



Welcome

to

Se\*lah!

הלה

We're so glad you've come.  
So come on in, sit down, relax, make yourself at home,  
play a game, grab a drink, meet someone new,  
start to breathe s l o w e r.



Come and See...

-Jesus

Living life *with* God *in* this world.


*Invitatory:*

God is here in this place.

The Lord be with you

*And also with you.*





Loving Lord bless this place, bless this time.  
Let your love be here *fill it with your peace*  
Let your joy be here, *fill it with your hope.*  
Let your light be here, *fill it with your power*  
Let us know you are here, *fill us with your presence.*



All:

O Lord extend our vision, our clearness of sight. Open our eyes to see beyond the obvious, to perceive that this is your world, You are in it, You invade it, You saturate it, You enfold it. It is encircled by you. Here we encounter you, Here we meet you, Here you come to us, Here your presence is revealed.



**Open your mouth and taste,  
open your eyes and see—  
how good GOD is.  
Blessed are you who run to him  
-Psalm 34:8**





Whether for the first time or the hundredth, whether are in middle school, high school, home school or out of school, I invite you to *Step out of the traffic*.

For the next two hours, just stop. Cease striving. Cease doing.  
Just be. Just be here. For the next two hours nothing else matters,  
Just you.  
Just God.  
Just us.

For the next two hours let's remember what is real and what matters.  
God is real. You matter. We matter.





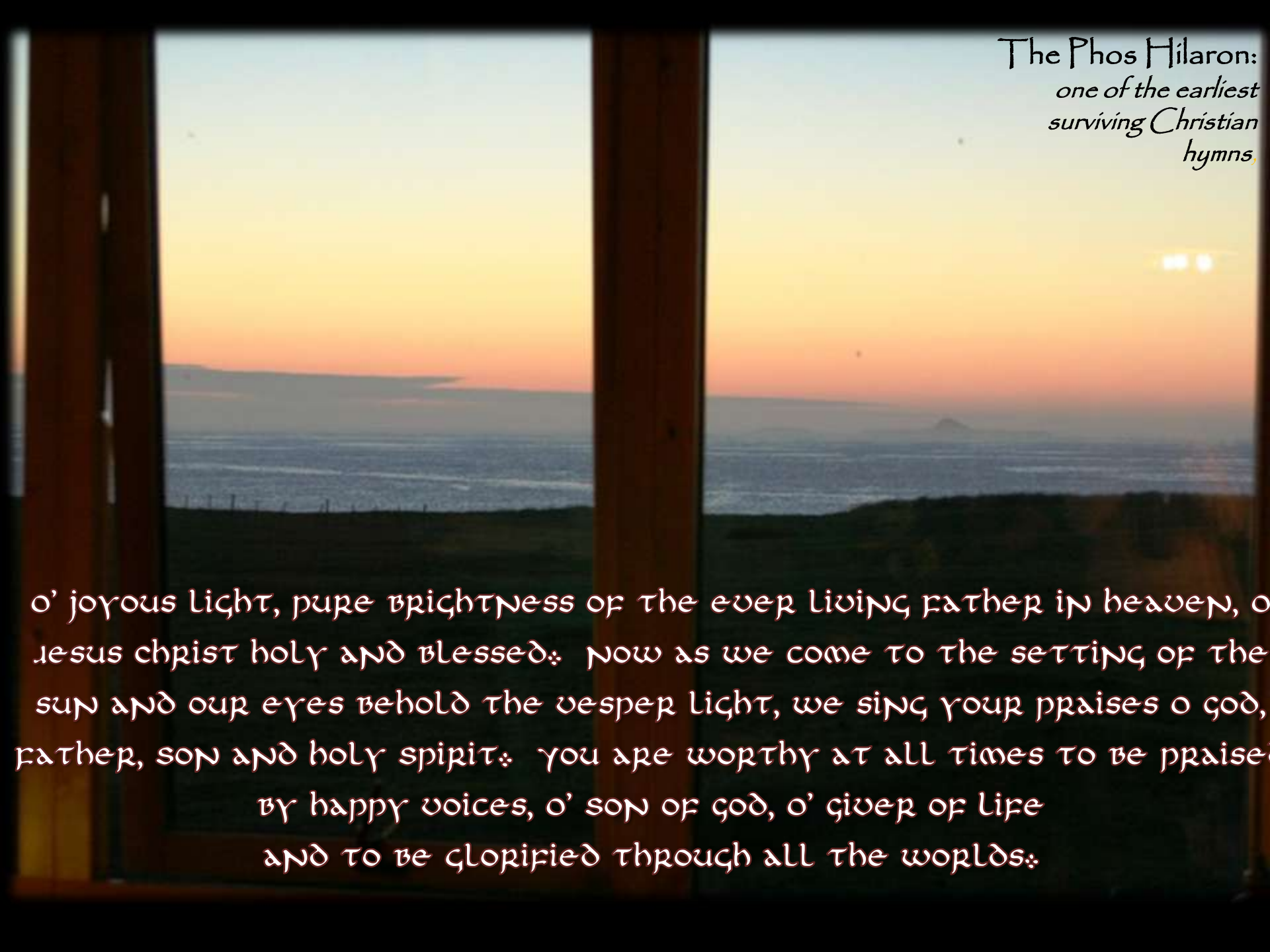
So, take this holy pause.  
Close your eyes again and breathe.



BE STILL and KNOW GOD IS HERE.  
Be still and know GOD...



THE LIGHTING  
OF THE  
CANDLES



The Phos Hilaron:  
*one of the earliest  
surviving Christian  
hymns.*

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 praise  
by happy voices, o' son of god, o' giver of life  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.



A close-up photograph of a woman with blonde hair, smiling warmly. Her hands are clasped together in a prayerful gesture, resting near her chin. She is wearing a ring on her left hand. The background is softly blurred, showing a framed picture of two children on the wall.

**We are a thankful people.**

**Thankful for the food waiting for us**

**Thankful for the hands that prepared it.**

**Thankful for this time and place.**

**Thankful for each other.**

Let's Eat!





# The Searching



those who seek me diligently find me.

*Proverbs 8:17*



The Holy One, our God, is in our midst.

*Come let us seek Him*

Come let Him find us.





A photograph of a dirt path leading into the distance. The path is light brown and textured. In the bottom left corner, a dark shadow is cast across the path, suggesting a person or object is standing nearby. The background shows some green grass on the left side.

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.*



Holy and Loving God  
There is no place you do not dwell  
And every place where you are is holy  
There is no creature that lacks your presence  
And every creature through you is holy  
In all things and in every place  
Grant us a vision to see you  
Minds to seek you and  
Hearts to love you

Be known to us God as  
We seek you.





# **Blessed Be Your Name**

**Blessed be your name**

**In the land that is plentiful**

**Where your streams of abundance flow**

**Blessed be your name**

**And blessed be your name**

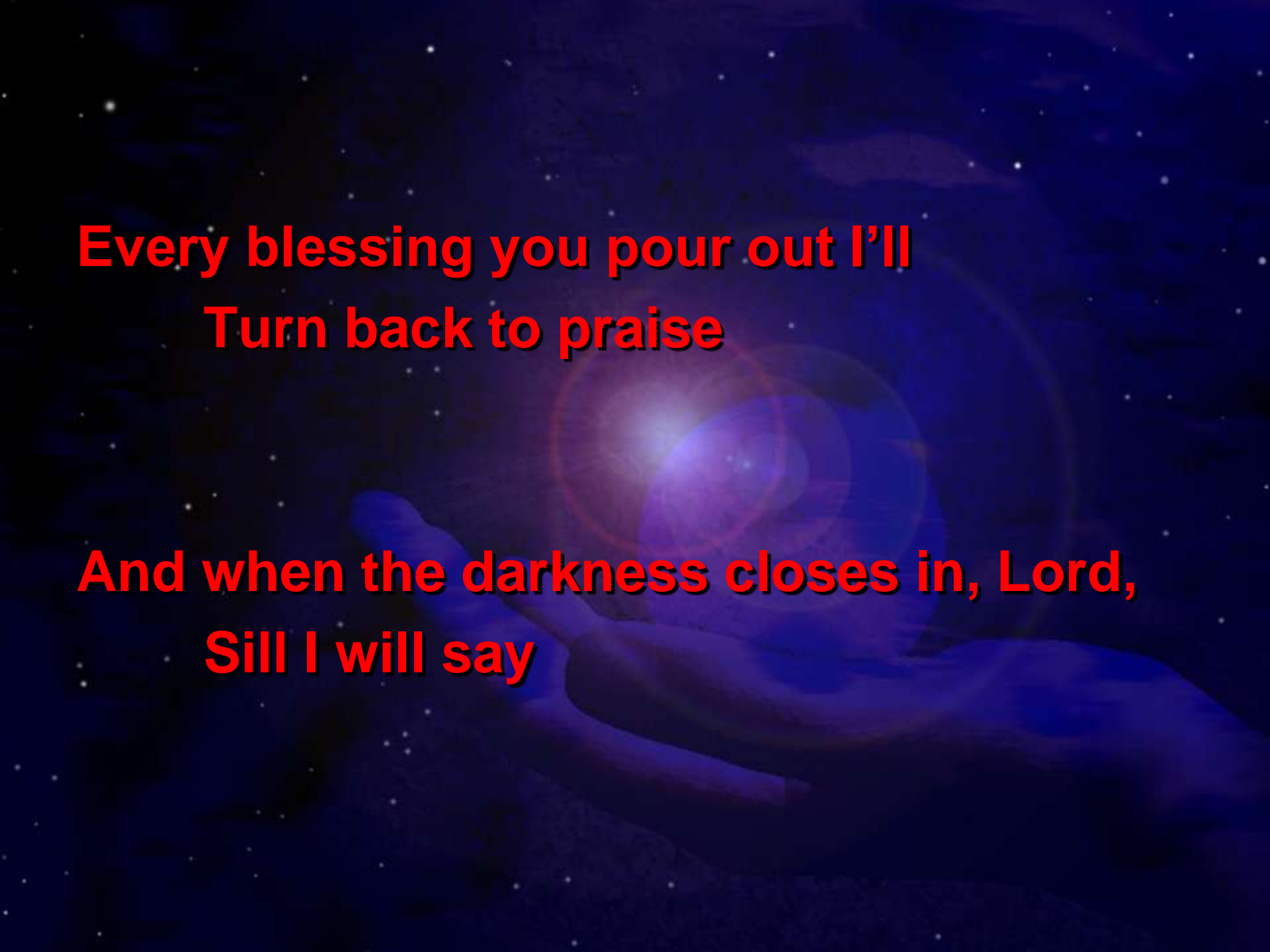
**When I'm found in the desert place**

**Though I walk through the wilderness,**

**Blessed be your name.**





A hand is shown in a dark blue, starry night sky, holding a glowing, multi-colored orb. The orb has a bright white center, transitioning through yellow, orange, and red to a deep purple and blue outer edge. The hand is rendered in a dark blue, almost black, color, with the fingers gently cupping the orb. The background is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, white stars of varying brightness. The overall mood is serene and spiritual.

**Every blessing you pour out I'll  
Turn back to praise**

**And when the darkness closes in, Lord,  
Still I will say**

A person is shown from the back, with their arms raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of horizontal light streaks in shades of orange, yellow, green, and blue, creating a sense of motion and energy. The person's silhouette is dark against the bright background.

**Blessed be the name of the Lord**

**Blessed be Your name.**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord,**

**Blessed be your glorious name.**





**Blessed be your name**

**When the suns shining down on me**

**When the world's all as it should be,**

**Blessed be your name.**

A pair of hands is shown from the wrist up, held in a prayerful gesture with palms facing each other. The hands are positioned on either side of the text, with the fingers slightly spread. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the hands and the text.

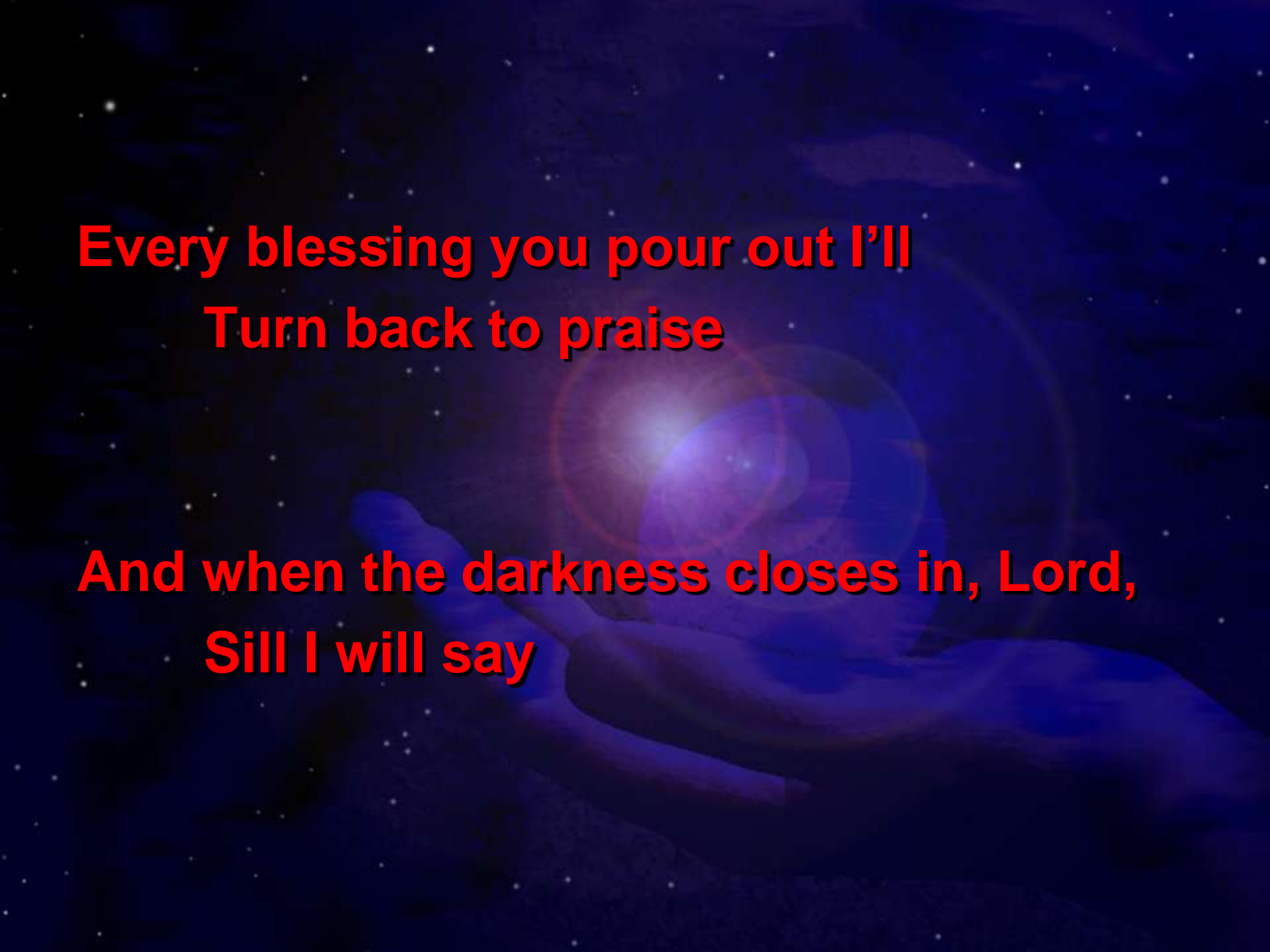
**Blessed be your name,**

**On the road longed with suffering**

**Though there's pain in the offering,**

**Blessed be your name.**



A hand is shown in a dark blue, starry night sky, holding a glowing, multi-colored orb. The orb has a bright white center, transitioning through yellow, orange, and red to a deep purple and blue outer edge. The hand is rendered in a dark blue, almost black, color, with the fingers gently cupping the orb. The background is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, white stars of varying brightness. The overall mood is serene and spiritual.

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**Blessed be the name of the Lord**

**Blessed be Your name.**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord,**

**Blessed be your glorious name.**



**You give and take away**

**You give and take away**

**My heart will choose to say**

**Lord Blessed be your name.**



A person is shown from the back, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of horizontal light streaks in shades of orange, yellow, green, and blue, creating a sense of motion and energy. The person's silhouette is dark against the bright, colorful background.

**Blessed be the name of the Lord**

**Blessed be Your name.**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord,**

**Blessed be your glorious name.**



# Lord You Have My Heart

A hand is shown holding a glowing, multi-colored orb (purple, blue, and red) against a dark blue background filled with stars and nebulae. The hand is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the fingers gently cupping the orb. The overall scene is ethereal and spiritual.

Lord you have my heart

And I will search for yours

Jesus take my life and lead me on.



**Lord you have my  
heart**

**And I will search  
for yours**

**Let me be to you a  
sacrifice.**





**And I will praise you Lord  
(echo)**

**And I will sing of love come down  
(echo)**

**And as you show your face  
(Show your face)**

**We'll see your glory here.**

## Psalm 119



You're blessed when you stay on course,  
walking steadily on the road revealed by God.  
You're blessed when you follow his directions,  
doing your best to find him.

That's right—you don't go off on your own;  
you walk straight along the road he set.  
You, God, prescribed the right way to live;  
now you expect us to live it.

Oh, that my steps might be steady,  
keeping to the course you set;

Then I'd never have any regrets  
in comparing my life with your counsel.

I thank you for speaking straight from your heart;  
I learn the pattern of your righteous ways.

I'm going to do what you tell me to do;  
don't ever walk off and leave me.

## Psalm 119



How can a young person live a clean life?  
By carefully reading the map of your Word.  
I'm single-minded in pursuit of you;  
don't let me miss the road signs you've posted.  
I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart  
so I won't sin myself bankrupt.  
Be blessed, God;  
train me in your ways of wise living.  
I'll transfer to my lips  
all the counsel that comes from your mouth;  
I delight far more in what you tell me about living  
than in gathering a pile of riches.  
I ponder every morsel of wisdom from you,  
I attentively watch how you've done it.  
I relish everything you've told me of life,  
I won't forget a word of it.



# Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart

All else be nought to me, save that thou art.

Thou my best thought by day or by night

Waking or sleeping my presence my light.

**Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word**

**I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord**

**Thou my great father, thine own may I be**

**Thou in my dwelling and I one with thee.**





**High King of heaven when victory is won**

**May I reach heaven's joys, bright heavens Sun!**

**Heart of my heart, whatever befall**

**Still be my vision O Ruler of all.**

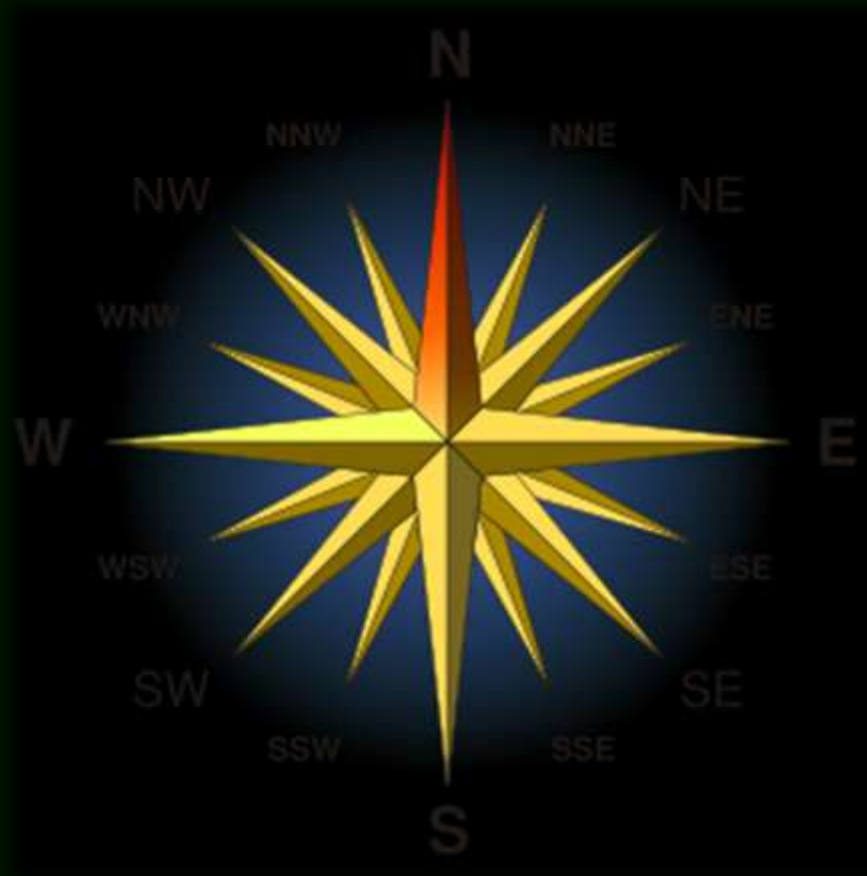


Come let us reason together,  
says the Lord.

*-Isaiah 1:18*



How do we live a life with  
God in this world?





# How do we live a life with God in this world?



**The Bible.**

**The map of God's reality.**

**A compass to help us through this world.**

**Not a code of behavior, a list of do's and don'ts.**

**They help us return to the created order.**

**They point us to the way life was intended to be.**



- **Grounded**
- **Communal**
- **Open Ended**
- **Alive**



The Bible as a meeting ground.



# From the Gospel according to Mark

Chapter 8, verses 22-25

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.



A stone archway frames a bright, hazy sky. The arch is made of dark, textured stone. The sky is a pale, overcast blue with some light clouds. The overall mood is one of looking through a veil or a window into a brighter world.

From Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth,

chapter 12 vs 12-13.

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation:

Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.





# 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.***

Keep the watch.





## The Benediction:

May you go forth from here holding tight the hands with whom you share this way. May your vision be extended to see beyond what you think is possible. May your sight be restored to see clearly the hand of God. May you trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly and love extravagantly as you try to make sense of this world.

And may you have peace that passes all understanding in all places and in all things this week.





**As it was,  
As it is,  
As it shall  
be evermore**

**O God of  
Grace,**

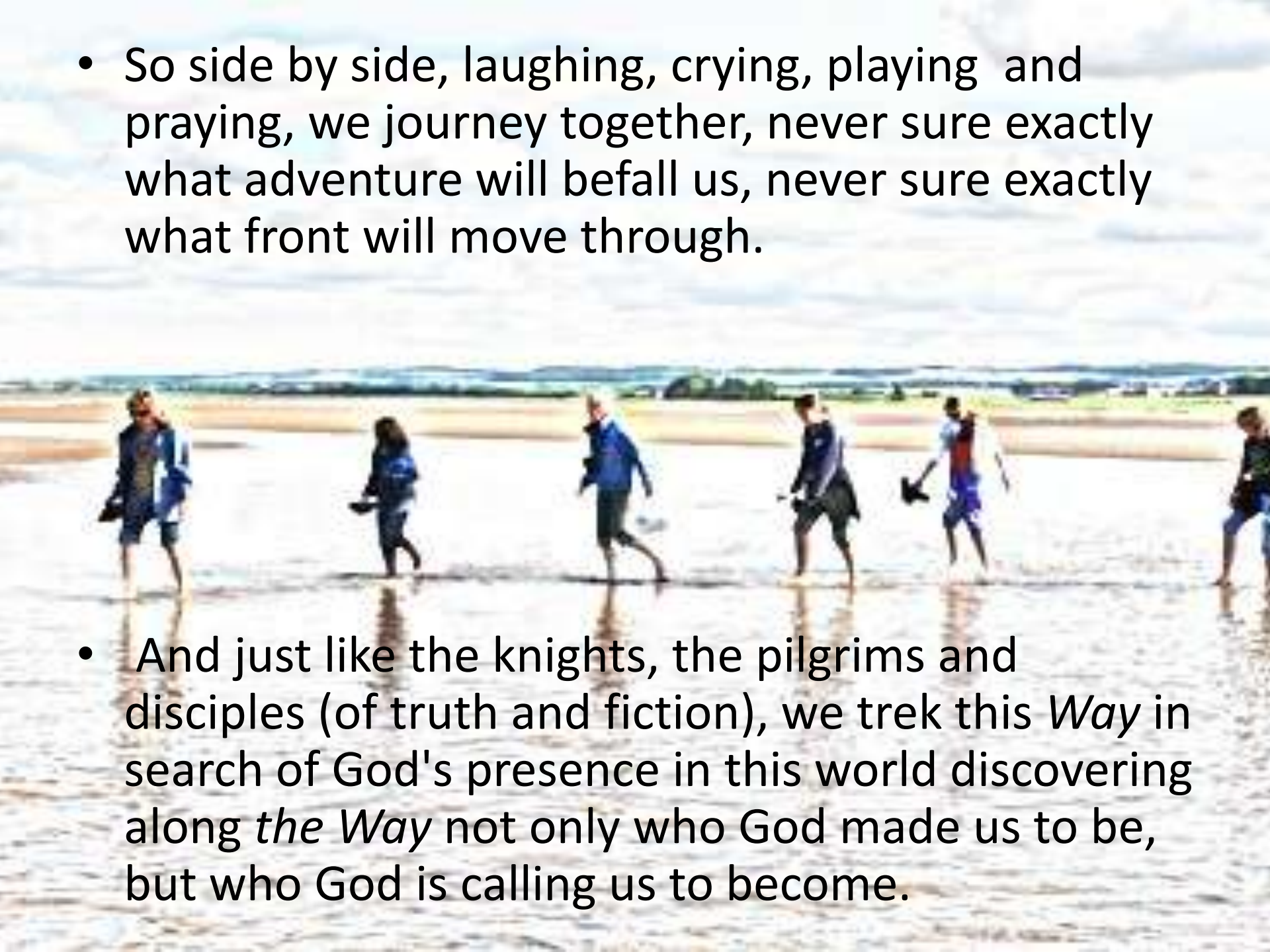
**O God in  
Trinity.**

# What are we about?

- *being* a community of young people and adults who are trying to shape their lives around following Jesus.
- Together we aim not just simply to *go to church* but to actually *be the church*: participating in the hope that God brings to this world.
- And *together* we try to create a sanctuary in which to take refuge from the chaos of life allowing God to form us as *Followers of the Way*.
- Living a life *with God in* this world.



- So side by side, laughing, crying, playing and praying, we journey together, never sure exactly what adventure will befall us, never sure exactly what front will move through.

- 
- And just like the knights, the pilgrims and disciples (of truth and fiction), we trek this *Way* in search of God's presence in this world discovering along *the Way* not only who God made us to be, but who God is calling us to become.

# The EARLY CHRISTIAN Age







Conversations:

Is your foot in?



As I go I will welcome any companion who wishes to journey with me, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will never cease to pray, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will not be corrupted, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will not be tempted to predict outcomes, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will relish the surprises, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will take great risks, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go, I will hold tight the hands with which I share this way

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go, I will live this life *with* God *in* this world

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**





As I go I will not be bound by self-doubt or restricted by my weaknesses, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will not be limited by my strengths, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will see each struggle as a place of learning, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will not question the journey, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me.**

As I go I will not refuse any destination, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will embrace all that crosses my way, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will open my heart to the good in all creation, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

As I go I will hold close to the Word of God, for:

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**

**Jesus calls me and He is with me**