

A scenic view of a sunset over a forested valley. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange and red glow across the sky. The foreground features a stone wall, and the background shows rolling hills and a dense forest.

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 you are in middle school, high school, home school or out of school, come and *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. Take a literal step if you need to
Close your eyes again and breathe.

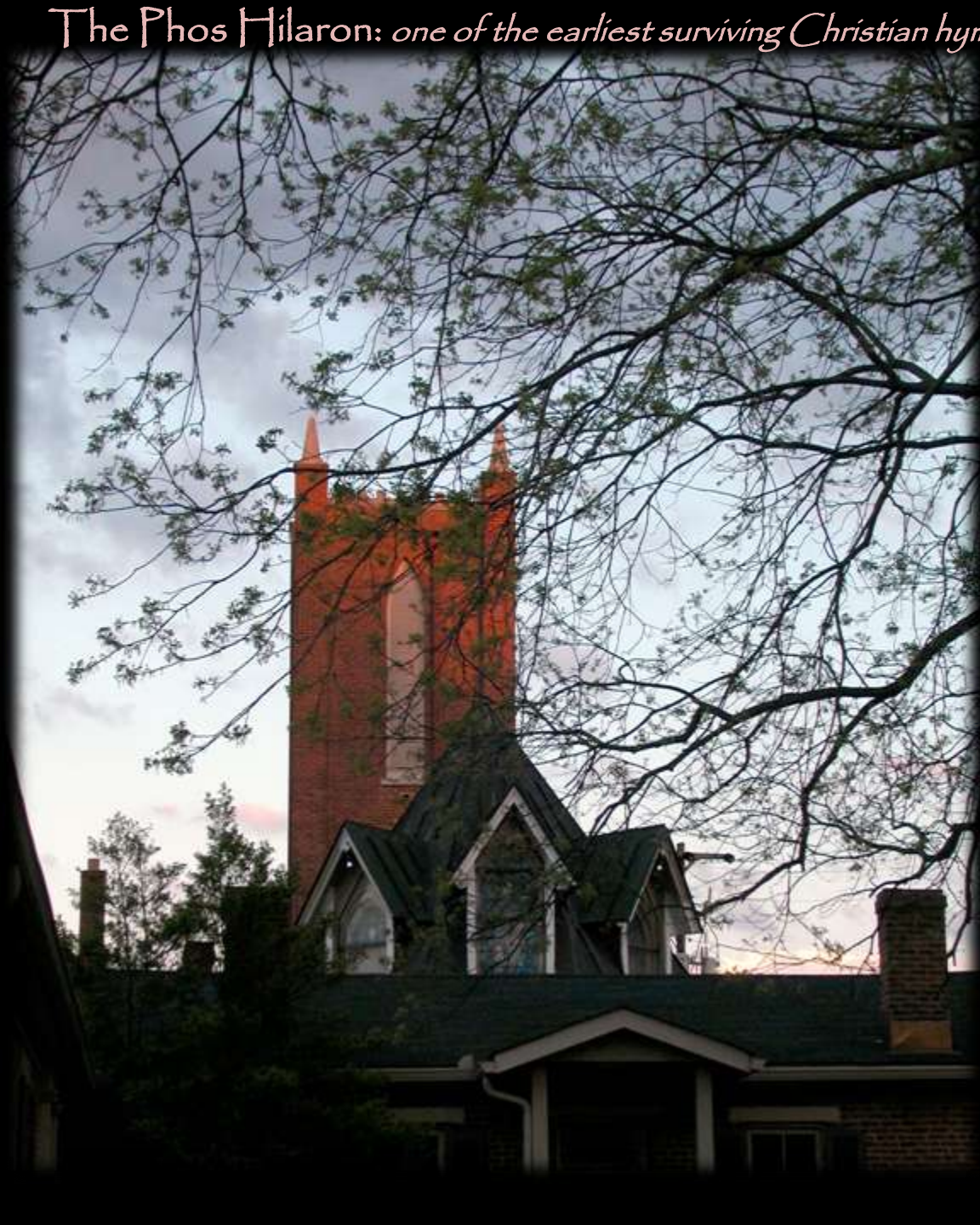


BE STILL and KNOW GOD IS HERE.
Be still and know GOD...



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

A photograph of two young girls in red shirts and shorts playing on a grassy field. The girl on the left is wearing a red shirt and dark shorts, and the girl on the right is wearing a red shirt and light blue shorts. They are both barefoot and appear to be in the middle of a game or activity. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor setting with a grassy field and a building in the distance.

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



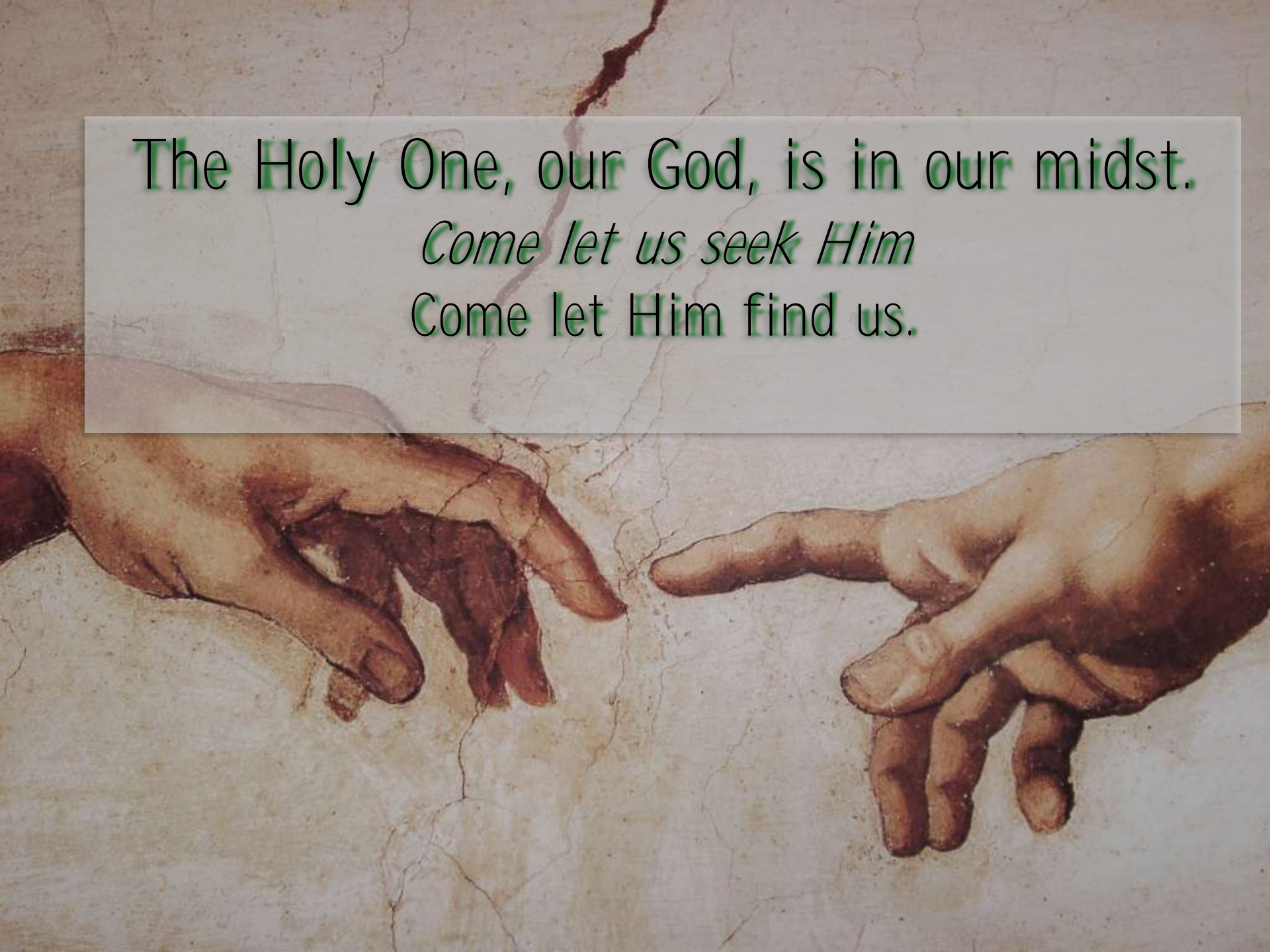
those who seek me diligently find me.

Proverbs 8:17

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

Come let us seek Him

Come let Him find us.



A dirt path with a shadow of a person walking. The path is made of light brown soil and leads from the bottom left towards the top right. A dark shadow of a person is cast on the path from the bottom left, extending towards the center. The background is a soft-focus natural setting with green grass and trees.

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.



In search of *the circle*.



**Rob
Bell**



NOOMA[®]
DVD SERIES



In search of *the circle*.



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 and transitions through purple, blue, and green. The hand is rendered in a dark blue, almost black, color, with the fingers gently cupping the orb. The background is a deep blue with numerous small white stars and a few larger, fainter stars. 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 and fingers pointing upwards. The hands are illuminated from the side, creating a strong contrast against the dark, almost black background. The lighting highlights the texture of the skin and the shape of the fingers.

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 glow. 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.

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 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.

Psalm 25



1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;

2 in you I trust, O my God.

Do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

3 No one whose hope is in you
will ever be put to shame,
but they will be put to shame
who are treacherous without excuse.

4 Show me your ways, O LORD,
teach me your paths;

5 guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

6 Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you are good, O LORD.

8 Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

9 He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

10 All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful
for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

Come let us reason together,
says the Lord.

-Isaiah 1:18



In search of *the circle*.



In search of *the circle*.

Psalm 34

6 When I was desperate, I called out,
and GOD got me out of a tight spot.

7 GOD's angel sets up a circle
of protection around us while we pray.

Psalm 31:6

I hate all this silly religion, but you, God, I trust.
I'm leaping and singing in the **circle** of your love

In search of *the circle*.

From the Acts of the Apostles, Ch 17: 24-28

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. *'For in him we live and move and have our being.'*

In search of *the circle*.

Psalm 32

6 Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you
while you may be found;
surely when the mighty waters rise,
they will not reach him.

7 You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and *surround me* with songs of deliverance.

*Se*lah*

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you and watch over you.

In search of *the circle.*



In search of *the circle*.

“The church is not a building. It’s not an event on Sunday. When the scriptures talk about it means community: a shared life. They worship together, eat together, pray for one another, They hand out together, in each other’s homes.”

We might say the church is really a *circle* of people who walk with you and seek to live life with God in this world, too. They fight with you and they bandage your wounds.

God’s circle takes on flesh and bones.





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.

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.

The Benediction:

May your whole life be a prayer.
May you be honest with God as
you become more and more open
to your role in God's work in this
world. May this circle that we
form—may it be a reminder that
every breath, every friend, every
word, every thought, every
facebook comment is done in God
—for it is in Him that we live, we
move and have our being.
And as you go forth into this
week, may you find yourself aware
of THE circle that enfolds you.





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

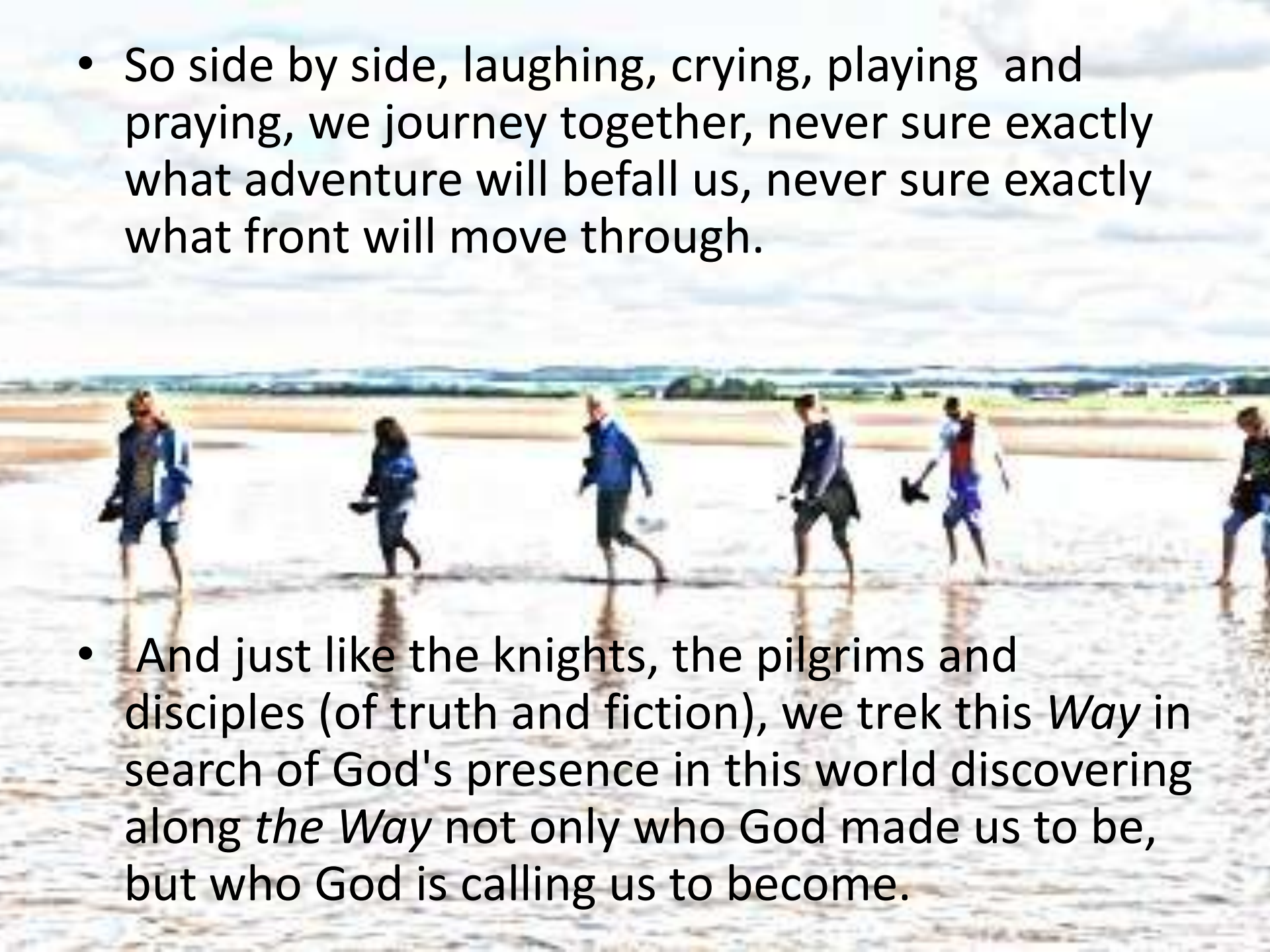
**O God of
Grace,**

**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