

MAY ALL WHO COME
TO THIS PLACE
AS
VISITORS
FIND HERE
THE PRESENCE
AND
LOVE OF GOD
☺
MAY THEY LEAVE HERE
AS
PILGRIMS

Welcome
to
Se*lah
הלל

WE'RE SOOOO GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
SO COME IN. SIT DOWN. RELAX.
BREATHE SLOWER. PLAY A GAME.
COLOR A PICTURE. FINISH THE PUZZLE.
HANG ON THE COUCH. REST. YOU'RE HERE.
THIS IS YOUR HOLY PAUSE.

this is the gate of heaven

Jacobi

LIVING ON THE EDGE



& a reminder of why we are here.

We are a community of seekers trying live life *with God* in this world
Through living on the edge of heaven and earth.

Invitatory:

It's open.
Come on thru
the gate
- *God*



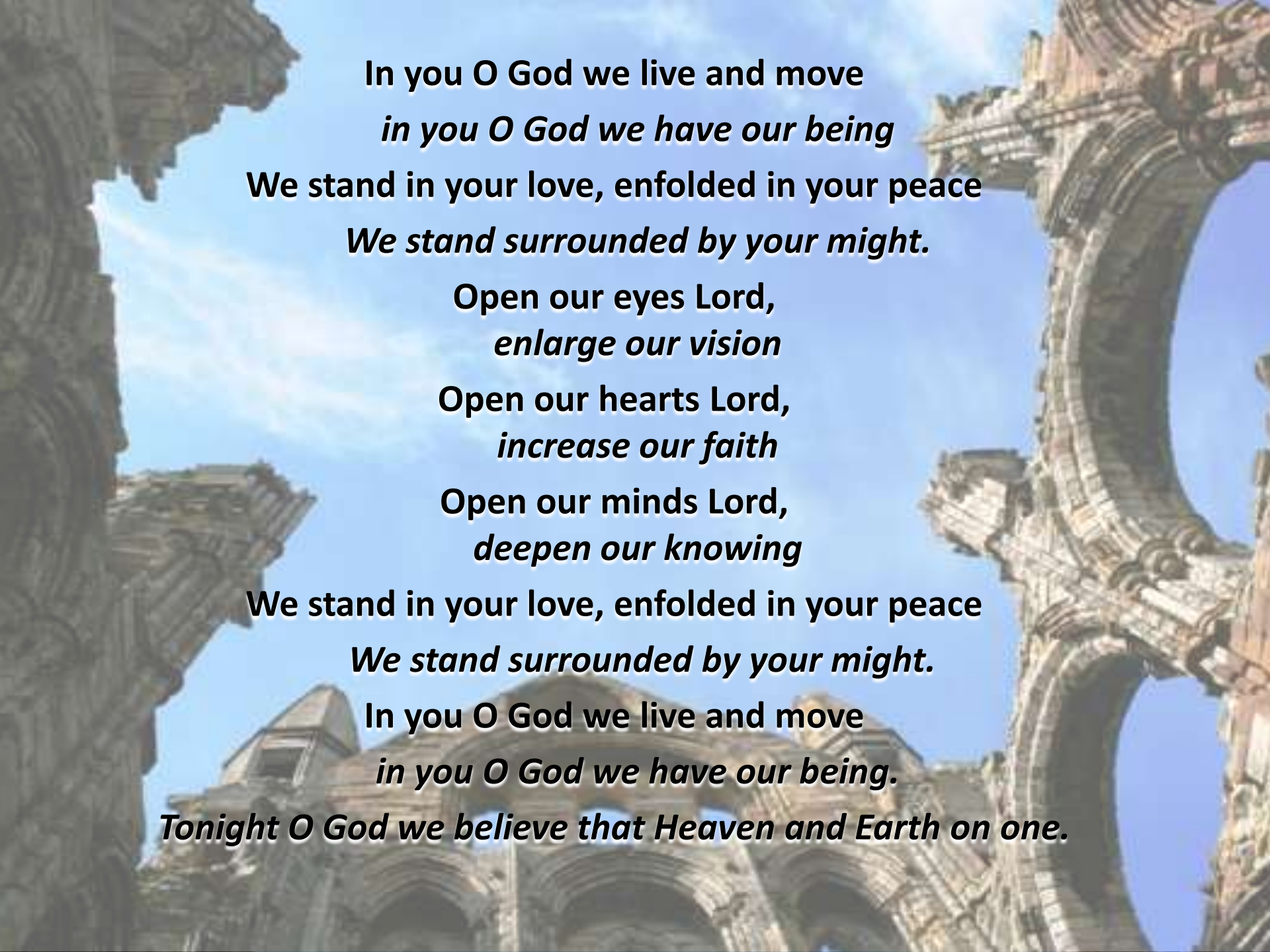
God is here in this place.

so

Grace and Peace to you.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.



**In you O God we live and move
*in you O God we have our being***
**We stand in your love, enfolded in your peace
*We stand surrounded by your might.***

**Open our eyes Lord,
*enlarge our vision***

**Open our hearts Lord,
*increase our faith***

**Open our minds Lord,
*deepen our knowing***

**We stand in your love, enfolded in your peace
*We stand surrounded by your might.***

**In you O God we live and move
*in you O God we have our being.***

Tonight O God we believe that Heaven and Earth on one.

A group of people, including a man in a white shirt and a woman in a white shirt, are shown in a prayerful posture with their hands clasped together. The background is a warm, brownish-orange color, suggesting a church interior or a similar setting. The text is overlaid on this background.

Together Pray:

Loving Lord bless this place.

Let your love be here and fill it with your peace.

Let your joy be here and fill it with your grace.

Let your light be here and fill it with your power.

Let us know you are here
and fill us with your presence.

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



A Versicle:

I have opened a
door in front of
you that no one
can close

-Jesus

From the Revelations of John, Ch 3.




STOP

STEPPING OUT OF THE TRAFFIC.



STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC

A silhouette of a person sitting on a swing set against a sunset sky. The person is in the center, with their back to the camera. The swing set is made of dark wood and metal. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and yellow, with some clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow.

STEPPING AWAY FROM ?
STEPPING TOWARDS?

**Step out of the traffic and take a long,
loving look at me, your God.**



**Be here. Be present. Be present to God. Be
present to each other. Be present to
yourself. Be still and know that God is God.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SHARE
THE
ROAD



Praying with the Church:

Greek, 3rd century lamp lighting prayer

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 through all the worlds.

Being Thankful...

Eat this bread. Drink this cup.

Come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread. Drink this cup.

Trust in me and you will not thirst.

...Being Thankful for each other

Let's Eat!



The Searching

*LIVING ON THE EDGE:
HEAVEN IS ABOUT 6 INCHES ABOVE
THE HEIGHT OF A MAN*

— KERRY, IR.

*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with
all your heart. -the prophet Jeremiah, Ch. 29*

Places of Worship and Prayer:

- Singing
- Art: painting, coloring etc...
- Beads
- Stained Glass
- Anointing & laying on of hands
- Write Affisu, our little brother in Ghana
- The Pillow Room: A Quiet space set apart Prayer wall; Candles; scripture cards, the psalm

We search while singing
or repeating
The Jesus Prayer.

QUIET
PLACE



*Searching for the Gates of Heaven:
the place where God meets us.*

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

LIVING ON THE EDGE: A PRACTICE



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



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.
Extend our vision
Amplify our hearing
Deepen our knowing
Open to us the Gates of Heaven
One hand grounded on earth
The other reaching to you.



Asking God to bring light into the darkness
Remembering ourselves and others before God

God of Wonders

A pair of hands is shown holding a globe of the Earth. The globe is centered on the Americas, with North and South America visible in green and yellow. The oceans are a deep blue, and there are white clouds swirling around the globe. The hands are positioned at the bottom and sides of the globe, supporting it. The background is black.

Lord of all creation

Of water, earth, and sky

The heavens are your tabernacle

Glory to the Lord on High



God of wonders beyond our galaxy

You are holy, holy,

The universe declares your majesty

You are holy, holy,

Lord of heaven and earth.

Lord of heaven and earth.



Early in the morning

I will celebrate the light

When I stumble in the darkness

I will call your name by night



God of wonders beyond our galaxy

You are holy, holy,

The universe declares your majesty

You are holy, holy,

Lord of heaven and earth.

Lord of heaven and earth.

A person is shown from the back, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or worship. The background consists of numerous horizontal, blurred streaks of light in various colors, including yellow, orange, red, green, and blue, creating a vibrant, ethereal atmosphere. The person's silhouette is dark against the bright, colorful background.

**Hallelujah, to the Lord of Heaven and
Earth**

**Hallelujah, to the Lord of Heaven and
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God of wonders beyond our galaxy

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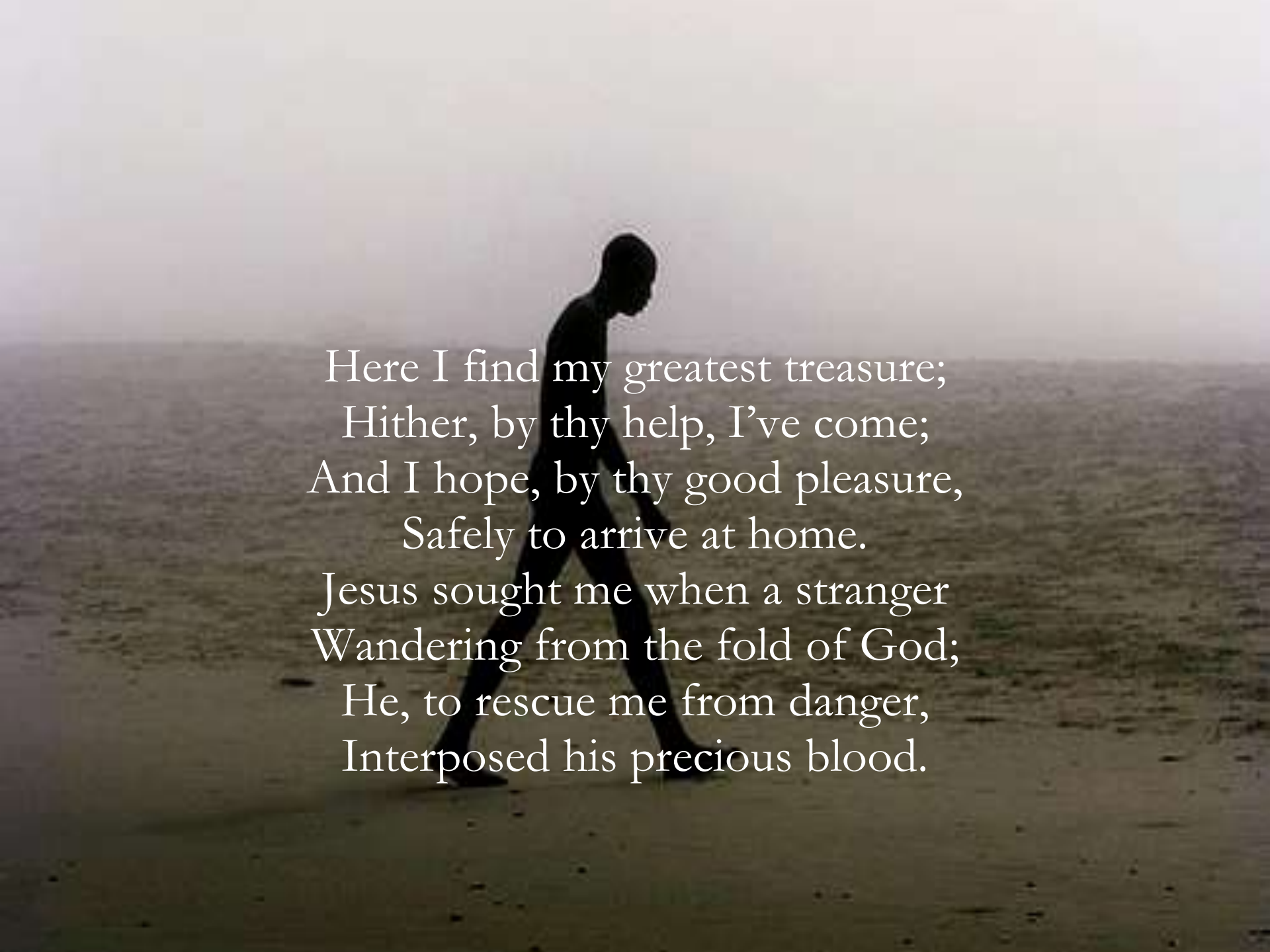
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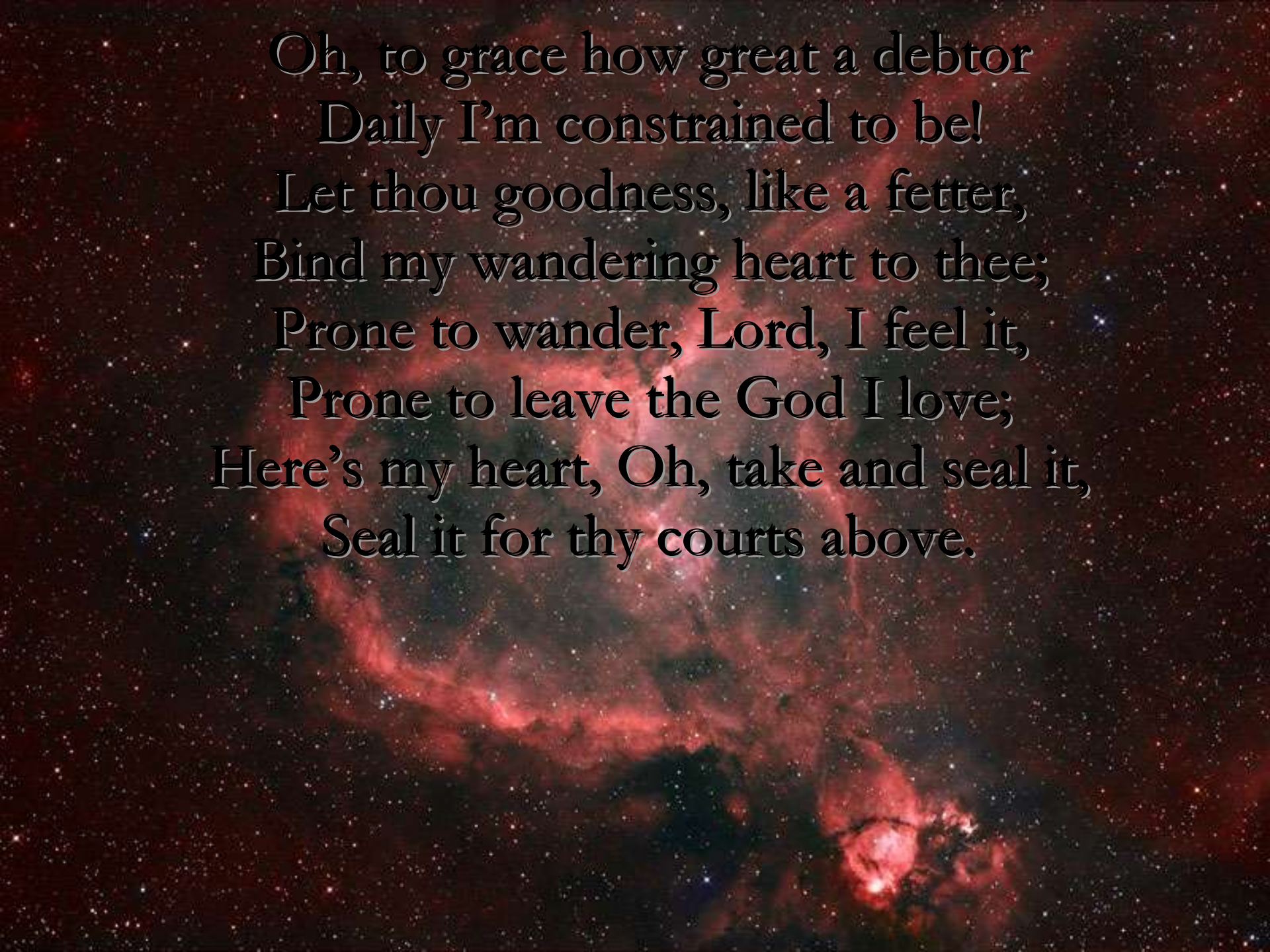
COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

A silhouette of a person walking on a beach at sunset or sunrise, with the ocean in the background. The person is walking from left to right, and their shadow is cast on the sand. The sky is a mix of light and dark tones, suggesting a hazy or overcast day.

Here I find my greatest treasure;
Hither, by thy help, I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.



Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thou goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee;
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Oh, take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

Psalm 32

1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven whose sin is covered!

2 How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!

3 When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away *as with the fever heat of summer*.

Selah.

5 I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" And You forgave the guilt of my sin.

Selah.

6 Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.

7 You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; you surround me with songs of deliverance.

Selah.

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

9 Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, *otherwise* they will not come near to you.

10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but he who trusts in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him.

11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

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.**

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 red ink used for initials and headings. The text is arranged in vertical columns and includes several large, decorative initial letters in red ink. The script is dense and fills most of the page.



– 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 1, (ESV)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The Ascension

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 1, (Message)

To the Ends of the World

¹⁻⁵Dear Theophilus, in the first volume of this book I wrote on everything that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he said good-bye to the apostles, the ones he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. As they met and ate meals together, he told them that they were on no account to leave Jerusalem but "must wait for what the Father promised: the promise you heard from me. John baptized in water; you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And soon." ⁶When they were together for the last time they asked, "Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?"

⁷⁻⁸He told them, "You don't get to know the time. Timing is the Father's business. What you'll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world." ⁹⁻¹¹These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, "You Galileans!— why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left."



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 1, THE MESSAGE

¹²⁻¹³So they left the mountain called Olives and returned to Jerusalem. It was a little over half a mile. They went to the upper room they had been using as a meeting place. Peter,

John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas, son of James.

¹⁴They agreed they were in this for good, completely together in prayer, the women included. Also Jesus' mother, Mary, and his brothers.

Replacing Judas

¹⁵⁻¹⁷During this time, Peter stood up in the company—there were about 120 of them in the room at the time—and said, "Friends, long ago the Holy Spirit spoke through David regarding Judas, who became the guide to those who arrested Jesus. That Scripture had to be fulfilled, and now has been. Judas was one of us and had his assigned place in this ministry. ¹⁸⁻²⁰"As you know, he took the evil bribe money and bought a small farm. There he came to a bad end, rupturing his belly and spilling his guts. Everybody in Jerusalem knows this by now; they call the place Murder Meadow. It's exactly what we find written in the Psalms.

Let his farm become haunted

So no one can ever live there.

"And also what was written later:

Let someone else take over his post.

²¹⁻²²"Judas must now be replaced. The replacement must come from the company of men who stayed together with us from the time Jesus was baptized by John up to the day of his ascension, designated along with us as a witness to his resurrection."

²³⁻²⁶They nominated two: Joseph Barsabbas, nicknamed Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed, "You, O God, know every one of us inside and out. Make plain which of these two men you choose to take the place in this ministry and leadership that Judas threw away in order to go his own way." They then drew straws. Matthias won and was counted in with the eleven apostles.



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.

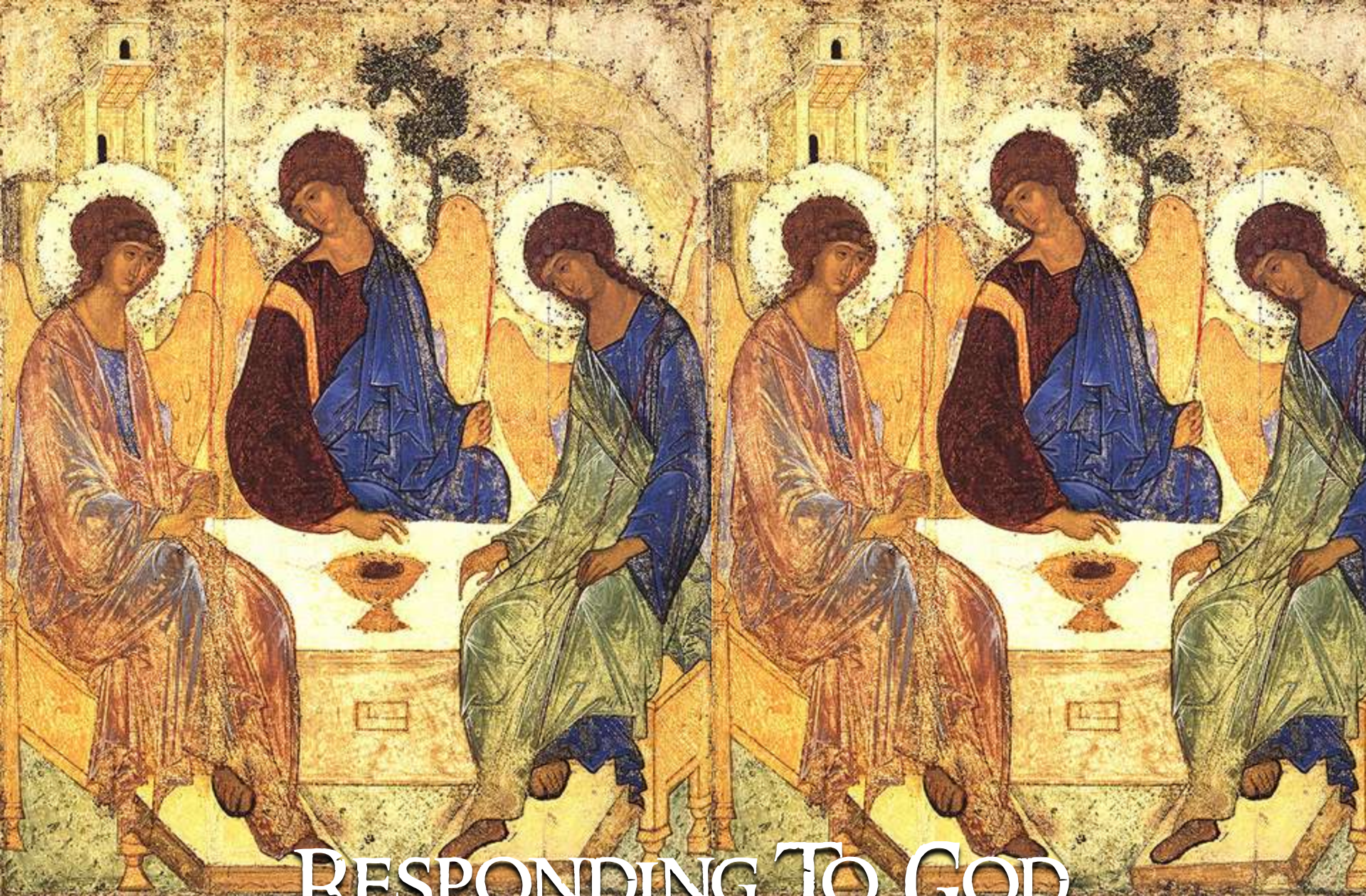
⁵⁻¹¹ There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what 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."



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.

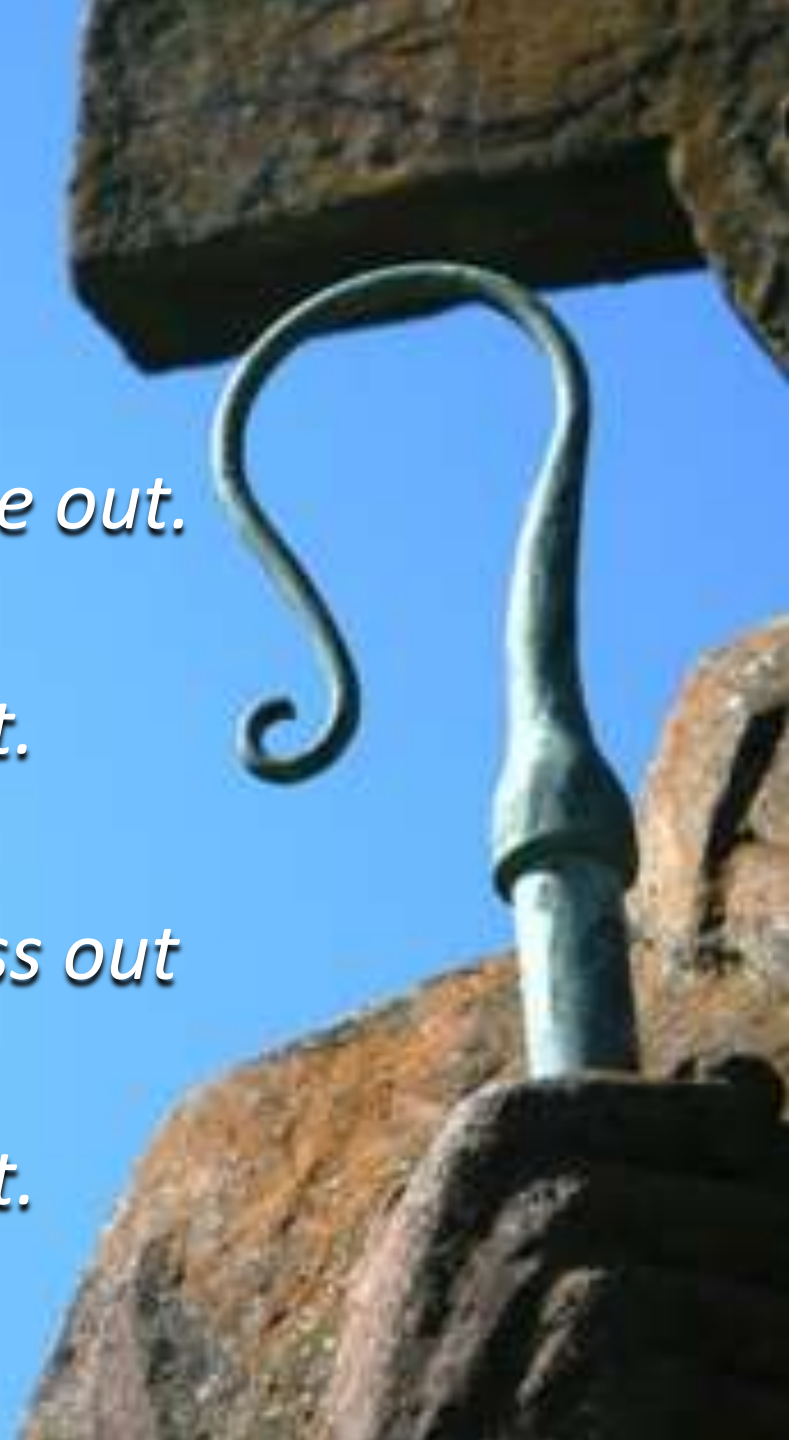
The Blessing

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 everywhere

May you live with sticks, giving up control and beginning to really trust Jesus. And may you know without doubt that God has a unique role for play in the restoration of this world.

Go in peace and open those gates!