
WHO IS IT THAT WE SEEK?
WE SEEK THE LORD OUR GOD.

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



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?

Nothing to Hide

GOOD POSTURE?

¹⁻⁴While 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! ⁵⁻⁷The 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?"

⁸⁻¹²With 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."

Many Signs and Wonders Done

¹²Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

The Apostles Arrested and Freed

¹⁷But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." ²¹And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

From the Acts of the Apostles, Ch 5

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of the people of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²²But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³"We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." ²⁴Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." ²⁶Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

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.

The Word of God Prospered

¹⁻⁴ During this time, as the disciples were increasing in numbers by leaps and bounds, hard feelings developed among the Greek-speaking believers— "Hellenists"—toward the Hebrew-speaking believers because their widows were being discriminated against in the daily food lines. So the Twelve called a meeting of the disciples. They said, "It wouldn't be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor. So, friends, choose seven men from among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and we'll assign them this task. Meanwhile, we'll stick to our assigned tasks of prayer and speaking God's Word." ⁵⁻⁶The congregation thought this was a great idea. They went ahead and chose—

Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit,
Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas, a convert from Antioch.

Then they presented them to the apostles. Praying, the apostles laid on hands and commissioned them for their task.

Our Response to God's words to us



Joyous Light

Hail Gladdening Light, sun so bright
Jesus Christ, end of night, alleluia
Hail Gladdening Light, Eternal Bright
In evening time, 'round us shine, alleluia, alleluia

Hail Gladdening Light, such joyous Light
O Brilliant Star, forever shine, alleluia, alleluia

Chorus:

We hymn the Father, we hymn the Son
We hymn the Spirit, wholly Divine
No one more worthy of songs to be sung
To the Giver of Life, all glory is Thine



Peace be still.
Peace be still
The Storm Rages
Peace be still.

Psalm 40

I waited and waited and waited for
GOD. At last he looked; finally he
listened.

He lifted me out of the ditch,
pulled me from deep mud.

He stood me up on a solid rock
to make sure I wouldn't slip.

He taught me how to sing the
latest God-song,
a praise-song to our God.

More and more people are seeing
this:

they enter the mystery,
abandoning themselves to GOD.

Blessed are you who give yourselves
over to GOD, turn your backs on the
world's "sure thing," ignore what
the world worships;

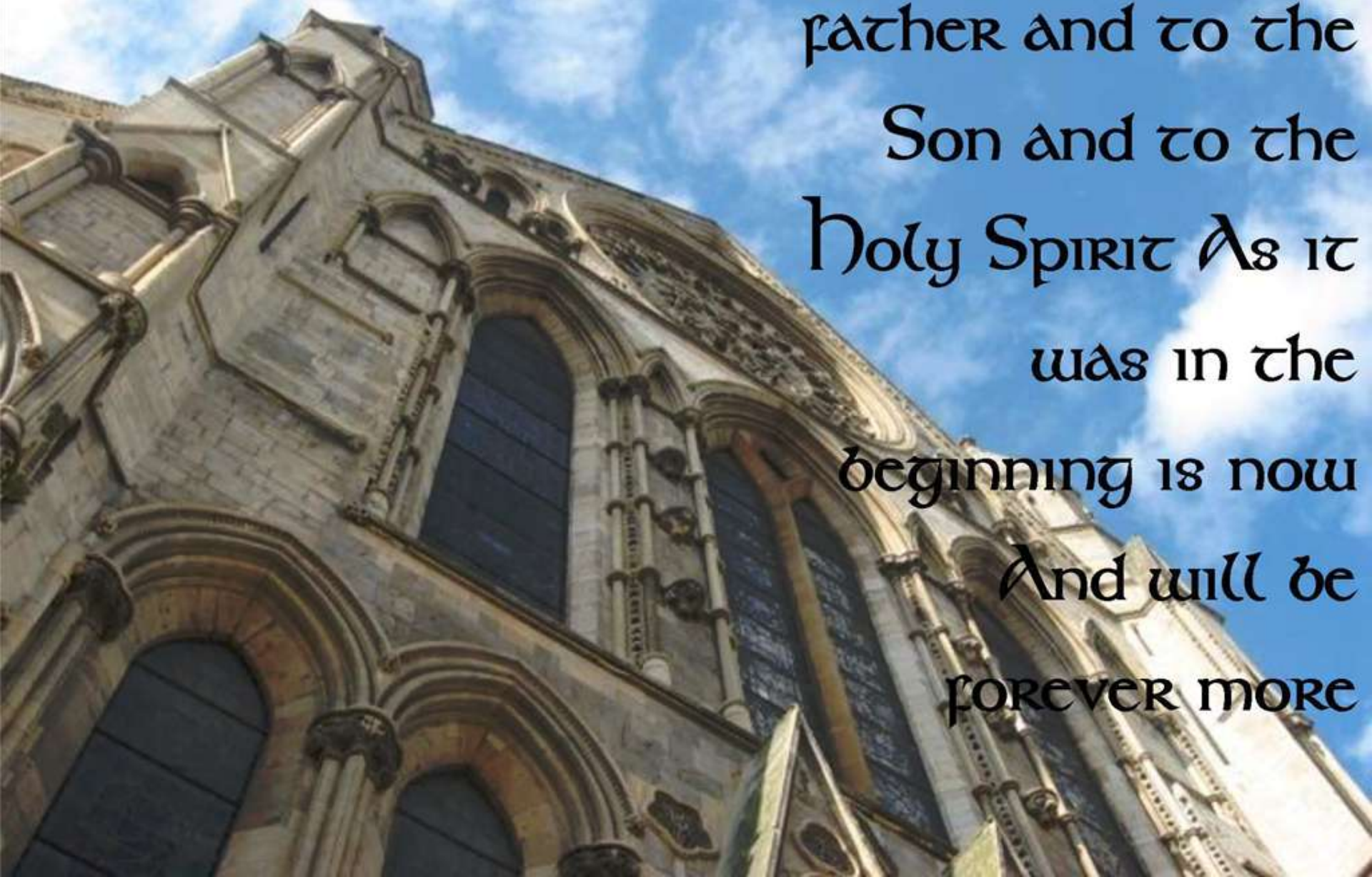
The world's a huge stockpile
of GOD-wonders and God-
thoughts. Nothing and no one
comes close to you!

I start talking about you, telling
what I know,
and quickly run out of words.
Neither numbers nor words
account for you.

Doing something for you, bringing
something to you—
that's not what you're after.
Being religious, acting pious—
that's not what you're asking for.
You've opened my ears
so I can listen.

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



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?"

Conversations: Our response to God



THE OFFERING

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:

- **Superbowl Tailgate at the Woodruffs.**
 - **Blog writer**
 - **Mardi Gras**
- **Summer Pilgrimages: Mtn TOP & Scotland.**



SILHOUETTES
FOR
A SEASON.

The 30 Hour Famine reborn.

Our Offering.



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 God can get you out of the tight corners we find ourselves in and

May you live believing that Jesus still really does offer
THE LIFE

The PEACE OF THE LORD be always with you!