

Welcome

to

*Se*lah*

סלה

COME IN. SIT DOWN. RELAX.

BREATHE SLOWER.

PLAY A GAME.

COLOR A PICTURE.

SIGN AFFISU'S CARD.

LIGHT SOME CANDLES.

PLAY SOME 9 SQUARE.

HANG ON THE COUCH.

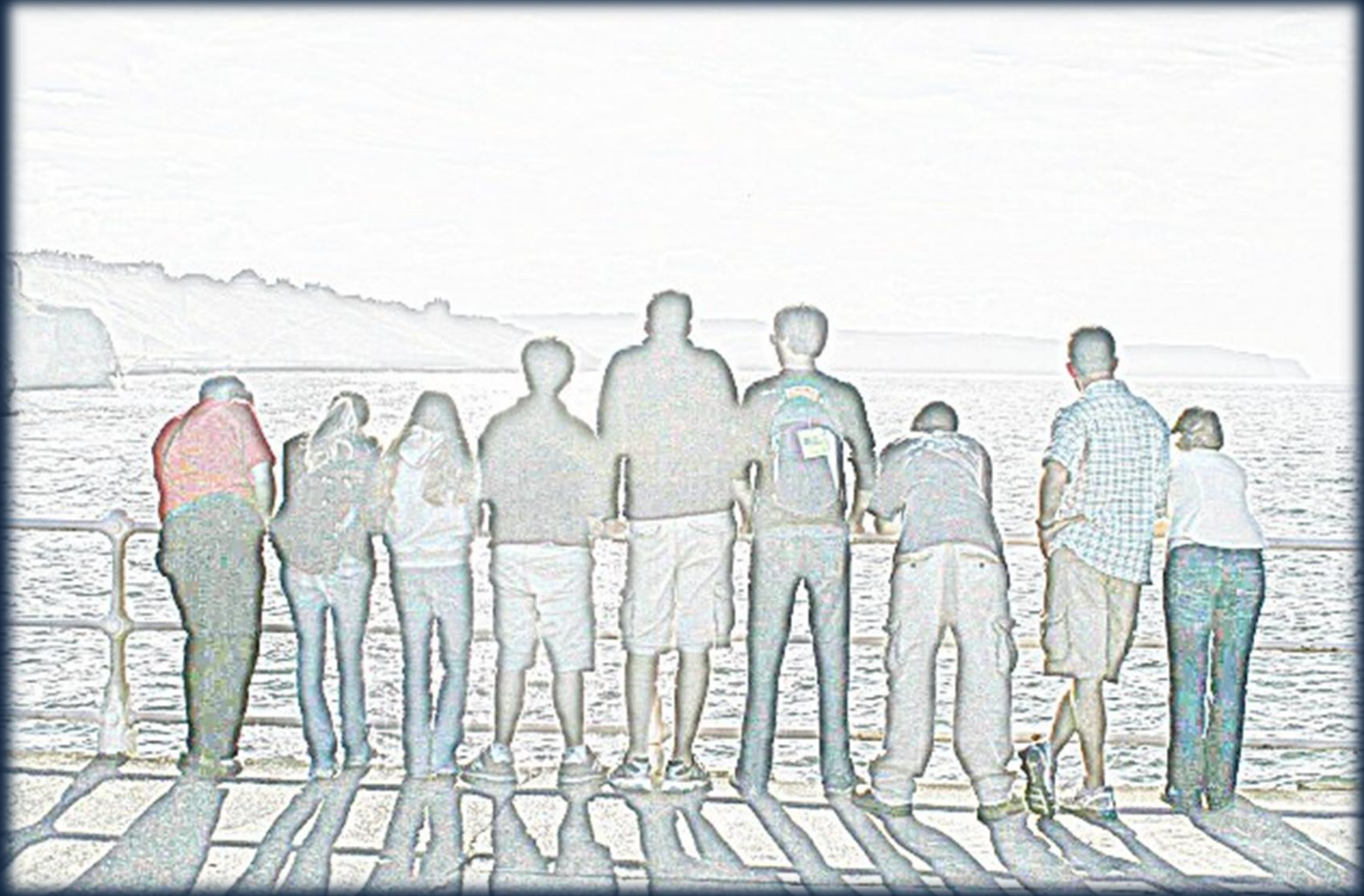
YOU'RE HERE. THIS IS GOOD.

THIS IS YOUR HOLY PAUSE.

THIS IS YOUR OASIS.



Living on the Edge of Heaven and Earth.



We are a community of seekers trying live life *with* God in this world
Through unlocking the gates of Heaven.

A person wearing a grey hoodie and dark pants is sitting on a stone wall, reading a book. The wall is made of rough-hewn stones and has a wooden gate with a crisscross pattern. The gate is open, leading to a grassy field. In the background, there are trees and a hazy landscape. The scene is framed by large trees on either side.

The Invitatory:

It's unlocked, 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.



*Praying with
St. Chad (England)
& St. Ninian (Scotland)
Who Lived on the Edge*

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

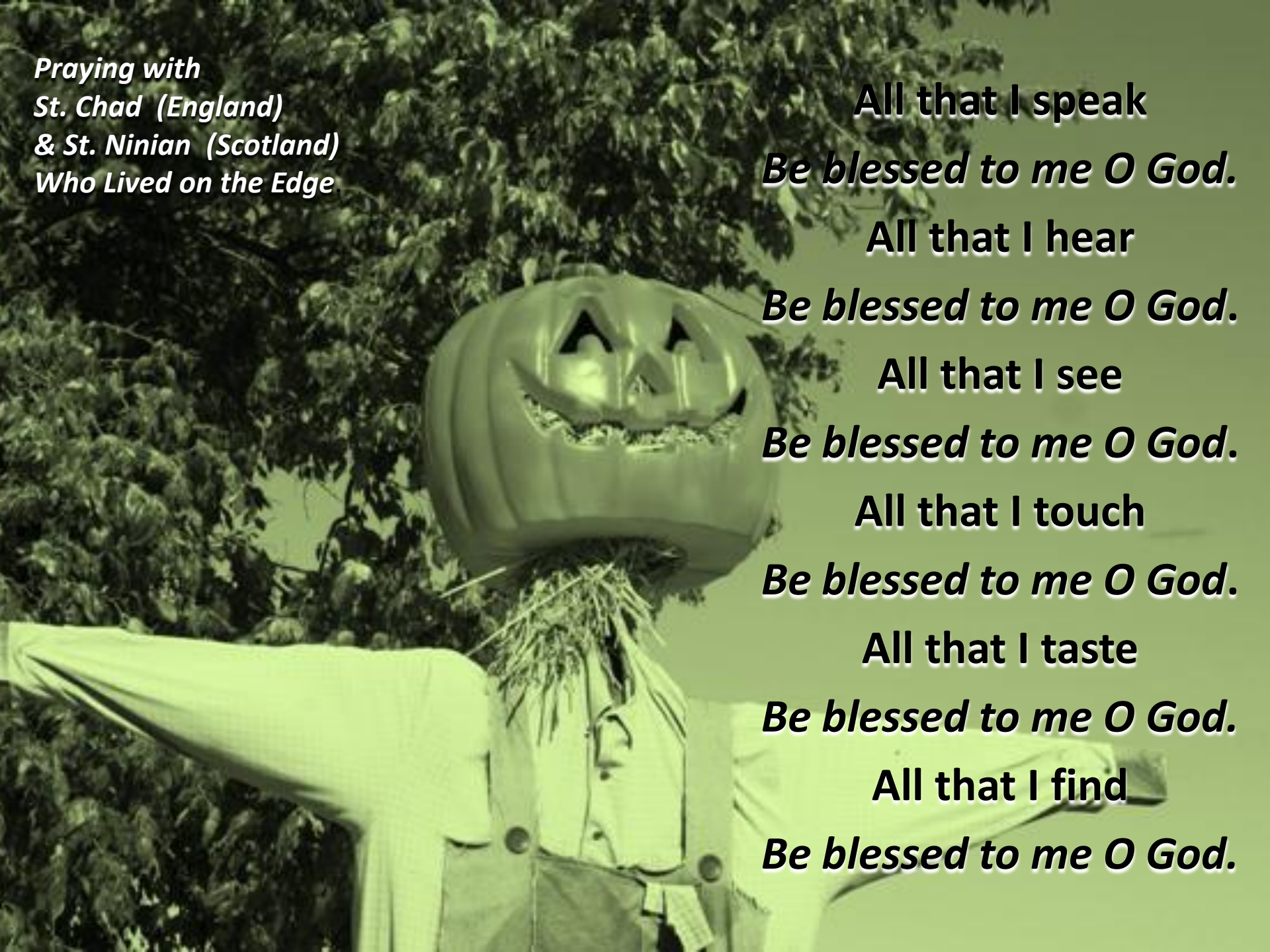
*All that I hear
Be blessed to me O God.*

*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.*



A large Ferris wheel is the central focus of the image, set against a twilight sky. The wheel's structure is a complex lattice of metal beams, with several passenger cars visible. A prominent sign on the wheel features a rainbow and the word "FANTASY". The overall scene is illuminated by the soft light of dusk, with some lights on the wheel beginning to glow.

Together Pray:

Jesus, be waiting for us in our eating, our laughing, our talking, our seeking and our praying. Let us find you hidden in every room, in every person, in every minute, in every slide, in every word and in every touch. Bring us to the edge of heaven and earth this night so that we might dwell in its gate and be circled by your joy, your peace, your presence.

A Sound bite from God: *letting God speak early on in the evening.*

A Versicle:

**In Him we live
and move and
have our being.**

*From the Acts of the Apostles,
Ch 17, vs. 28*



STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC.



Essential to living life with God *in* this world. Essential to living life on the edge.



***STEP AWAY FROM
THOSE THINGS THAT
KEEP US FROM STEPPING
OF THE TRAFFIC***

***(Things like cell phones,
iPods, homework etc..)***

***WHAT OTHER THINGS MIGHT YOU
PUT IN THE BASKET WITH
YOUR GADGETS?***

The image is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, 'The Creation of Adam'. It depicts two hands reaching towards each other, separated by a crack in the stone. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three main sections: a top section, a middle section, and a bottom section. The top section asks 'WHAT IS IT YOU NEED TO STEP TOWARDS THIS EVENING?'. The middle section asks 'WHAT IS IT YOU NEED? GO AHEAD,'. The bottom section says 'ASK GOD FOR IT.'.

**WHAT IS IT YOU NEED
TO STEP TOWARDS
THIS EVENING?**

**WHAT IS IT YOU
NEED?
GO AHEAD,**

ASK GOD FOR IT.



里,





THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Praying with the Church:

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.



A small, light-colored dog with dark ears is sitting on a red background. The dog is looking upwards and to the left. The text is overlaid on the image.

Being Thankful...

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above the heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

...Being Thankful for each other

LET'S EAT...



THE SEARCHING



Living on the Edge:

If you live on the borderlands, you need to keep alert and awake. There is always something going on at the edges of life and the strange is always waiting to break into our life. For those who are alert and awake life will soon become an adventure... Most creatures are born blind and after a few days are able to see, most men however remain blind all their lives and miss many a splendored thing.

- David Adam

We search while singing or
repeating
The Jesus Prayer.
"Jesus Christ Son of God have mercy on me."

**QUIET
PLACE**

MY HEART SAYS OF YOU, "SEEK HIS FACE!"
YOUR FACE, LORD, I WILL SEEK... WAIT FOR THE LORD; BE
STRONG AND TAKE HEART AND WAIT FOR THE LORD


PS 27



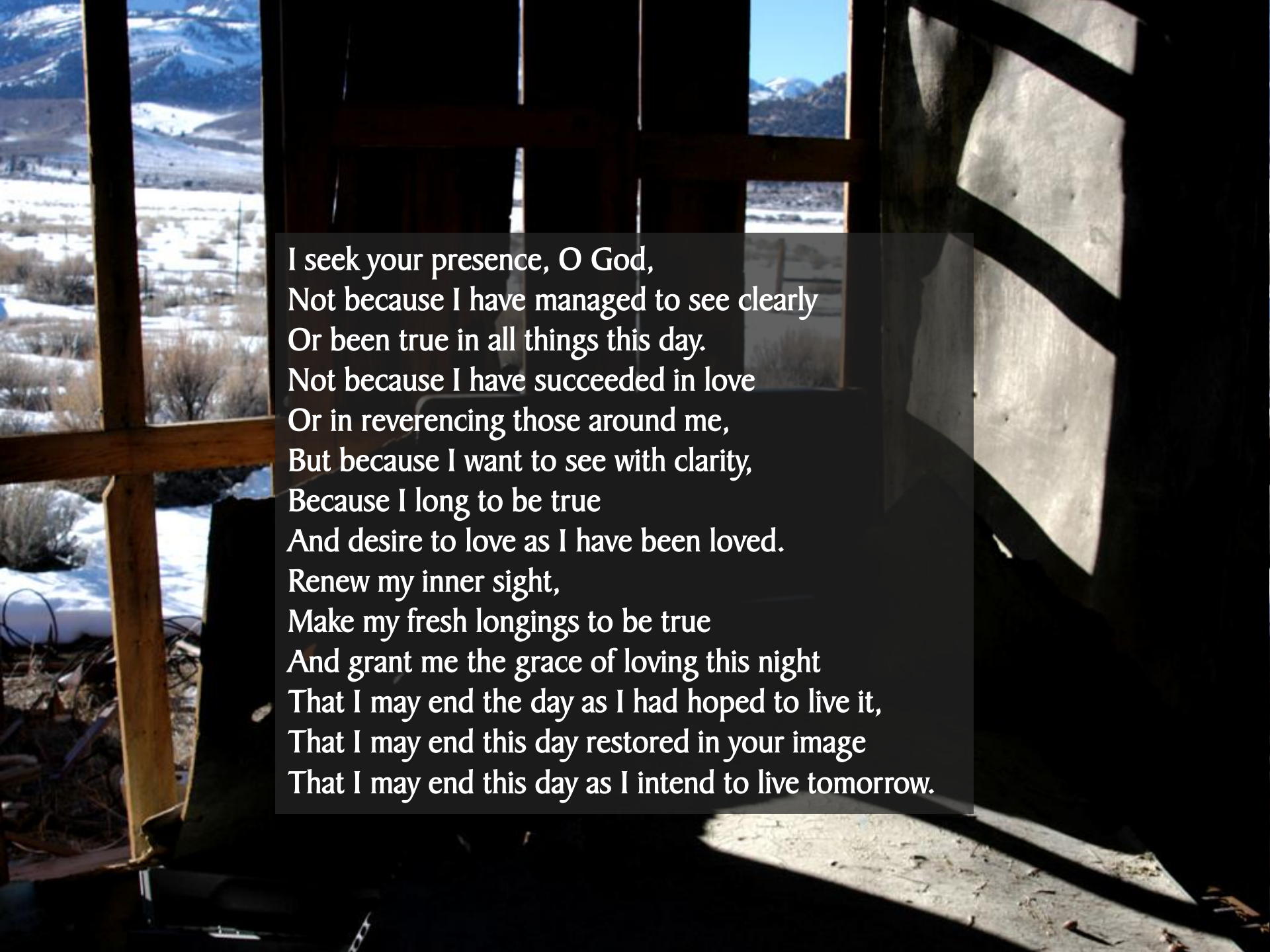
**We stand at the gate..
*Holy Spirit come and open it so that we may enter.***

LIVING ON THE EDGE: A PRACTICE



A photograph of a scarecrow in a field of sunflowers. The scarecrow is wearing a red and black plaid shirt, blue overalls, and a straw hat. Its head is a carved pumpkin with a surprised expression. In the background, there are more sunflowers and a clear blue sky. Overlaid on the image is a list of seven prayer requests in white text.

Open my eyes...
Release my mind...
Clear my ears...
Fill my mouth...
Stretch my hands...
Ground my body...
Stir my life...

The background of the image shows a winter landscape with snow-covered mountains and fields, viewed through a window with dark wooden frames. The scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day. The text is centered in the middle of the image, overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey rectangular area.

I seek your presence, O God,
Not because I have managed to see clearly
Or been true in all things this day.
Not because I have succeeded in love
Or in reverencing those around me,
But because I want to see with clarity,
Because I long to be true
And desire to love as I have been loved.
Renew my inner sight,
Make my fresh longings to be true
And grant me the grace of loving this night
That I may end the day as I had hoped to live it,
That I may end this day restored in your image
That I may end this day as I intend to live tomorrow.



Asking God to bring light into the darkness

Remembering ourselves and others before God

Praying for each other.

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...



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

A serene sunset over a body of water with a sandy beach in the foreground and trees on the right. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The water reflects the light, and the beach is visible in the foreground. The sky is a mix of soft pinks and blues.

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

WHOM HAVE I BUT YOU

Whom Have I But You
Whom Have I But You
Whom Have I But You

Though the mountains may fall,
They fall into the sea

Whom Have I But You
Whom Have I But You
Whom Have I But You

Though my colored dawn,
May turn to shades of grey

Whom Have I But You
Whom Have I But You
Whom Have I But You

Though the questions I ask,
May never be resolved.

Whom Have I But You
Whom Have I But You
Whom Have I But You

Though the mountains may fall,
They fall into the sea
Though my colored dawn,
May turn to shades of grey
Though the questions I ask,
May never be resolved

Whom Have I But You
Whom Have I But You
Whom Have I But You

SANCTUARY

A photograph of a stone sanctuary interior. The space is characterized by multiple layers of stone arches. In the center, there is a simple stone altar with four legs. Behind the altar is a small, arched window that allows natural light to enter. The walls and ceiling are made of rough-hewn stone, and the floor is also stone. Several small, warm-toned lights are placed along the base of the arches, creating a soft, ambient glow. The overall atmosphere is quiet and sacred.

Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and Holy
Tried and true
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Psalm 121 *ESV*
A Song of Ascents.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
2 My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth. **3** He will
not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
4 Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
5 The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right
hand.
6 The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
7 The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
8 The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalm 121 *A Pilgrim Song (Message)*

1-2 I look up to the mountains; does my
strength come from mountains?
No, my strength comes from God,
who made heaven, and earth, and
mountains.
3-4 He won't let you stumble,
your Guardian God won't fall asleep.
Not on your life! Israel's
Guardian will never doze or sleep.
5-6 God's your Guardian, right at your side
to protect you— Shielding you from
sunstroke, sheltering you from
moonstroke.
7-8 God guards you from every evil,
he guards your very life.
He guards you when you leave and when
you return, he guards you now, he guards
you always.

The Prayer of Making it more than words on a page.



Surely God is in this place

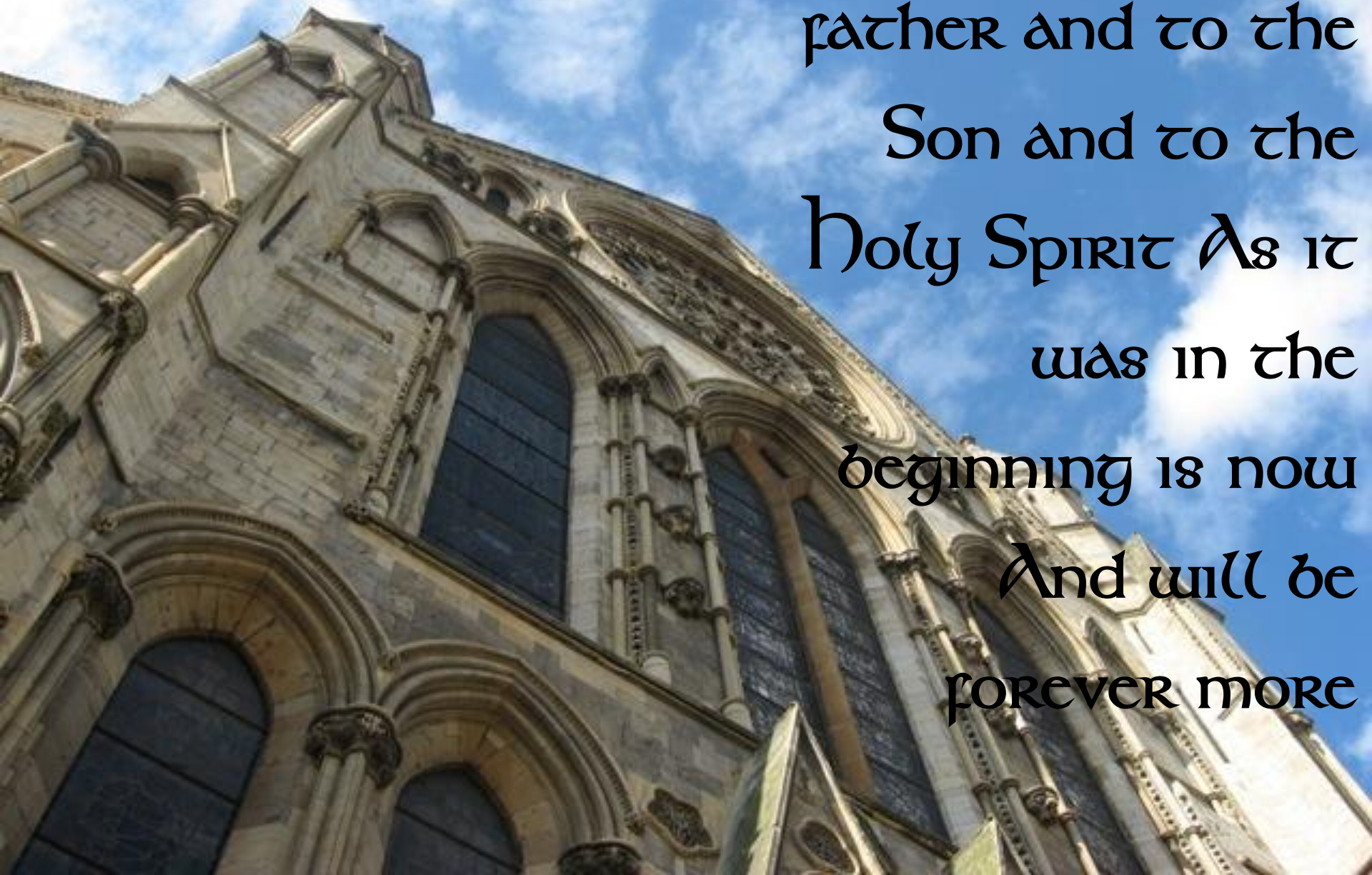
Holy Ground

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.

-Isaiah 1:18

INSEARCHOF: STICKS

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Handwritten text in an ancient script, likely Syriac, with several lines of text in red ink (rubrication). The text is arranged in approximately 15 horizontal lines across the page. The script is dense and characteristic of early Christian manuscripts. The red ink highlights specific words or phrases, possibly indicating headings or important theological terms. The background of the parchment is aged and yellowed.



– 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.

ACTS

WHY SCRIPTURE?

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.

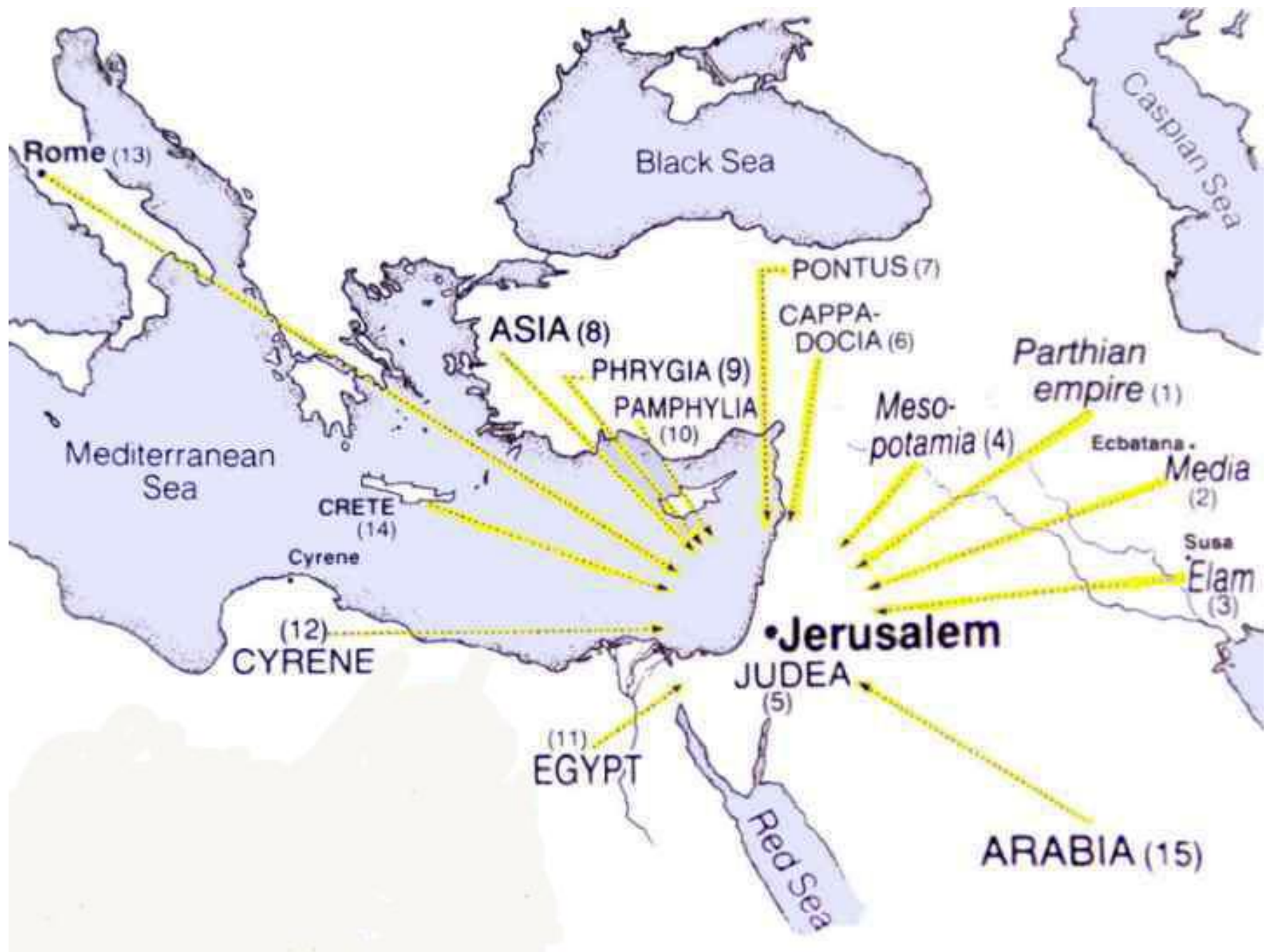
AN INTRO TO ACTS:

Because the story of Jesus is so impressive – God among us! God speaking a language we can understand! God acting in ways that heal and help and save us! There is a danger that we will be impressed, but only impressed. As the spectacular dimensions of this story slowly dawn upon us, we could easily become enthusiastic spectators and then let it go at that – become admirers of Jesus, generous with our oohs and ahs and in our better moments inspired to imitate him.

It is Luke's task to prevent us from becoming mere spectators to Jesus, fans of the Message...

The story of Jesus doesn't end with Jesus. It continues in the lives of those who believe in him. The supernatural does not stop with Jesus. Luke makes it perfectly clear that Christians he wrote about ... are in on the action of God, God acting in them, God living in them. Which means of course in us.

-Eugene Peterson, The Message





THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 2, THE MESSAGE

A Sound Like a Strong Wind

¹⁻⁴ When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

⁵⁻¹¹ There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs!

"They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

¹² Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused. "What's going on here?"

¹³ Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."



*THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 2:14-21
THE MESSAGE*

14-21 THAT'S WHEN PETER STOOD UP AND, BACKED BY THE OTHER ELEVEN, SPOKE OUT WITH BOLD URGENCY: "FELLOW JEWS, ALL OF YOU WHO ARE VISITING JERUSALEM, LISTEN CAREFULLY AND GET THIS STORY STRAIGHT, THESE PEOPLE AREN'T DRUNK AS SOME OF YOU SUSPECT, THEY HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO GET DRUNK—IT'S ONLY NINE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, THIS IS WHAT THE PROPHET JOEL ANNOUNCED WOULD HAPPEN:

*"IN THE LAST DAYS,' GOD SAYS, I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON EVERY KIND OF PEOPLE; YOUR SONS WILL PROPHECY, ALSO YOUR DAUGHTERS; YOUR YOUNG MEN WILL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN DREAM DREAMS, WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON THOSE WHO SERVE ME, MEN AND WOMEN BOTH, AND THEY'LL PROPHECY,
I'LL SET WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW,
BLOOD AND FIRE AND BILLOWING SMOKE, THE SUN TURNING BLACK AND THE MOON BLOOD-RED,
BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD ARRIVES, THE DAY TREMENDOUS AND MARVELOUS;
AND WHOEVER CALLS OUT FOR HELP TO ME, GOD, WILL BE SAVED.'*



*THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 2:14-21
ESV*

¹⁴BUT PETER, STANDING WITH THE ELEVEN, LIFTED UP HIS VOICE AND ADDRESSED THEM: "MEN OF JUDEA AND ALL WHO DWELL IN JERUSALEM, LET THIS BE KNOWN TO YOU, AND GIVE EAR TO MY WORDS. ¹⁵FOR THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT DRUNK, AS YOU SUPPOSE, SINCE IT IS ONLY THE THIRD HOUR OF THE DAY. ¹⁶BUT THIS IS WHAT WAS UTTERED THROUGH THE PROPHET JOEL:

*¹⁷ "'AND IN THE LAST DAYS IT SHALL BE, GOD DECLARES, THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH, AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY,
AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS,
AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;*

*¹⁸EVEN ON MY MALE SERVANTS AND FEMALE SERVANTS
IN THOSE DAYS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT, AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY, AND I WILL SHOW WONDERS IN THE HEAVENS ABOVE
AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE, ²⁰THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED TO DARKNESS AND THE MOON TO BLOOD, BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD COMES, THE GREAT AND MAGNIFICENT DAY, ²¹AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.'*



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 2 THE MESSAGE

ACTS 2:22-28

"FELLOW ISRAELITES, LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THESE WORDS; JESUS THE NAZARENE, A MAN THOROUGHLY ACCREDITED BY GOD TO YOU—THE MIRACLES AND WONDERS AND SIGNS THAT GOD DID THROUGH HIM ARE COMMON KNOWLEDGE—THIS JESUS, FOLLOWING THE DELIBERATE AND WELL-THOUGHT-OUT PLAN OF GOD, WAS BETRAYED BY MEN WHO TOOK THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS, AND WAS HANDED OVER TO YOU, AND YOU PINNED HIM TO A CROSS AND KILLED HIM, BUT GOD UNTIED THE DEATH ROPES AND RAISED HIM UP, DEATH WAS NO MATCH FOR HIM, DAVID SAID IT ALL;

I SAW GOD BEFORE ME FOR ALL TIME, NOTHING CAN SHAKE ME; HE'S RIGHT BY MY SIDE,

I'M GLAD FROM THE INSIDE OUT, ECSTATIC; I'VE PITCHED MY TENT IN THE LAND OF HOPE,

I KNOW YOU'LL NEVER DUMP ME IN HADES; I'LL NEVER EVEN SMELL THE STENCH OF DEATH,

YOU'VE GOT MY FEET ON THE LIFE-PATH, WITH YOUR FACE SHINING SUN-JOY ALL AROUND,



*ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2
ESV
ACTS 2:22-28*

²²"MEN OF ISRAEL, HEAR THESE WORDS; JESUS OF NAZARETH, A MAN ATTESTED TO YOU BY GOD WITH MIGHTY WORKS AND WONDERS AND SIGNS THAT GOD DID THROUGH HIM IN YOUR MIDST, AS YOU YOURSELVES KNOW—

²³THIS JESUS, DELIVERED UP ACCORDING TO THE DEFINITE PLAN AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, YOU CRUCIFIED AND KILLED BY THE HANDS OF LAWLESS MEN, ²⁴ GOD RAISED HIM UP, LOOSING THE PANGS OF DEATH, BECAUSE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE HELD BY IT, ²⁵FOR DAVID SAYS CONCERNING HIM,

*"I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE ME,
FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND THAT I MAY NOT BE SHAKEN;
²⁶THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD, AND MY TONGUE REJOICED;
MY FLESH ALSO WILL DWELL IN HOPE,*

*²⁷FOR YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES,
OR LET YOUR HOLY ONE SEE CORRUPTION,*

*²⁸YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE PATHS OF LIFE;
YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.'*



*ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2
THE MESSAGE
ACTS 2:29-37*

29-36 "DEAR FRIENDS, LET ME BE COMPLETELY FRANK WITH YOU. OUR ANCESTOR DAVID IS DEAD AND BURIED—HIS TOMB IS IN PLAIN SIGHT TODAY, BUT BEING ALSO A PROPHET AND KNOWING THAT GOD HAD SOLEMNLY SWORN THAT A DESCENDANT OF HIS WOULD RULE HIS KINGDOM, SEEING FAR AHEAD, HE TALKED OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE MESSIAH—'NO TRIP TO HADES, NO STENCH OF DEATH.' THIS JESUS, GOD RAISED UP, AND EVERY ONE OF US HERE IS A WITNESS TO IT. THEN, RAISED TO THE HEIGHTS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD AND RECEIVING THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM THE FATHER, HE Poured OUT THE SPIRIT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED. THAT IS WHAT YOU SEE AND HEAR, FOR DAVID HIMSELF DID NOT ASCEND TO HEAVEN, BUT HE DID SAY,

GOD SAID TO MY MASTER, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A STOOL FOR RESTING YOUR FEET;" "ALL ISRAEL, THEN, KNOW THIS: THERE'S NO LONGER ROOM FOR DOUBT—GOD MADE HIM MASTER AND MESSIAH, THIS JESUS WHOM YOU KILLED ON A CROSS;"
37 CUT TO THE QUICK, THOSE WHO WERE THERE LISTENING ASKED PETER AND THE OTHER APOSTLES, "BROTHERS! BROTHERS! SO NOW WHAT DO WE DO?"



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2

ESV

ACTS 2:29-37

²⁹"BROTHERS, I MAY SAY TO YOU WITH CONFIDENCE ABOUT THE PATRIARCH DAVID THAT HE BOTH DIED AND WAS BURIED, AND HIS TOMB IS WITH US TO THIS DAY, ³⁰ BEING THEREFORE A PROPHET, AND KNOWING THAT GOD HAD SWORN WITH AN OATH TO HIM THAT HE WOULD SET ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, ³¹HE FORESAW AND SPOKE ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF THE CHRIST, THAT HE WAS NOT ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID HIS FLESH SEE CORRUPTION, ³²THIS JESUS GOD RAISED UP, AND OF THAT WE ALL ARE WITNESSES, ³³ BEING THEREFORE EXALTED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, AND HAVING RECEIVED FROM THE FATHER THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, HE HAS Poured OUT THIS THAT YOU YOURSELVES ARE SEEING AND HEARING, ³⁴FOR DAVID DID NOT ASCEND INTO THE HEAVENS, BUT HE HIMSELF SAYS,

*³⁵"THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
³⁵UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES YOUR FOOTSTOOL,'*

³⁶LET ALL THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL THEREFORE KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT GOD HAS MADE HIM BOTH LORD AND CHRIST, THIS JESUS WHOM YOU CRUCIFIED! ³⁷NOW WHEN THEY HEARD THIS THEY WERE CUT TO THE HEART, AND SAID TO PETER AND THE REST OF THE APOSTLES, "BROTHERS, WHAT SHALL WE DO?"



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2

THE MESSAGE

ACTS 2:38-47

³⁸⁻³⁹PETER SAID, "CHANGE YOUR LIFE, TURN TO GOD AND BE BAPTIZED, EACH OF YOU, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, SO YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN, RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE PROMISE IS TARGETED TO YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN, BUT ALSO TO ALL WHO ARE FAR AWAY—WHOMEVER, IN FACT, OUR MASTER GOD INVITES!"

⁴⁰HE WENT ON IN THIS VEIN FOR A LONG TIME, URGING THEM OVER AND OVER, "GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN; GET OUT OF THIS SICK AND STUPID CULTURE!"

⁴¹⁻⁴²THAT DAY ABOUT THREE THOUSAND TOOK HIM AT HIS WORD, WERE BAPTIZED AND WERE SIGNED UP, THEY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO THE TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES, THE LIFE TOGETHER, THE COMMON MEAL, AND THE PRAYERS,

⁴³⁻⁴⁵EVERYONE AROUND WAS IN AWE—ALL THOSE WONDERS AND SIGNS DONE THROUGH THE APOSTLES! AND ALL THE BELIEVERS LIVED IN A WONDERFUL HARMONY, HOLDING EVERYTHING IN COMMON, THEY SOLD WHATEVER THEY OWNED AND POOLED THEIR RESOURCES SO THAT EACH PERSON'S NEED WAS MET,

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷THEY FOLLOWED A DAILY DISCIPLINE OF WORSHIP IN THE TEMPLE FOLLOWED BY MEALS AT HOME, EVERY MEAL A CELEBRATION, EXUBERANT AND JOYFUL, AS THEY PRAISED GOD. PEOPLE IN GENERAL LIKED WHAT THEY SAW, EVERY DAY THEIR NUMBER GREW AS GOD ADDED THOSE WHO WERE SAVED,

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2

ESV

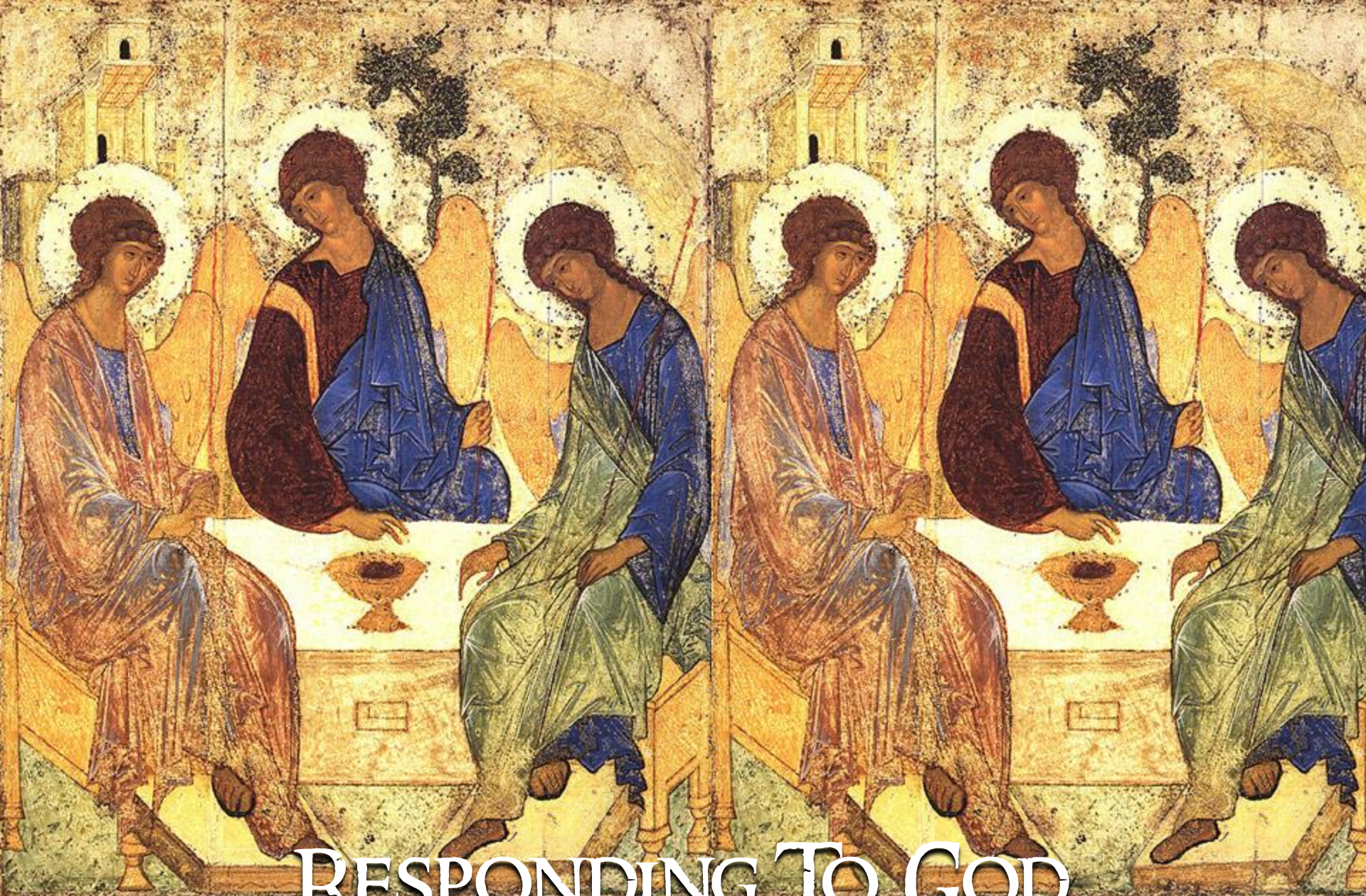
ACTS 2:38-47



³⁸AND PETER SAID TO THEM, "REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED EVERY ONE OF YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. ³⁹FOR THE PROMISE IS FOR YOU AND FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND FOR ALL WHO ARE FAR OFF, EVERYONE WHOM THE LORD OUR GOD CALLS TO HIMSELF; ⁴⁰AND WITH MANY OTHER WORDS HE BORE WITNESS AND CONTINUED TO EXHORT THEM, SAYING, "SAVE YOURSELVES FROM THIS CROOKED GENERATION;" ⁴¹SO THOSE WHO RECEIVED HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED, AND THERE WERE ADDED THAT DAY ABOUT THREE THOUSAND SOULS.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE BELIEVERS

⁴²AND THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING AND THE FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE PRAYERS, ⁴³AND AWE CAME UPON EVERY SOUL, AND MANY WONDERS AND SIGNS WERE BEING DONE THROUGH THE APOSTLES. ⁴⁴AND ALL WHO BELIEVED WERE TOGETHER AND HAD ALL THINGS IN COMMON. ⁴⁵AND THEY WERE SELLING THEIR POSSESSIONS AND BELONGINGS AND DISTRIBUTING THE PROCEEDS TO ALL, AS ANY HAD NEED. ⁴⁶AND DAY BY DAY, ATTENDING THE TEMPLE TOGETHER AND BREAKING BREAD IN THEIR HOMES, THEY RECEIVED THEIR FOOD WITH GLAD AND GENEROUS HEARTS, ⁴⁷PRAISING GOD AND HAVING FAVOR WITH ALL THE PEOPLE, AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAY BY DAY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.



RESPONDING TO GOD



Conversations.

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.

Come let us reason together,
says the Lord.

-Isaiah 1:18

INSEARCHOF: TRANSLATORS

The Blessing

Circle us YHWH, Almighty God

Keep peace within, keep trouble out.

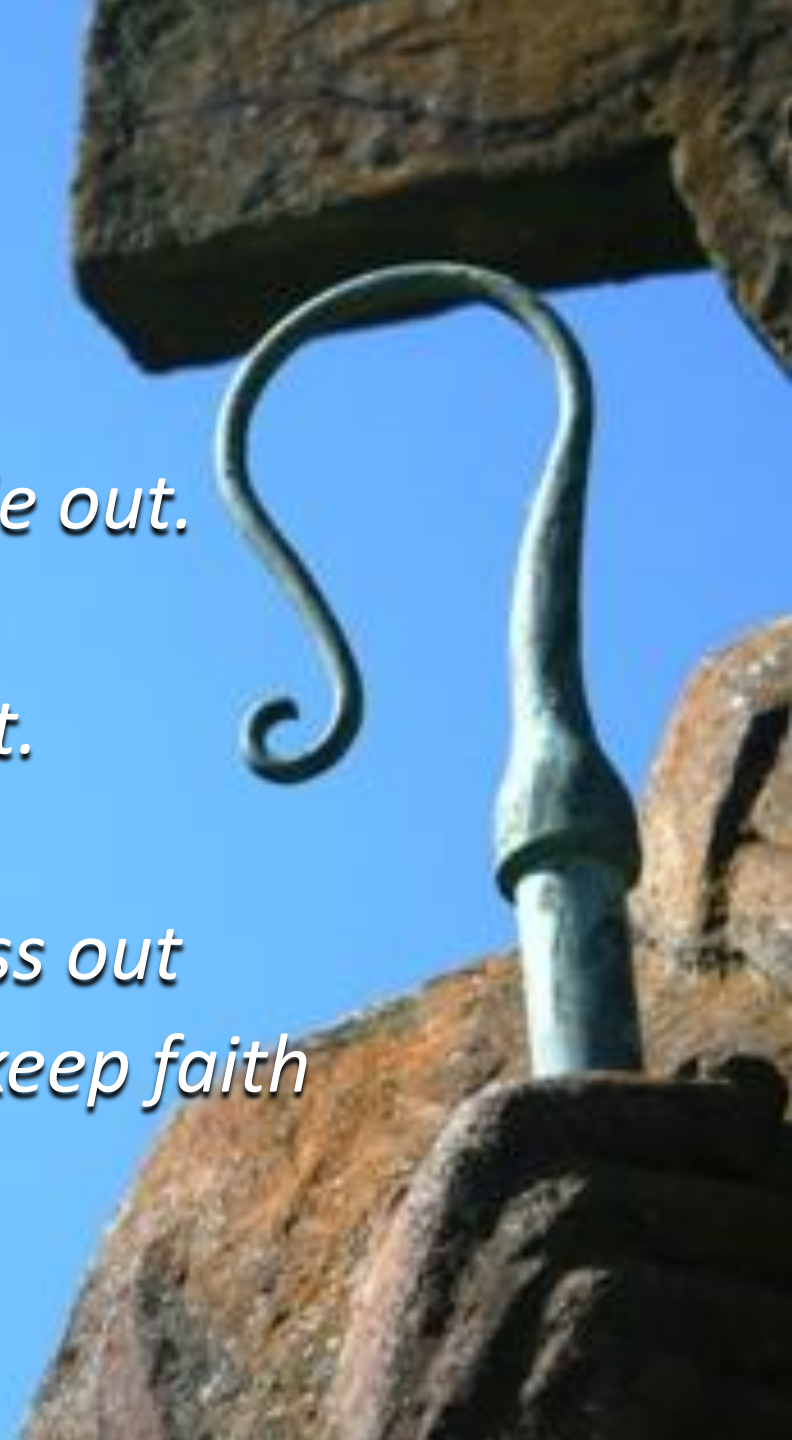
Circle us Jesus, Savior

Keep love within, keep hate out.

Circle us Abba, Creator

Keep light within, keep darkness out

Circle us Spirit, our Paraclete, *keep faith within, keep fear out.*



The Blessing

May you go from here in peace holding tight the hands with which you share this way.

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 receive the language and power of the Spirit so that you might tell of the works of God.

And may the Spirit continue to linger on your soul in all that you do and wherever you go.

Go in peace speaking in tongues!