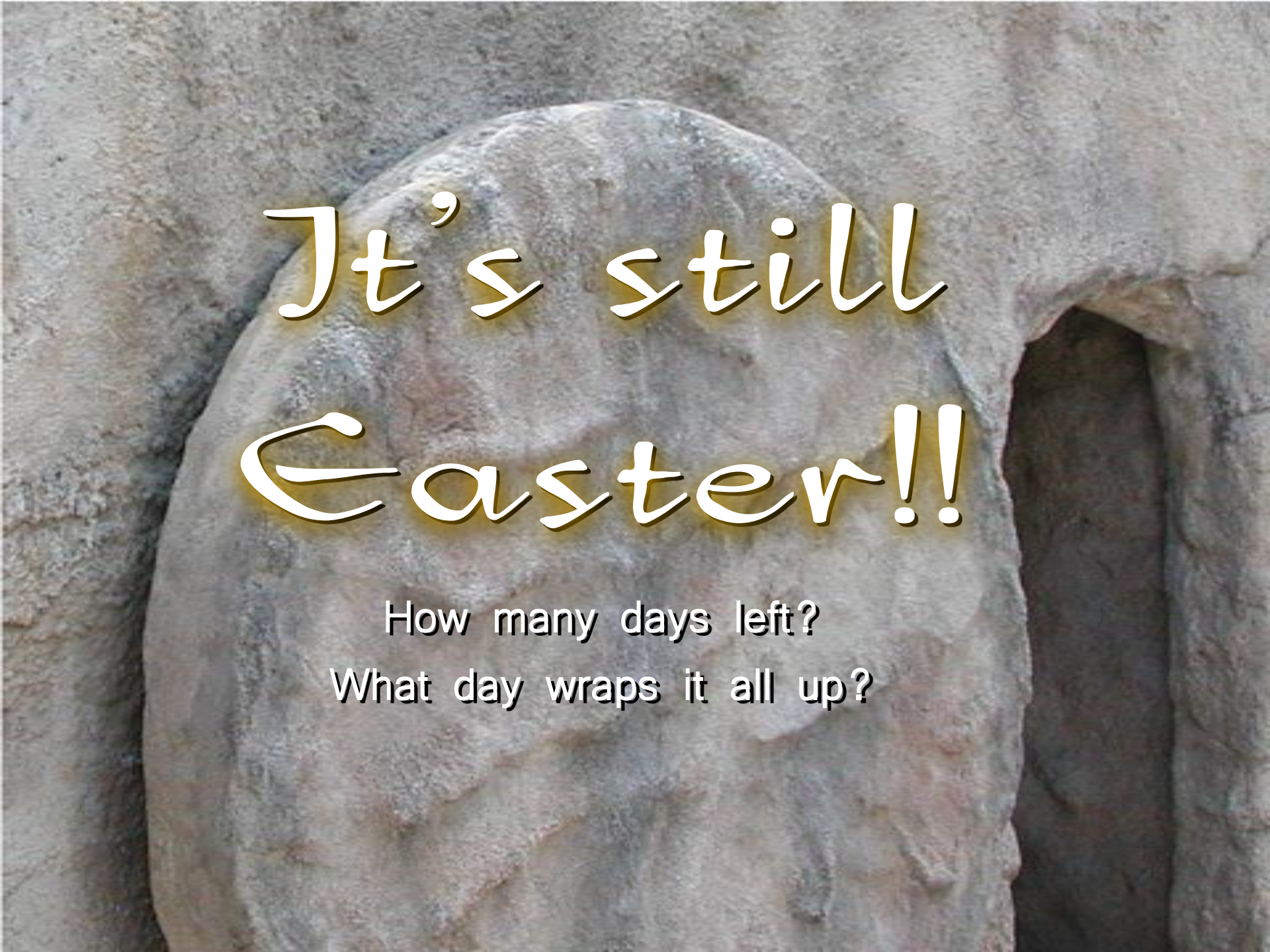


WELCOME TO SE*LAH

סלה

*Come in. Sit down. Catch your
breath. Breathe deep.*

We're really, really glad you are here.



It's still
Easter!!

How many days left?

What day wraps it all up?



come and see...

-jesus

& a reminder of who we are and why we are here.

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



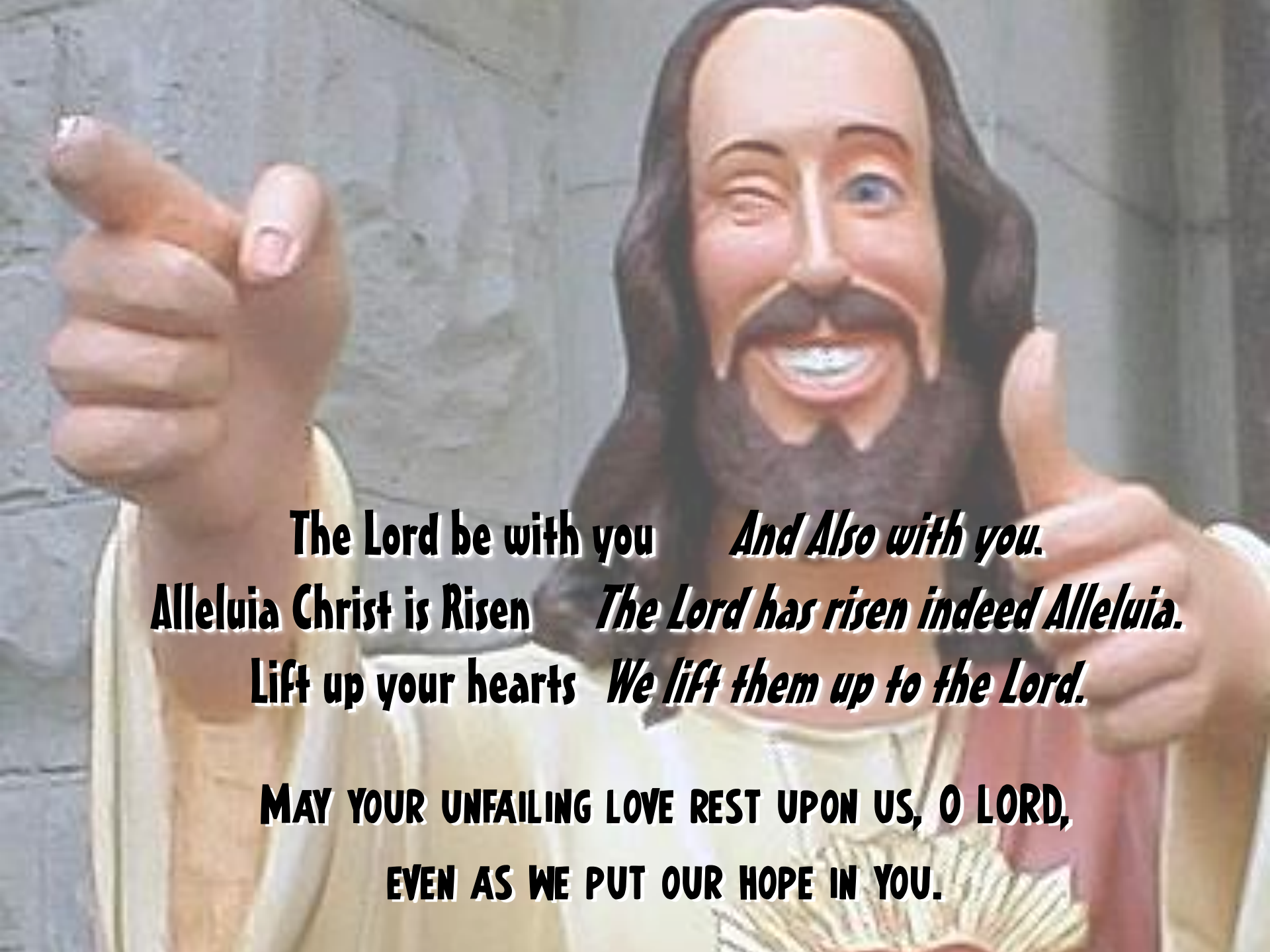
The Invitatory

Ring the bells. Blow the ram's horn,
God is not only here...



But our God is alive
and risen again

Our God cannot be killed.



The Lord be with you *And Also with you.*
Alleluia Christ is Risen *The Lord has risen indeed Alleluia.*
Lift up your hearts *We lift them up to the Lord.*

**MAY YOUR UNFAILING LOVE REST UPON US, O LORD,
EVEN AS WE PUT OUR HOPE IN YOU.**

Loving and Living God

We worship what we give our hearts to

Lead us this night to worship not just with our hearts but with our minds, bodies and souls as well.

Let your living and risen presence be known to us this evening.

Lord instill in our hearts a desire to know you and love you more each day.

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.
Amen.*

For through your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.
For through this sacred sign, you
have restored life to this world.

*Restore life to us this evening as
we notice your signs of
redemption .*



INHO
GVLA
NOVI
DITVR

CSIN
RISIG
TARED
MVNDO



LET US PRAY WITH ONE HEART AND ONE MIND THAT THIS EVENING
MAY BE HOLY, GOOD AND PEACEFUL.

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TAKE ANOTHER DEEP BREATH AND PRAY.

A Sound bite from God: a versicle.

But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

Psalm 5:11

POUR

COME.

STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC...

For two hours
step away from...

For two hours
step out of...

For Two hours
Leave behind...

So we can
remember what
life is really
all about.

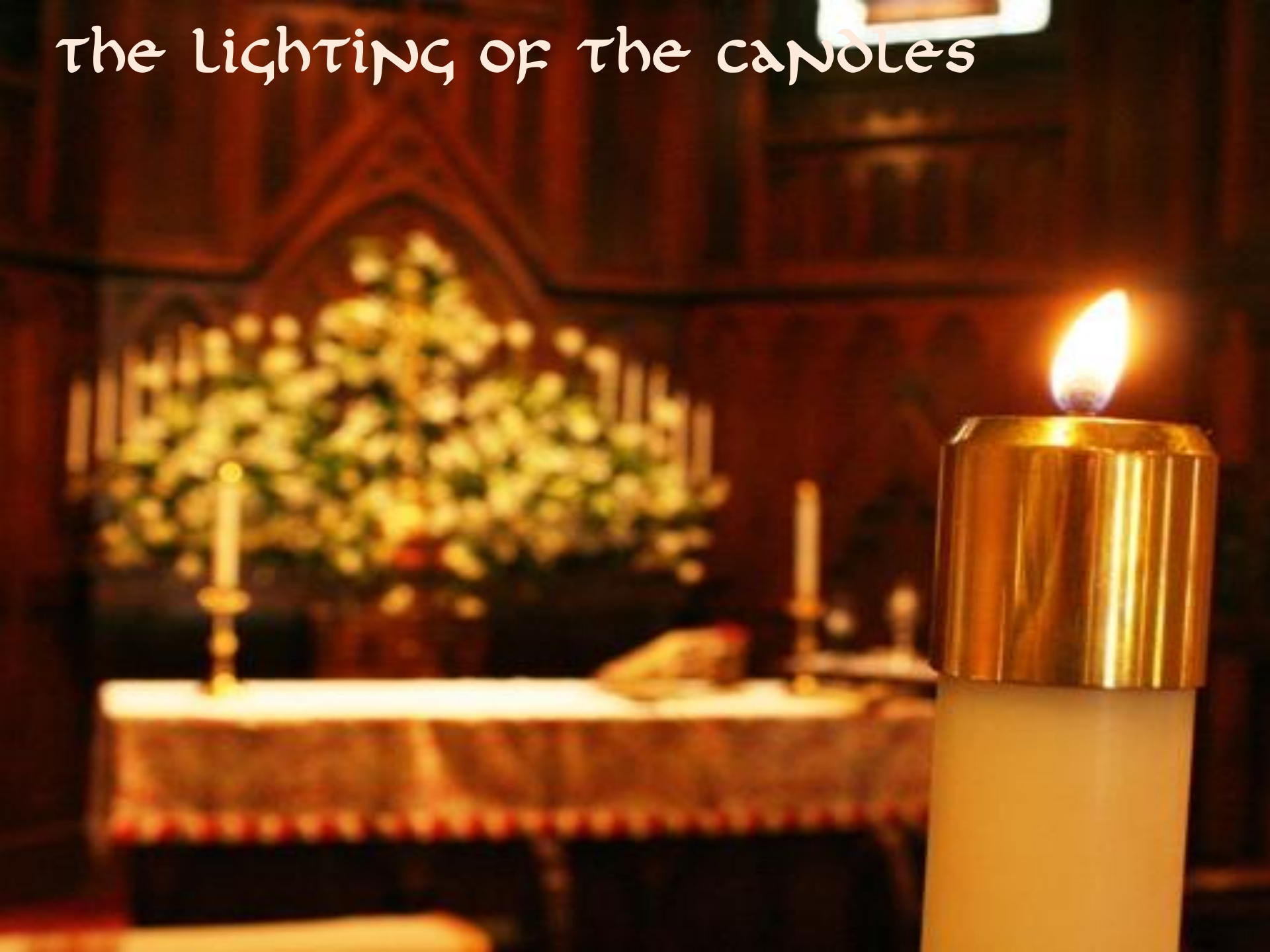


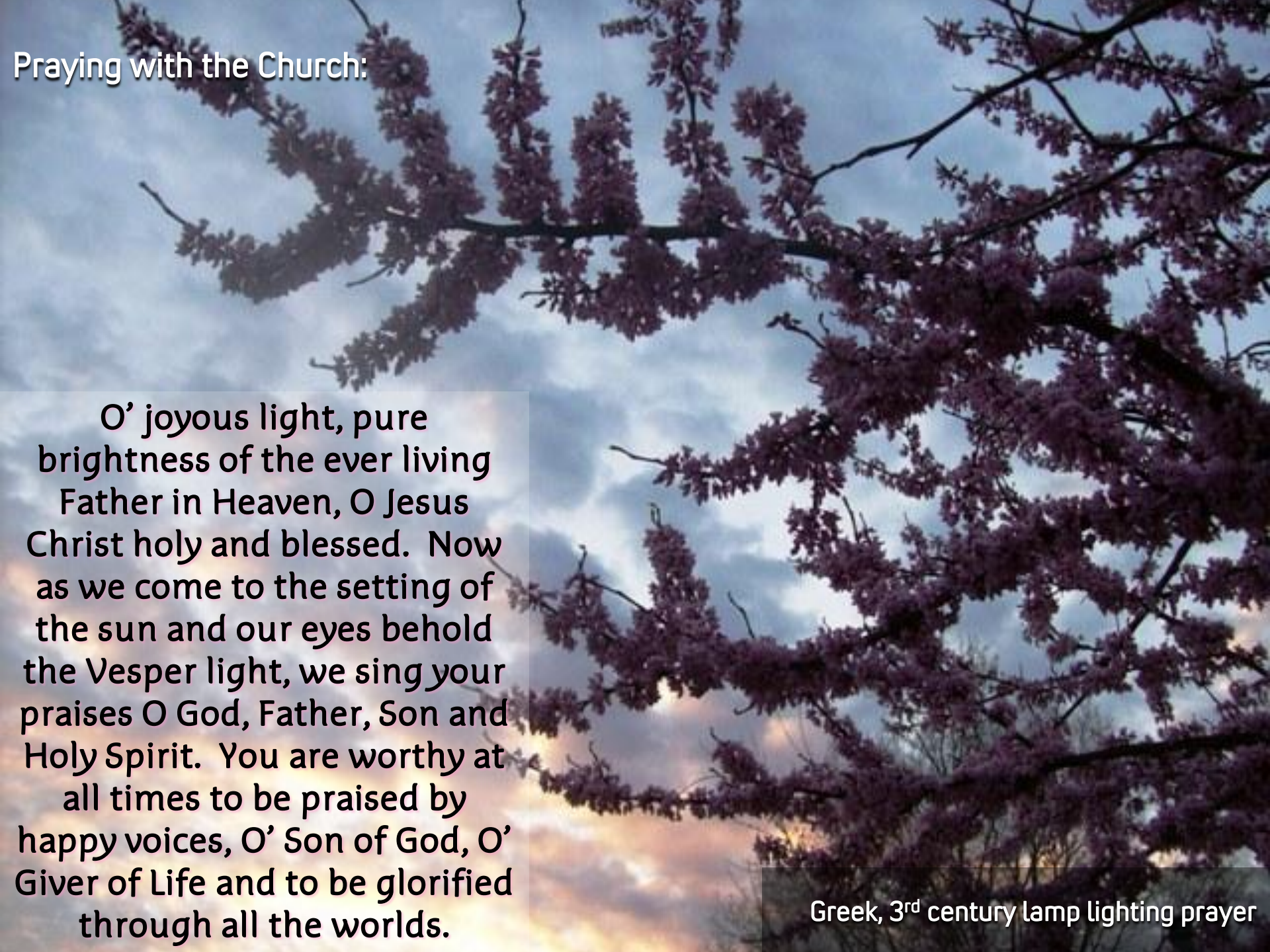
*Step out of the traffic & take a long loving look at God
Who calls you to life again.*



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

The lighting of the candles





Praying with the Church:

O' joyous light, pure
brightness of the ever living
Father in Heaven, O Jesus
Christ holy and blessed. Now
as we come to the setting of
the sun and our eyes behold
the Vesper light, we sing your
praises O God, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit. You are worthy at
all times to be praised by
happy voices, O' Son of God, O'
Giver of Life and to be glorified
throughall the worlds.

Greek, 3rd century lamp lighting prayer

Being Thankful.

Youthgroup
Parking
\$5

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Let's Eat!!!



Sharing the common meal, just like the early church.

A young girl with brown hair, wearing a light purple dress, is reaching out to touch a green iris flower in a garden. In the background, a brown dog is visible, and a person wearing blue jeans is partially seen. The scene is outdoors with green grass and various plants.

the Searching

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

*You will seek me and
find me when you
seek me with all
your heart.*

-the prophet Jeremiah, ch 29; vs 13

Who is it that we seek? *We seek the Lord our God.*

Open our eyes Lord, *so that we might see you.*

Open our ears Lord, *so that we might hear you.*

Open our minds, *so that we might learn your Way.*

Open our hearts, *so that we might know you.*

Open our hands, *so that we might receive you.*


Open our lives, *so that we might reveal you.*




An Easter Practice:

**God has raised this Jesus to life,
and we are all witnesses of the fact**

Where have you known Resurrection this week?

A close-up photograph of a white duck sitting on a nest made of sticks and twigs. Two small, fluffy yellow ducklings are tucked under the duck's wing, seeking shelter. The duck's feathers are white and soft, while the ducklings are bright yellow with orange beaks. The background is a natural, outdoor setting with more twigs and a soft, natural light.

O God of compassion, we commit ourselves to you, for in you we are, we live, and we know. Be the goal of our pilgrimage, and our rest on the way. Let our souls take refuge from the struggles of this life under the shadow of your wings. Let our hearts, which are forever restless, find peace in you. You, who are the giver of all good gifts, give food to refresh us, set our souls in tune with yours, and release us from our captivity.



**We stand at your door and knock.
Open it, Lord, so that we may enter.**

Guys:

I will sing to
And worship
The King who is
worthy
I will love and
adore Him
And I will bow
down before Him

Girls:

You are lord of lords
You are king of kings
You are mighty God
Lord of everything
You're Emmanuel
You're the great I am
You're the prince of
peace
Who is the Lamb

You are Holy (Prince of Peace)

You are holy (you are holy)
You are mighty (you are mighty)
You are worthy (you are worthy)
Worthy of praise (worthy of praise)

I will follow (I will follow)
I will listen (I will listen)
I will love you (I will love You)
All of my days (all of my days)

A silhouette of a person hula hooping against a purple background. The person is in a dynamic pose, with one arm raised and the hula hoop around their neck and waist. The background is a solid purple color with some faint white lines.

Guys:

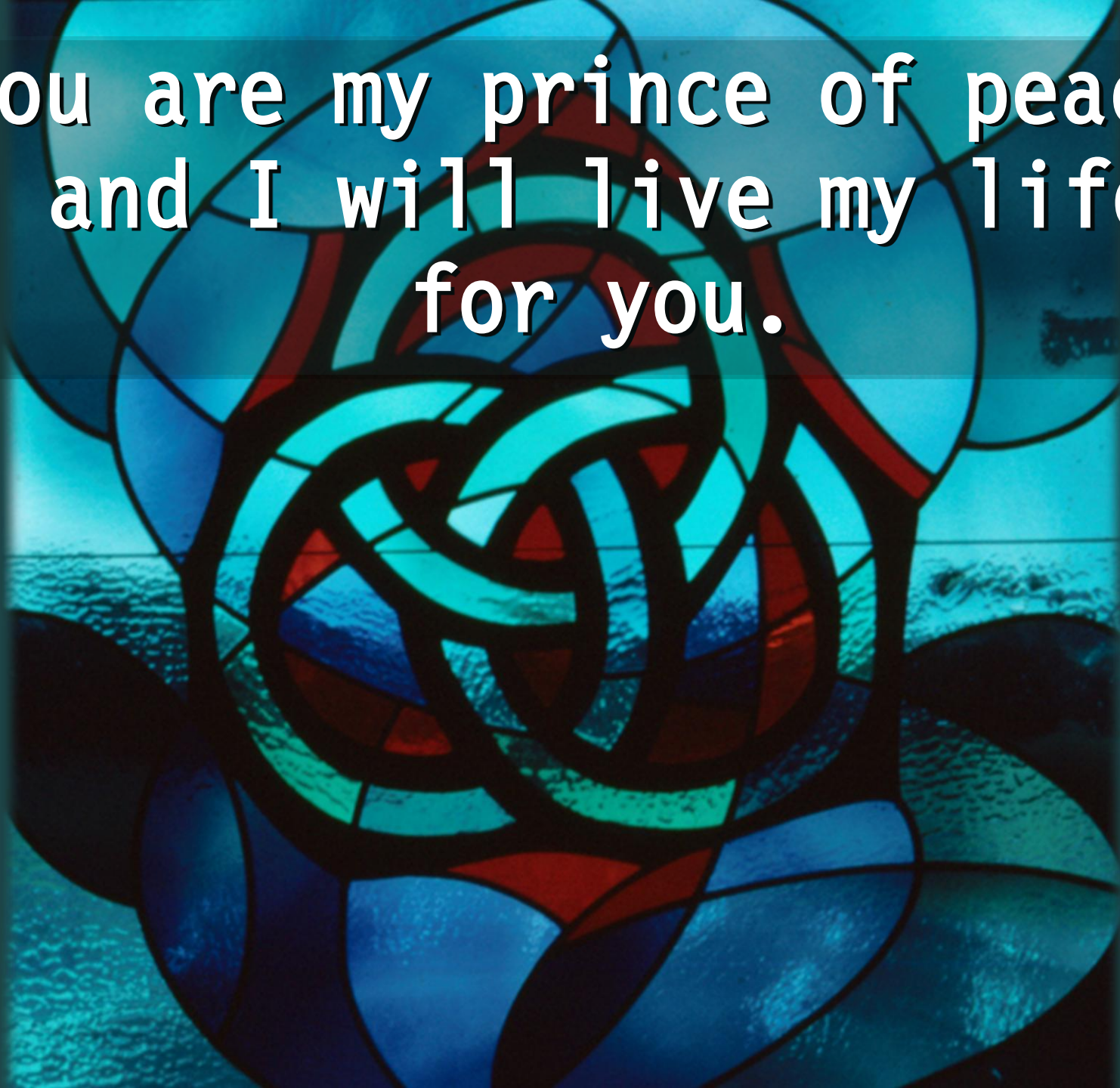
Girls:

I will sing to
And worship
The King who is
worthy

I will love and
adore Him
And I will bow
down before Him

You're the living God
You're my saving grace
You will reign forever
You are ancient of days
You're the alpha,
omega, beginning & end
You're my savior,
messiah, redeemer, and
friend

You are my prince of peace
and I will live my life
for you.



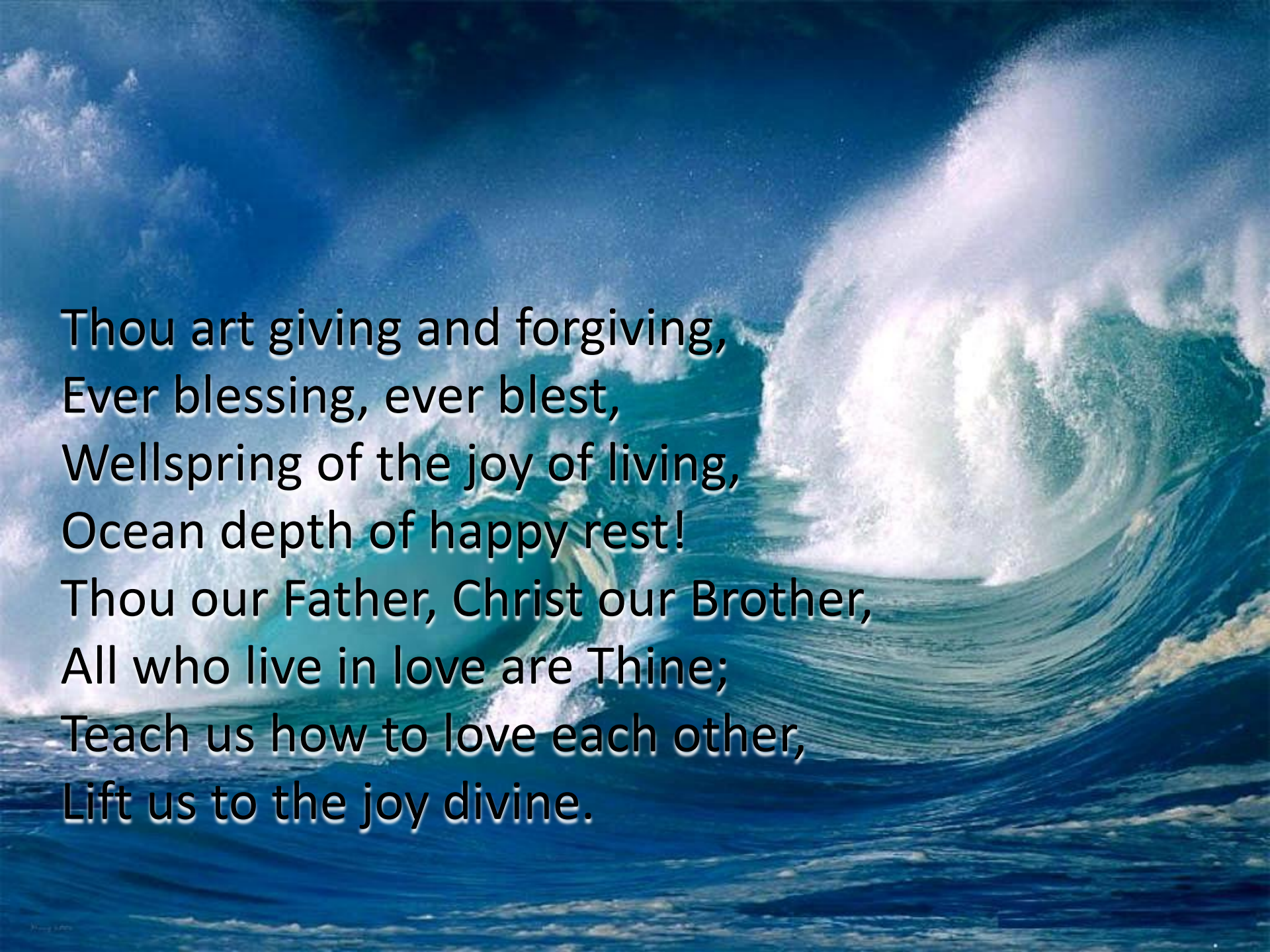


Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!



All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Blooming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.



Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Psalm 23 (NIV)

A psalm of David.

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,**
- 3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**
- 6 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Psalm 23 (the Message)

A David Psalm

- 1-3 God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.**
- 4 Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.**
- 5 You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.**
- 6 Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of GOD for the rest of my life.**

The Practice: making it more than words we read.

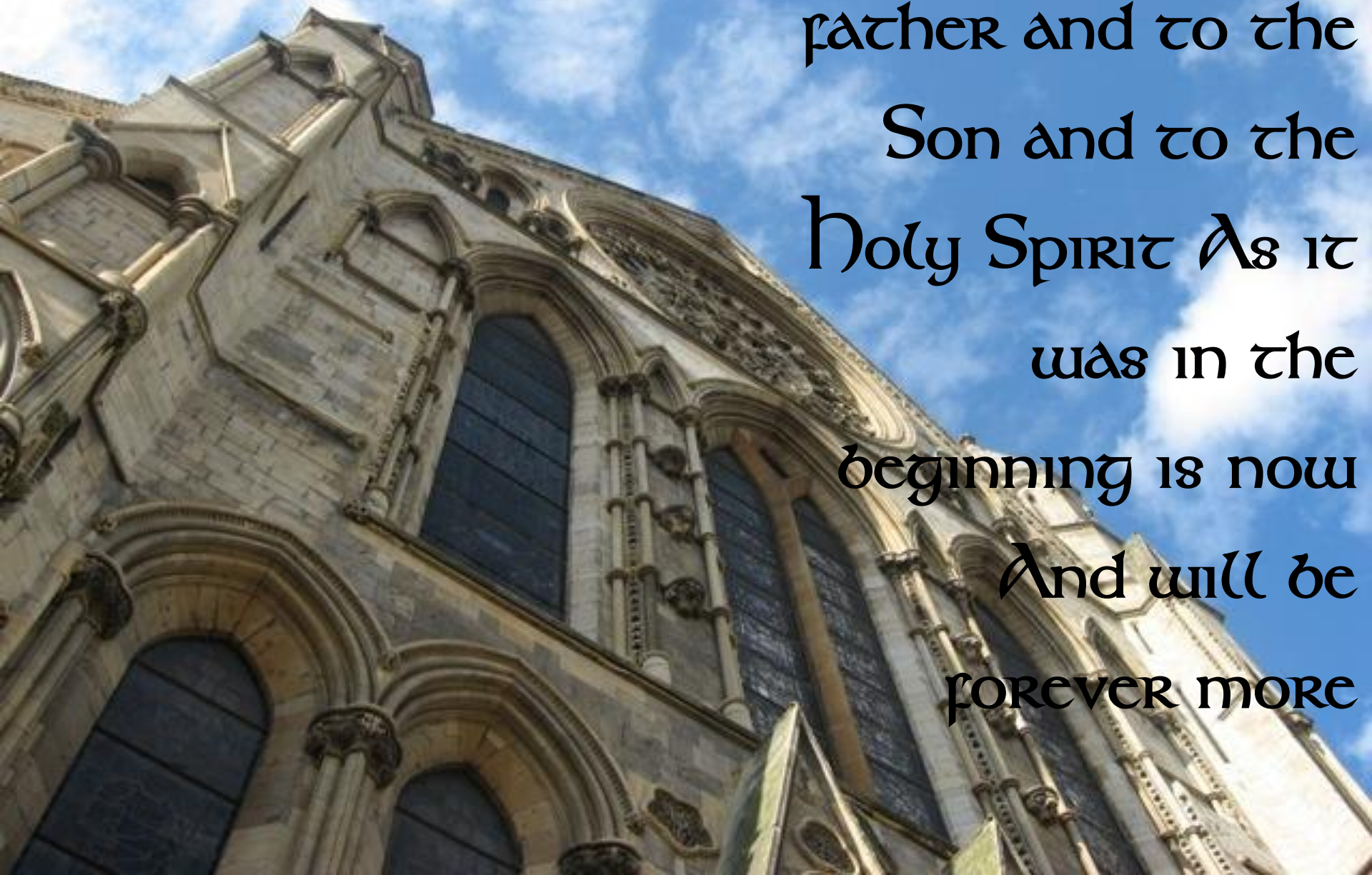
GOD IS BIGGER THAN THE AIR I BREATHE . THE WORLD WE'LL
LEAVE,
AND GOD WILL SAVE THE DAY. ALL WILL SAY

MY GLORIOUS



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.

*-through the
Prophet Isaiah
chapter 1:18*



Why do we
center
our
conversations
around the
Bible?

Isn't this the carpenter? The son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters here with us?



The letter of James *the Just*, the brother of Jesus.
One of the three pillars of the early church.
The “Adelphotheos” in Greek.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 5

NIV

The Prayer of Faith

¹³Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. ¹⁹My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 4

The Message

Prayer to Be Reckoned With

¹³⁻¹⁵Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out. ¹⁶⁻¹⁸Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't—not a drop for three and a half years. Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

¹⁹⁻²⁰My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.

Listening and Responding to
What God is trying to say to us
and to you

Encouragement? A Reminder?
Redirection?
A Prayer?
*as we continue to try to live life
with God in this world.*



The letter to the church from James, Ch 1

The Message

¹I, James, am a slave of God and the Master Jesus, writing to the twelve tribes scattered to Kingdom Come: Hello! Faith Under Pressure ²⁻⁴Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

⁵⁻⁸If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.

⁹⁻¹¹When down-and-outers get a break, cheer! And when the arrogant rich are brought down to size, cheer! Prosperity is as short-lived as a wildflower, so don't ever count on it. You know that as soon as the sun rises, pouring down its scorching heat, the flower withers. Its petals wilt and, before you know it, that beautiful face is a barren stem. Well, that's a picture of the "prosperous life." At the very moment everyone is looking on in admiration, it fades away to nothing.

¹²Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life.

¹³⁻¹⁵Don't let anyone under pressure to give in to evil say, "God is trying to trip me up." God is impervious to evil, and puts evil in no one's way. The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust. Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 1

The Message

16-18 So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.

Act on What You Hear

19-21 Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life. **22-24** Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.

25 But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.

26-27 Anyone who sets himself up as "religious" by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 2

The Message

The Royal Rule of Love

1-4 My dear friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, "Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!" and either ignore the street person or say, "Better sit here in the back row," haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted? **5-7** Listen, dear friends. Isn't it clear by now that God operates quite differently? He chose the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens, with full rights and privileges. This kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God. And here you are abusing these same citizens! Isn't it the high and mighty who exploit you, who use the courts to rob you blind? Aren't they the ones who scorn the new name—"Christian"—used in your baptisms?

8-11 You do well when you complete the Royal Rule of the Scriptures: "Love others as you love yourself." But if you play up to these so-called important people, you go against the Rule and stand convicted by it. You can't pick and choose in these things, specializing in keeping one or two things in God's law and ignoring others. The same God who said, "Don't commit adultery," also said, "Don't murder." If you don't commit adultery but go ahead and murder, do you think your non-adultery will cancel out your murder? No, you're a murderer, period.

12-13 Talk and act like a person expecting to be judged by the Rule that sets us free. For if you refuse to act kindly, you can hardly expect to be treated kindly. Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 2

The Message

Faith in Action

¹⁴⁻¹⁷Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense? ¹⁸I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, "Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I'll handle the works department."

Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.

¹⁹⁻²⁰Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That's just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them?

The letter to the church from James, Ch 2

The Message

Use your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands?

²¹⁻²⁴Wasn't our ancestor Abraham "made right with God by works" when he placed his son Isaac on the sacrificial altar? Isn't it obvious that faith and works are yoked partners, that faith expresses itself in works? That the works are "works of faith"? The full meaning of "believe" in the Scripture sentence, "Abraham believed God and was set right with God," includes his action. It's that mesh of believing and acting that got Abraham named "God's friend." Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works?

²⁵⁻²⁶The same with Rahab, the Jericho harlot. Wasn't her action in hiding God's spies and helping them escape—that seamless unity of believing and doing—what counted with God? The very moment you separate body and spirit, you end up with a corpse. Separate faith and works and you get the same thing: a corpse.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 3

When You Open Your Mouth

1-2 Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life. **3-5** A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

5-6 It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

7-10 This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

10-12 My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

The letter to the church from James, Ch 3

The Message

Live Well, Live Wisely

13-16 Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts. Mean-spirited ambition isn't wisdom. Boasting that you are wise isn't wisdom. Twisting the truth to make yourselves sound wise isn't wisdom. It's the furthest thing from wisdom—it's animal cunning, devilish conniving. Whenever you're trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others' throats.

17-18 Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 4

The Message

11-12 Don't bad-mouth each other, friends. It's God's Word, his Message, his Royal Rule, that takes a beating in that kind of talk. You're supposed to be honoring the Message, not writing graffiti all over it. God is in charge of deciding human destiny. Who do you think you are to meddle in the destiny of others?

Nothing but a Wisp of Fog

13-15 And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, "Today—at the latest, tomorrow—we're off to such and such a city for the year. We're going to start a business and make a lot of money." You don't know the first thing about tomorrow. You're nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing. Instead, make it a habit to say, "If the Master wills it and we're still alive, we'll do this or that." **16-17** As it is, you are full of your grandiose selves. All such vaunting self-importance is evil. In fact, if you know the right thing to do and don't do it, that, for you, is evil.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 5

The Message

Destroying Your Life from Within

1-3 And a final word to you arrogant rich: Take some lessons in lament. You'll need buckets for the tears when the crash comes upon you. Your money is corrupt and your fine clothes stink. Your greedy luxuries are a cancer in your gut, destroying your life from within. You thought you were piling up wealth. What you've piled up is judgment.

4-6 All the workers you've exploited and cheated cry out for judgment. The groans of the workers you used and abused are a roar in the ears of the Master Avenger. You've looted the earth and lived it up. But all you'll have to show for it is a fatter than usual corpse. In fact, what you've done is condemn and murder perfectly good persons, who stand there and take it.

7-8 Meanwhile, friends, wait patiently for the Master's Arrival. You see farmers do this all the time, waiting for their valuable crops to mature, patiently letting the rain do its slow but sure work. Be patient like that. Stay steady and strong. The Master could arrive at any time.

9 Friends, don't complain about each other. A far greater complaint could be lodged against you, you know. The Judge is standing just around the corner.

Listening and Responding to
What God is trying to say to us
and to you

Encouragement? A Reminder?
Redirection?
A Prayer?
*as we continue to try to live life
with God in this world.*



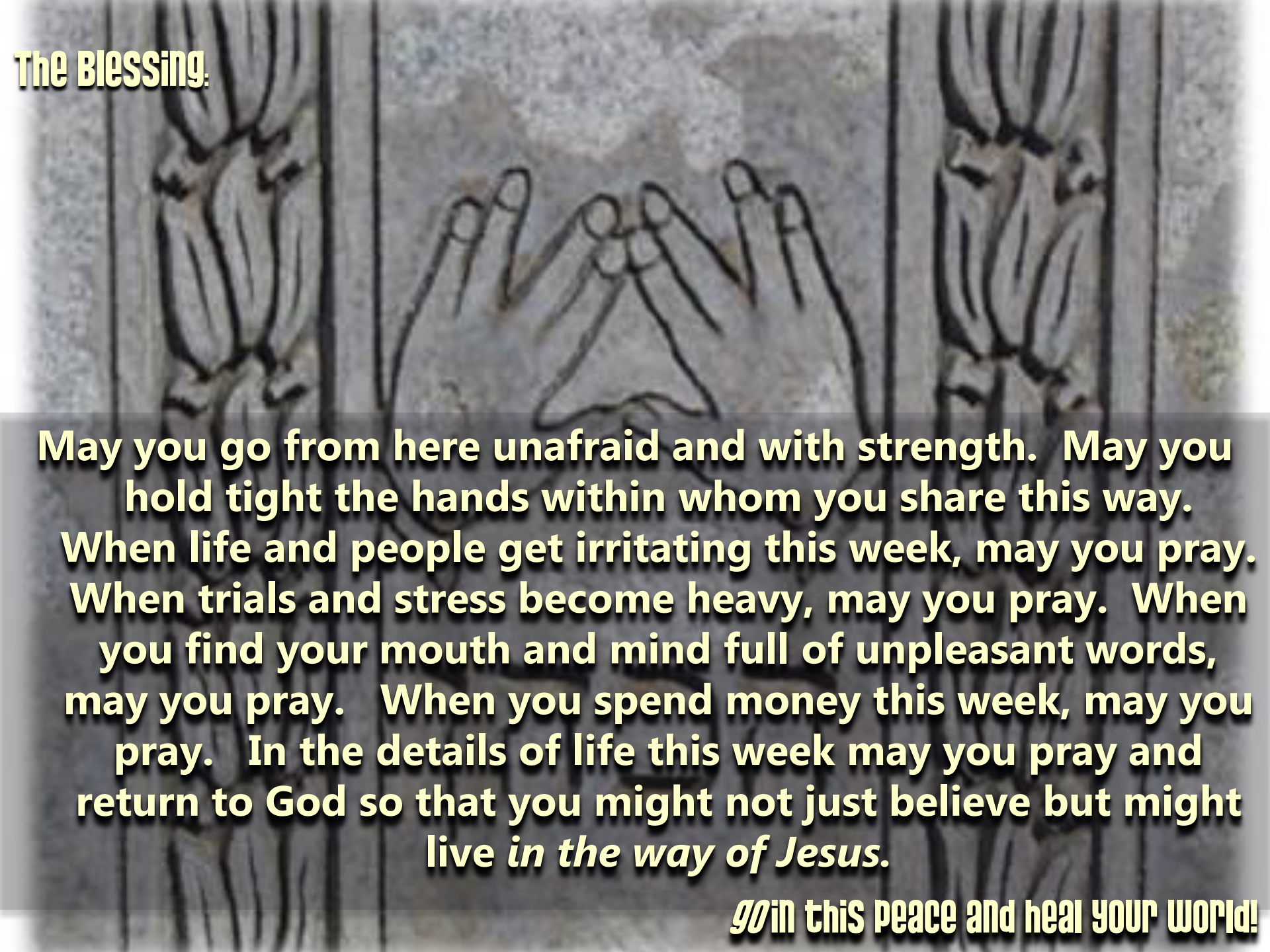


CONVERSATIONS

Because *WE'RE IN this TOGETHER*

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

The Blessing:

A stone relief carving of hands in prayer, with wheat stalks on either side. The hands are positioned in a gesture of blessing or prayer, with fingers slightly spread and palms facing each other. The background is a textured stone surface.

May you go from here unafraid and with strength. May you hold tight the hands within whom you share this way. When life and people get irritating this week, may you pray. When trials and stress become heavy, may you pray. When you find your mouth and mind full of unpleasant words, may you pray. When you spend money this week, may you pray. In the details of life this week may you pray and return to God so that you might not just believe but might live *in the way of Jesus*.

***go* in this peace and heal YOUR WORLD!**

SHALOM



Peace · Be · Unto · You