



Welcome

to

Se*lah

הָלֵל

Come in. Have a seat.

Play a game.

Relax. Take a deep breath.

It's good you're here.

We're really glad you've come.

LIVING ON THE EDGE

Of heaven and earth

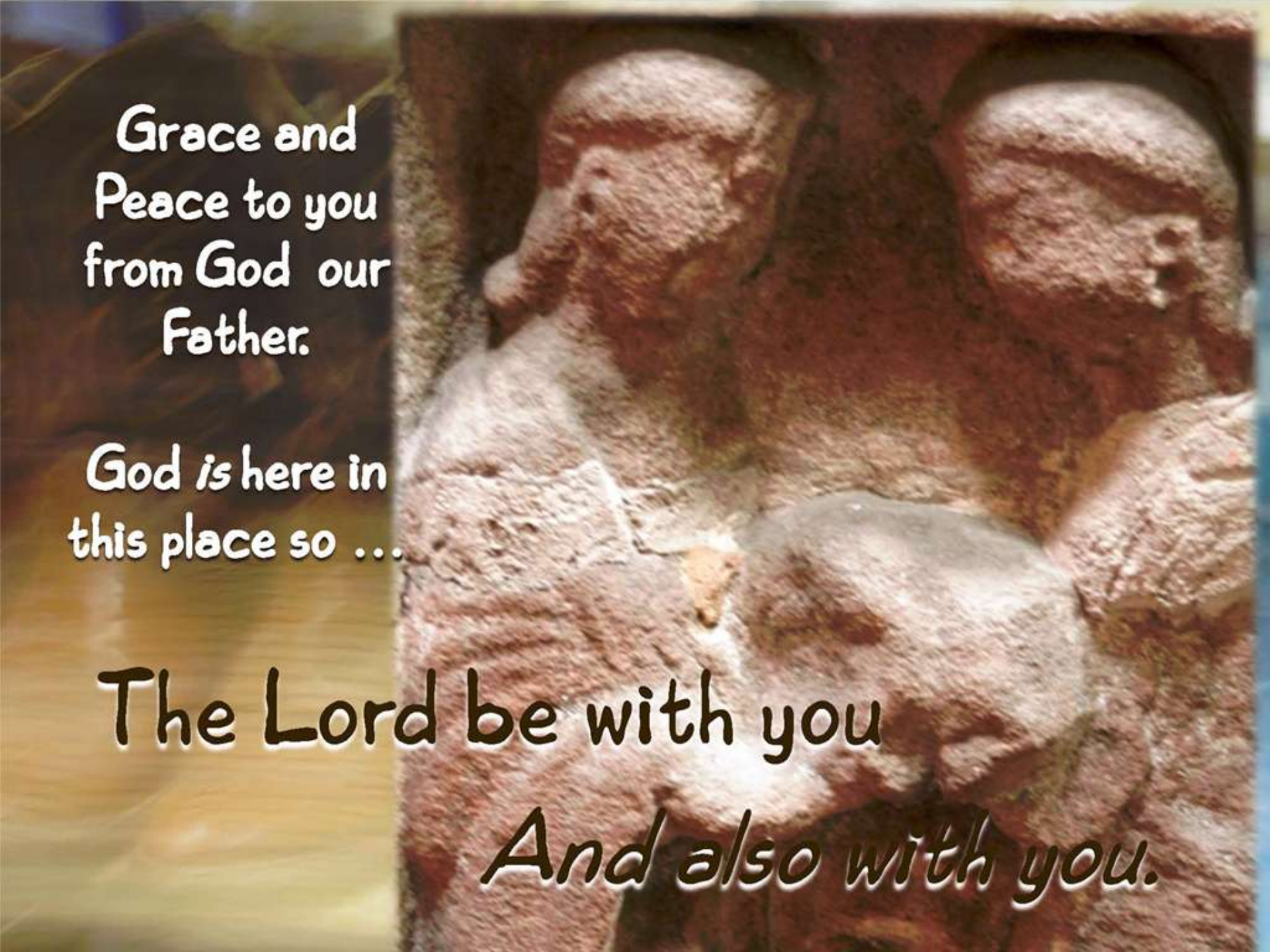


Trying to *be* the church as we learn to live life with God in this world.

A photograph of a stone archway in a building, looking out onto a landscape with trees in autumn foliage. The arch is made of dark grey stone with a brick pattern on the left side. The trees outside are in various shades of red, orange, and yellow, with some green still visible. The sky is bright and clear. The overall scene is peaceful and inviting.

The Invitatory:

Come on through. - 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.

All that I speak
Be blessed to me O God.

All that I hear
Be blessed to me O God.

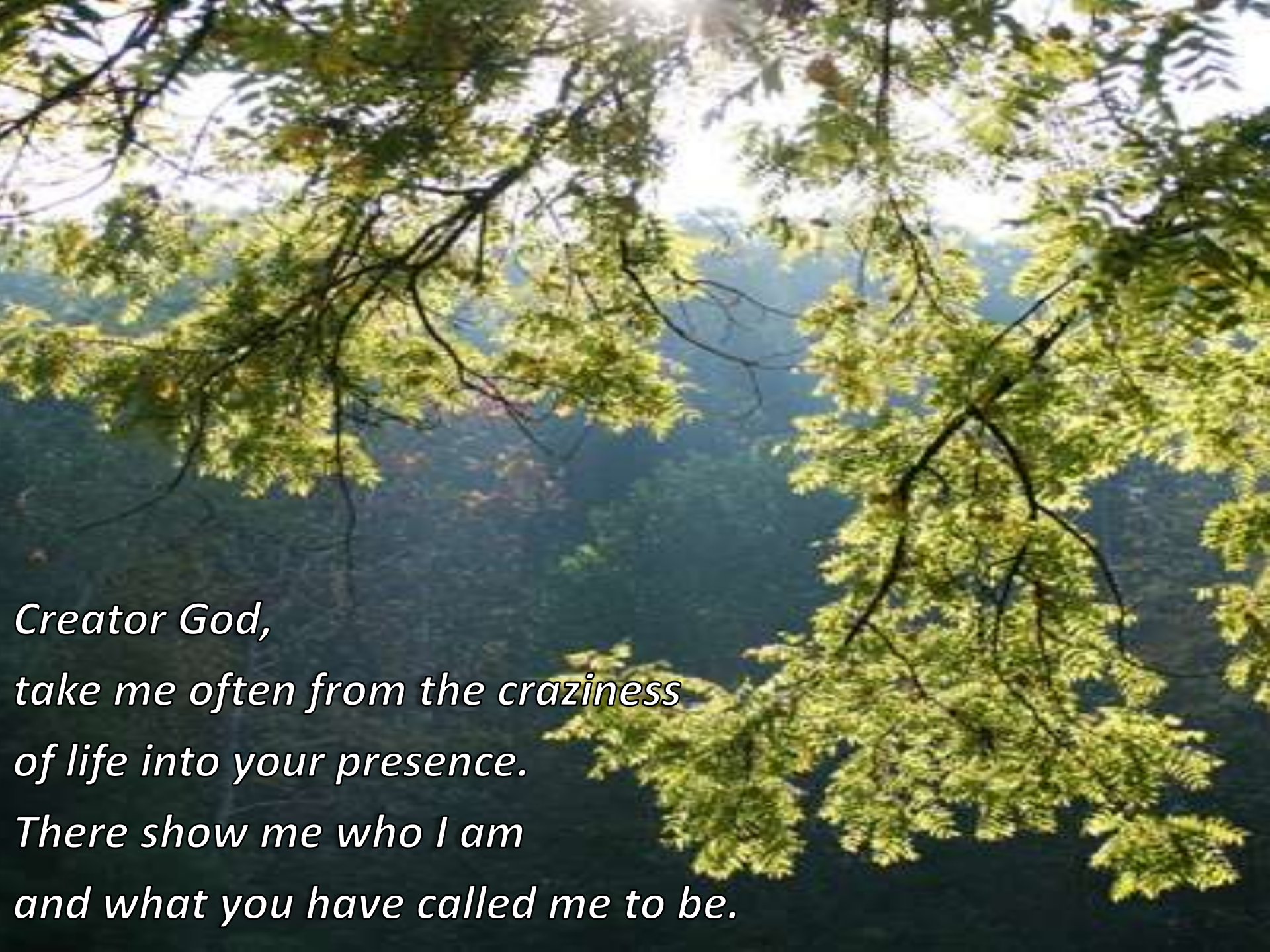
All that I see
Be blessed to me O God.

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.

A photograph of a man sitting on a wooden park bench, reading a book. He is wearing a light blue shirt and dark trousers. The background is a lush green park with many trees and bushes. The scene is peaceful and serene.

Step out of the traffic...

Cease striving. Just be.

Remember what matters. Remember what's real.

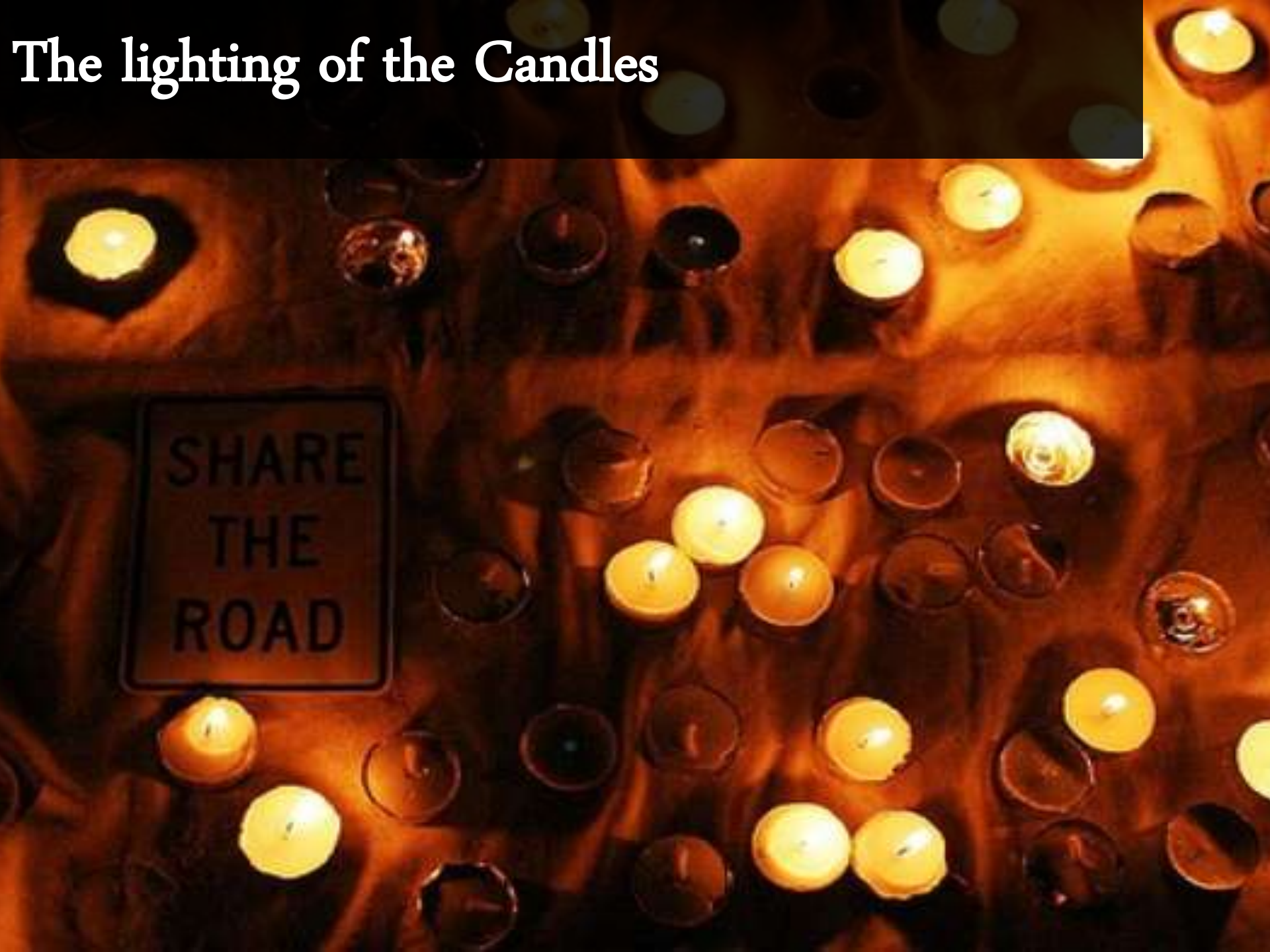
What do you need to step away from?



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



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

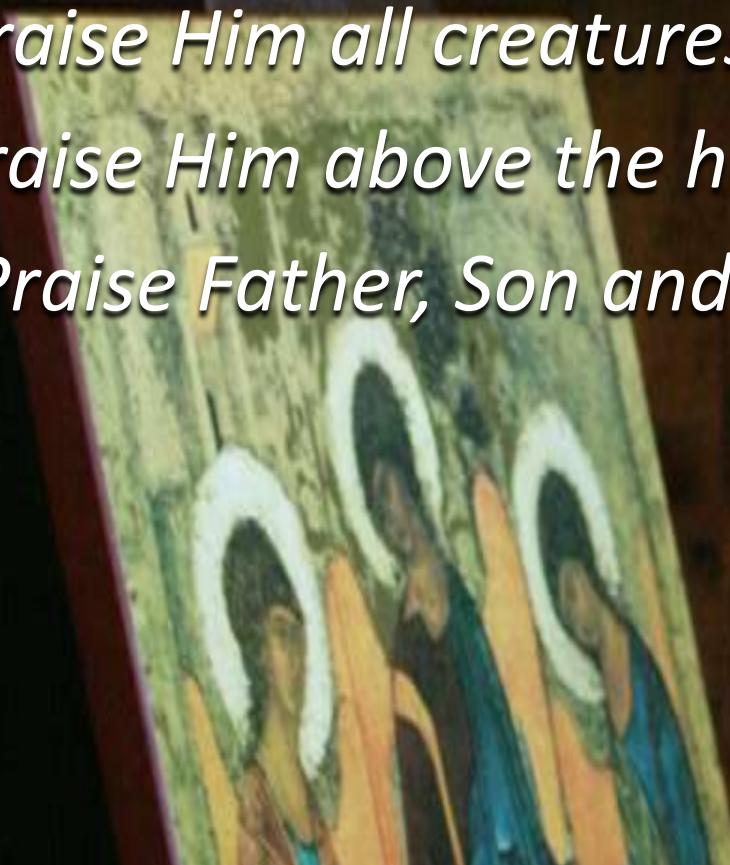
The Doxology

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 scene is dimly lit, suggesting an overcast day or late afternoon. The text is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image.

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

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

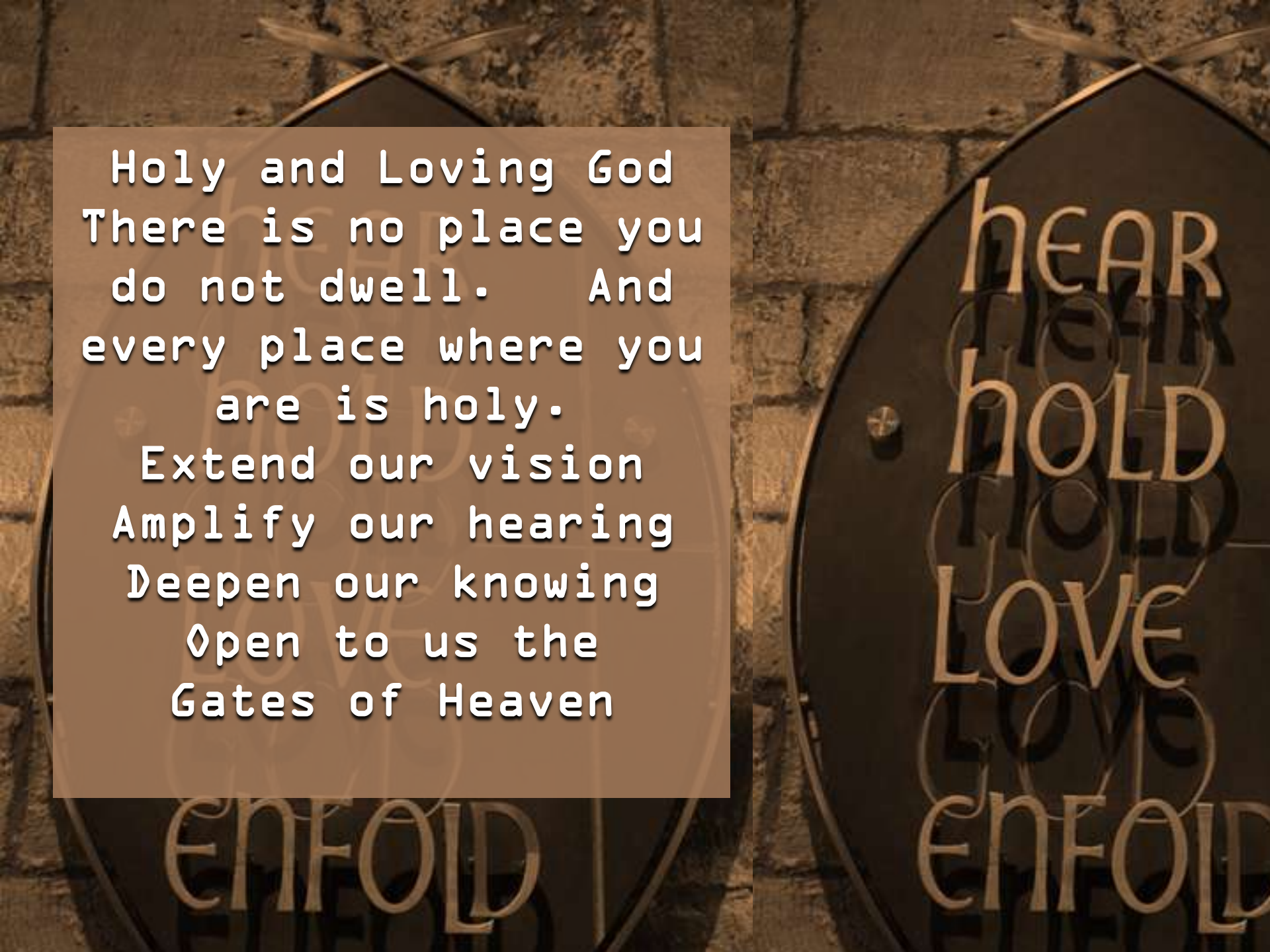
"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

- **Matthew 25:40-46**





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

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.**

Jonah's Prayer (Jonah 2:1-9)

• ¹ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ² He said:

"In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.

From the depths of the grave ^[a] I called
for help,

and you listened to my cry. ³ You
hurled me into the deep,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about me;
all your waves and breakers
swept over me.

• ⁴ I said, 'I have been banished
from your sight;
yet I will look again
toward your holy temple.'

• ⁵ The engulfing waters threatened me, ^[b]
the deep surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

• ⁶ To the roots of the mountains I sank
down;

the earth beneath barred me in forever.
But you brought my life up from the

pit,

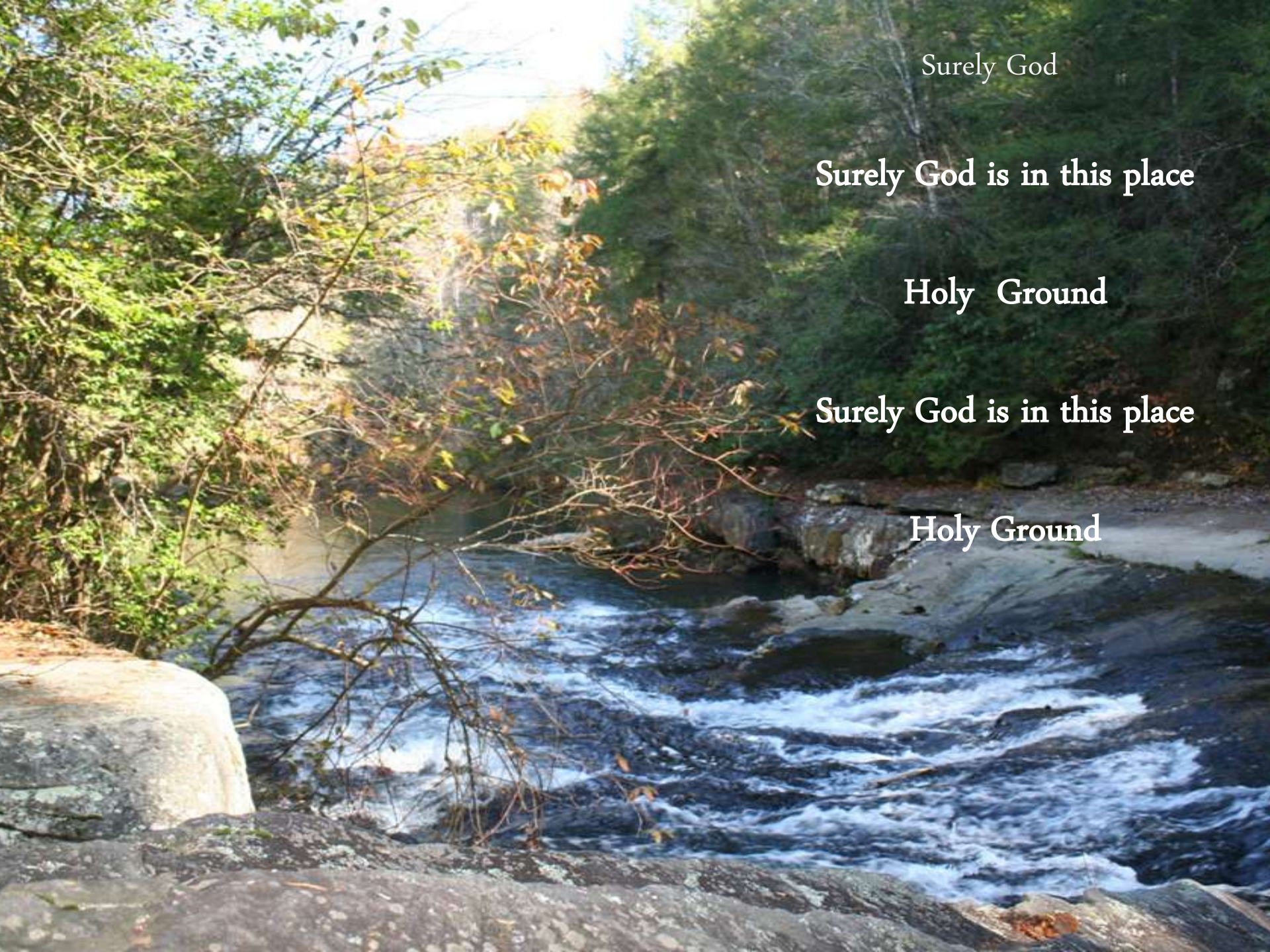
O LORD my God.

• ⁷ "When my life was ebbing away,
I remembered you, LORD,
and my prayer rose to you,
to your holy temple.

• ⁸ "Those who cling to worthless idols
forfeit the grace that could be theirs.

• ⁹ But I, with a song of thanksgiving,
will sacrifice to you.
What I have vowed I will make good.
Salvation comes from the LORD."

• ¹⁰ And the LORD commanded the fish, and
it vomited Jonah onto dry land.



Surely God

Surely God is in this place

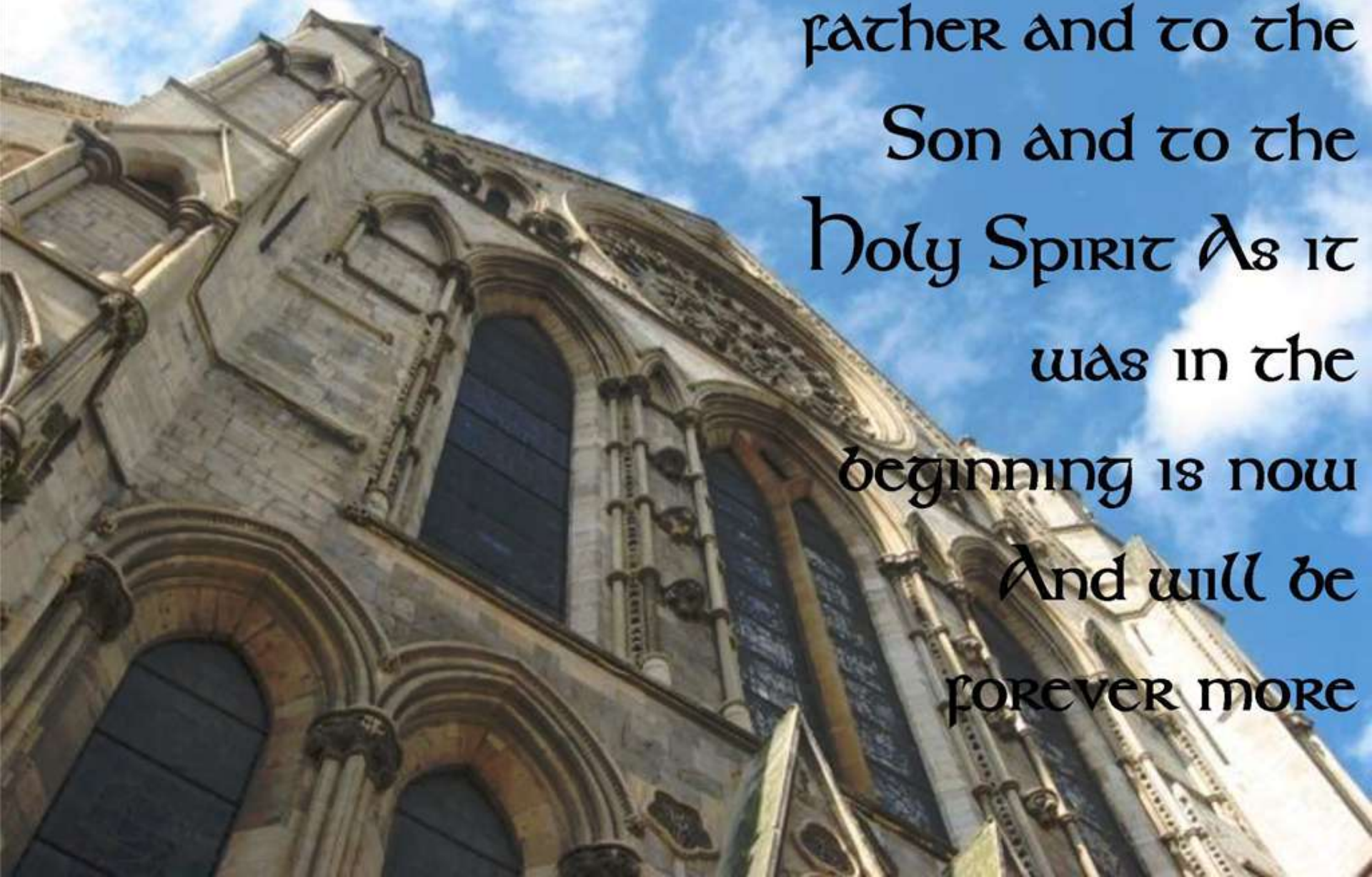
Holy Ground

Surely God is in this place

Holy Ground

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: Faith?



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?

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."

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

²³⁻²⁶As 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!

²⁷⁻²⁸"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.

²⁹⁻³⁰"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."

³¹While 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.

One Heart, One Mind

³²⁻³³The 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.

³⁴⁻³⁵And 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.

³⁶⁻³⁷Joseph, 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?

Acts 5

¹Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ²With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. ³Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

⁵When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. ⁶Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

⁷About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

⁸Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

⁹Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

¹⁰At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

¹¹Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Acts 5

The Apostles Heal Many

¹²The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil^[a] spirits, and all of them were healed.

The Apostles Persecuted

¹⁷Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰"Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life." ²¹At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. ²²But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, ²³"We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." ²⁴On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this.

Acts 5

²⁵Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." ²⁶At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

²⁷Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

²⁹Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³²We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Acts 5

³³When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. ³⁴But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. ³⁵Then he addressed them: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

⁴⁰His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴²Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. [\[b\]](#)



Conversations: our response to God

The Offering: Thanksgiving.

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:

- **Thanksgiving Weekend: No Se*lah; Advent Wreathes at 10am.**



The Offering.



The Blessing

The background of the entire image is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, "The Creation of Adam." It shows the hand of God on the right reaching towards the hand of Adam on the left, with a small gap between their fingers. The image has a slightly aged, cracked texture.

Be Thankful.

Do you have five coats?
Some people don't have one.

Peace.

The PEACE OF THE LORD be always with you!