

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:

step on thru the gate.

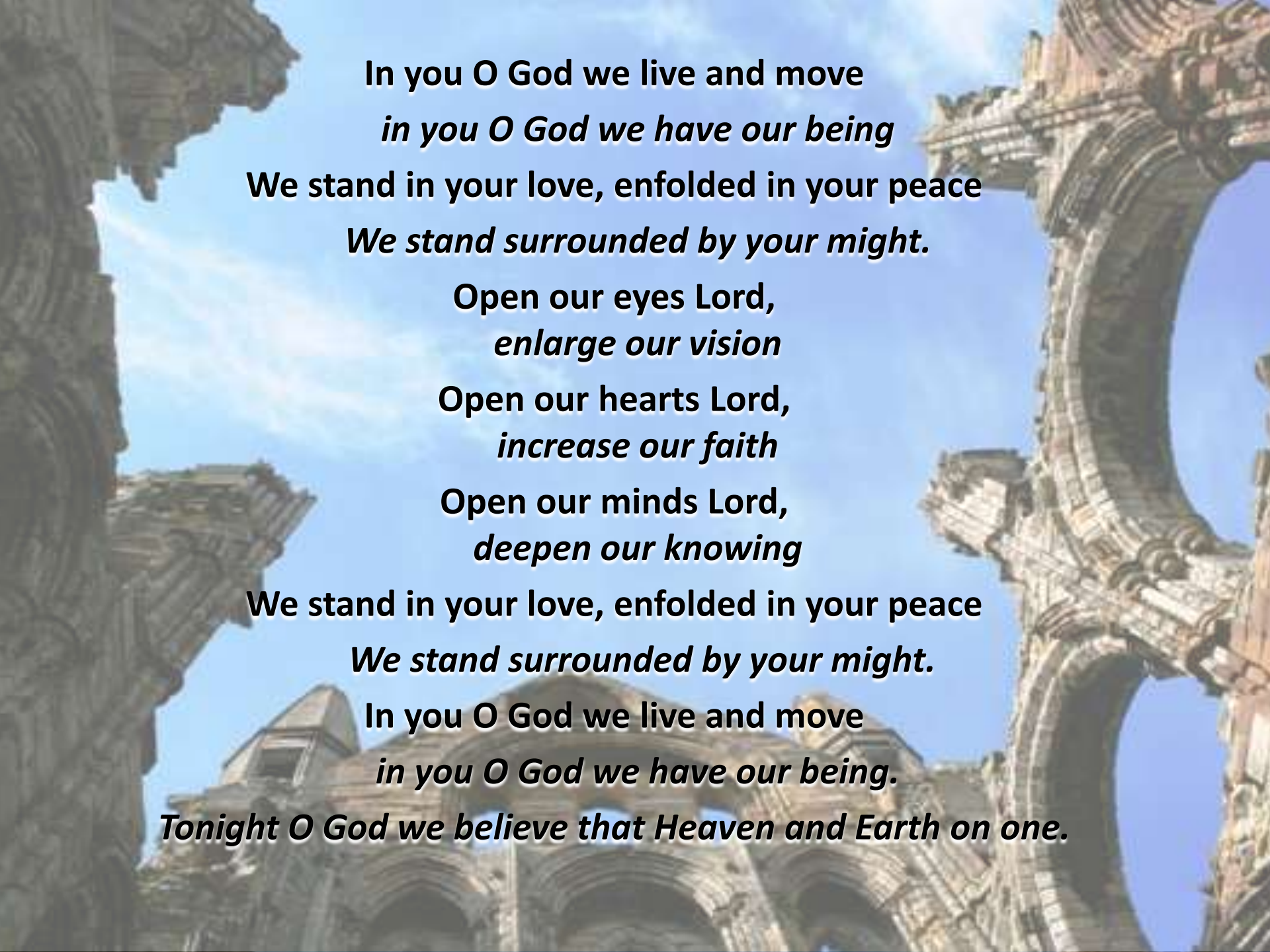
God is here in this place.

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 woman in the foreground, are shown in a prayerful posture with their hands clasped together. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent brown filter. The text is centered over the image.

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 person with long dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt, is sitting on a large, light-colored rock in the foreground, looking out over a vast, lush green forest valley. The valley is filled with dense trees and stretches far into the distance under a bright sky. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

STEP AWAY FROM STRESS
STEP AWAY FROM WORRY

STEP AWAY FROM FEARS

STEP AWAY FROM DISTRACTIONS

STEP AWAY FROM ANXIOUSNESS

STEP AWAY FROM DISCONTENTMENT

STEP AWAY AND STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC.

**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:
YOU ARE MORE IN HEAVEN THAN ON EARTH
-JULIAN OF NORWICH*

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

A person is sitting on the stone floor of a large, arched doorway, looking out towards a bright sunset over a flat, green landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that fills the archway and casts long shadows. The stone walls of the archway are dark and textured. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

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

INSEARCHOF: OUR STORY.

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

Places of Worship and Prayer:

- Singing
- Art: painting, coloring etc...
- Beads
- Stained Glass
- Woodworking
- Anointing : prayer specifically for you by a leader
- 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 our prayer.

QUIET PLACE

Places of Worship and Prayer:

Take your prayer with you.

What is your prayer?

**The prayer you repeat with every
breath?**

**What is it you seek? What is it
you want from God?**

***That is your prayer, your hearts
desire. So turn it into a prayer &
say it with your breath.***



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.

LIVING ON THE EDGE: A PRACTICE





Taking a moment to remember

Taking a moment to name our grief

Taking a moment to invite light in

Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be your name

In the land that is plentiful

Where your streams of abundance flow

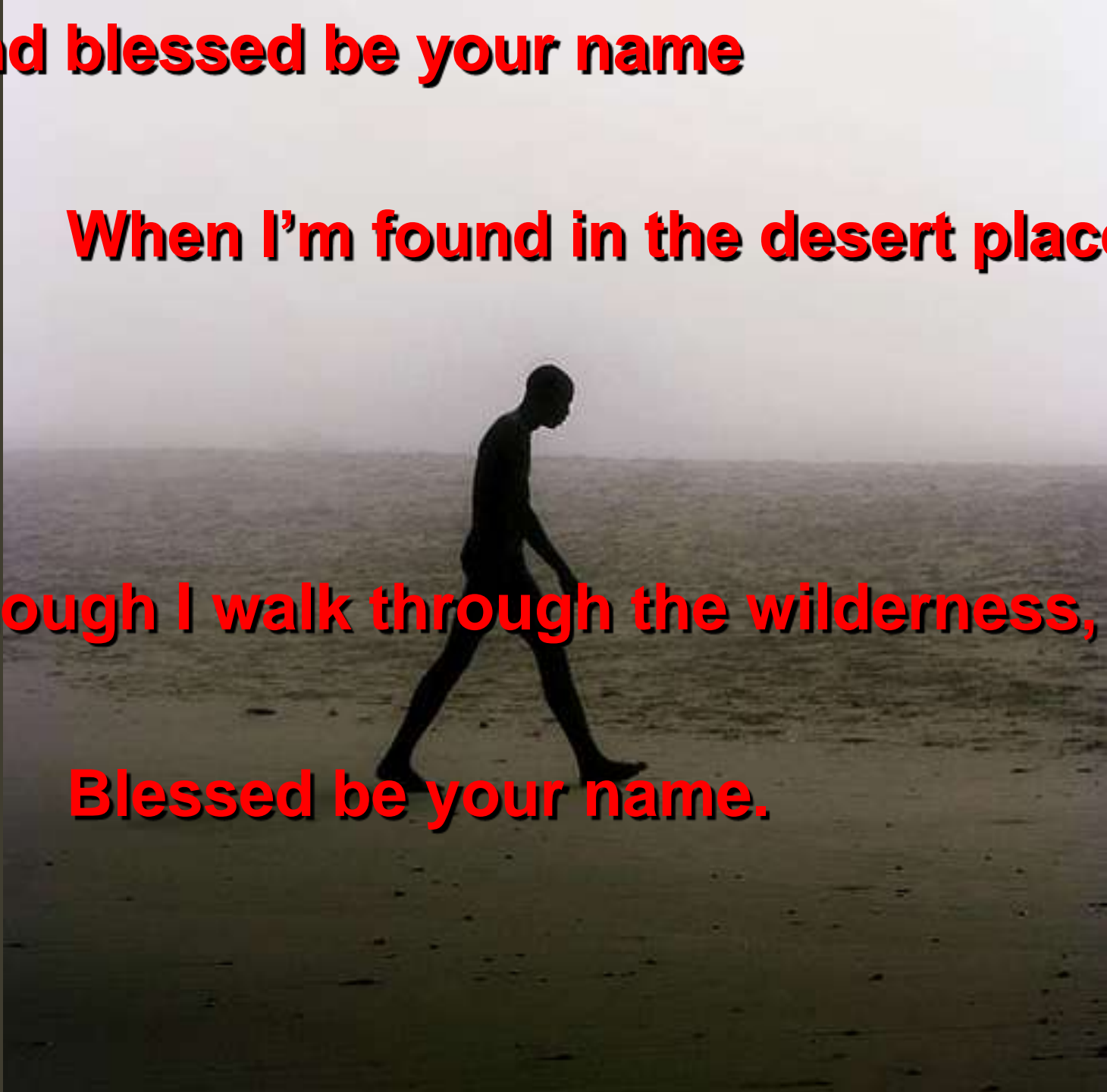
Blessed be your name

And blessed be your name

When I'm found in the desert place

Though I walk through the wilderness,

Blessed be your name.



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

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



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 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 sun's shining down on me

When the world's all as it should be,

Blessed be your name.

Blessed be your name,

On the road longed with suffering

Though there's pain in the offering,

Blessed be your name.

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

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



A person is shown from behind, with their arms raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. 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.

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 background.

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Blessed be Your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

Blessed be your glorious name.

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.

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Selah

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. **6** The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Selah

8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. **10** "Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Selah

The Practice: making it more than words we read.

Psalm 42

A photograph of a spotted deer standing in a grassy field. The deer is facing left, looking slightly back over its shoulder. The background is a soft-focus green field with some fallen leaves.

As A Deer

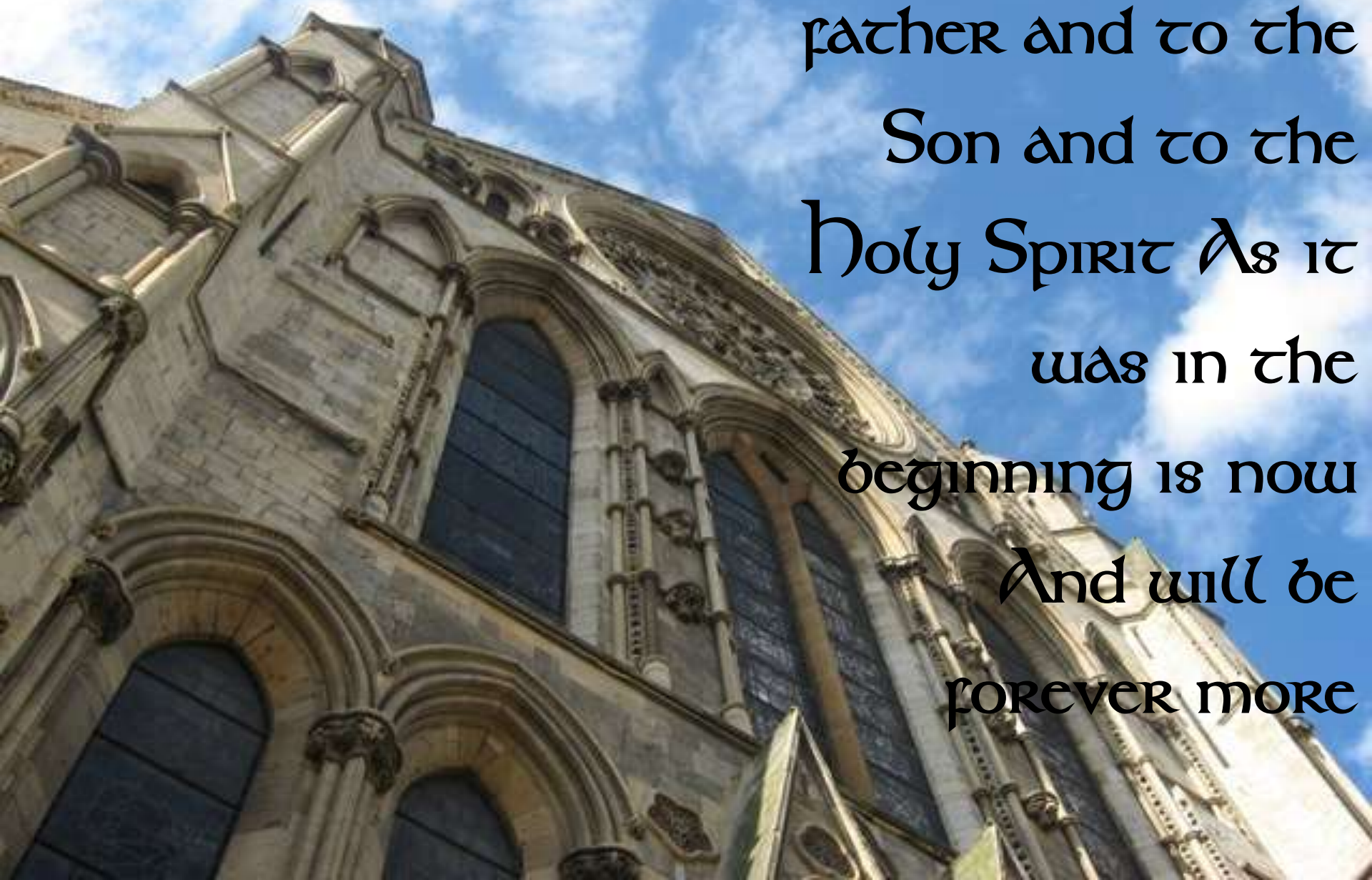
As a deer for flowing
water longs

So my soul

Oh God longs for you

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

LIVING ON THE EDGE

OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.



KNOWING THERE IS SO MUCH MORE GOING ON THAT MEETS THE EYE.
THAT THERE'S A MUCH BIGGER STORY GOING ON THAN MY LIFE

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a medieval manuscript. The text is written in dark ink on aged, yellowish parchment. There are several lines of text, with some words or phrases highlighted in red ink. The script is dense and characteristic of the Gothic or similar medieval bookhands. The text appears to be a translation or a version of the Acts of the Apostles, as indicated by the large title overlaid on the page.



– HOLY GROUND – A MEETING PLACE -- AN EDGE.

– HELPS US MAKE SENSE OF THE STORY WE'RE LIVING IN.

– GROUNDED, COMMUNAL, OPEN-ENDED, ALIVE

IT'S NOT JUST THEIR STORY, IT'S OUR STORY

IT DIDN'T JUST HAPPEN, IT STILL HAPPENS.

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."

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.

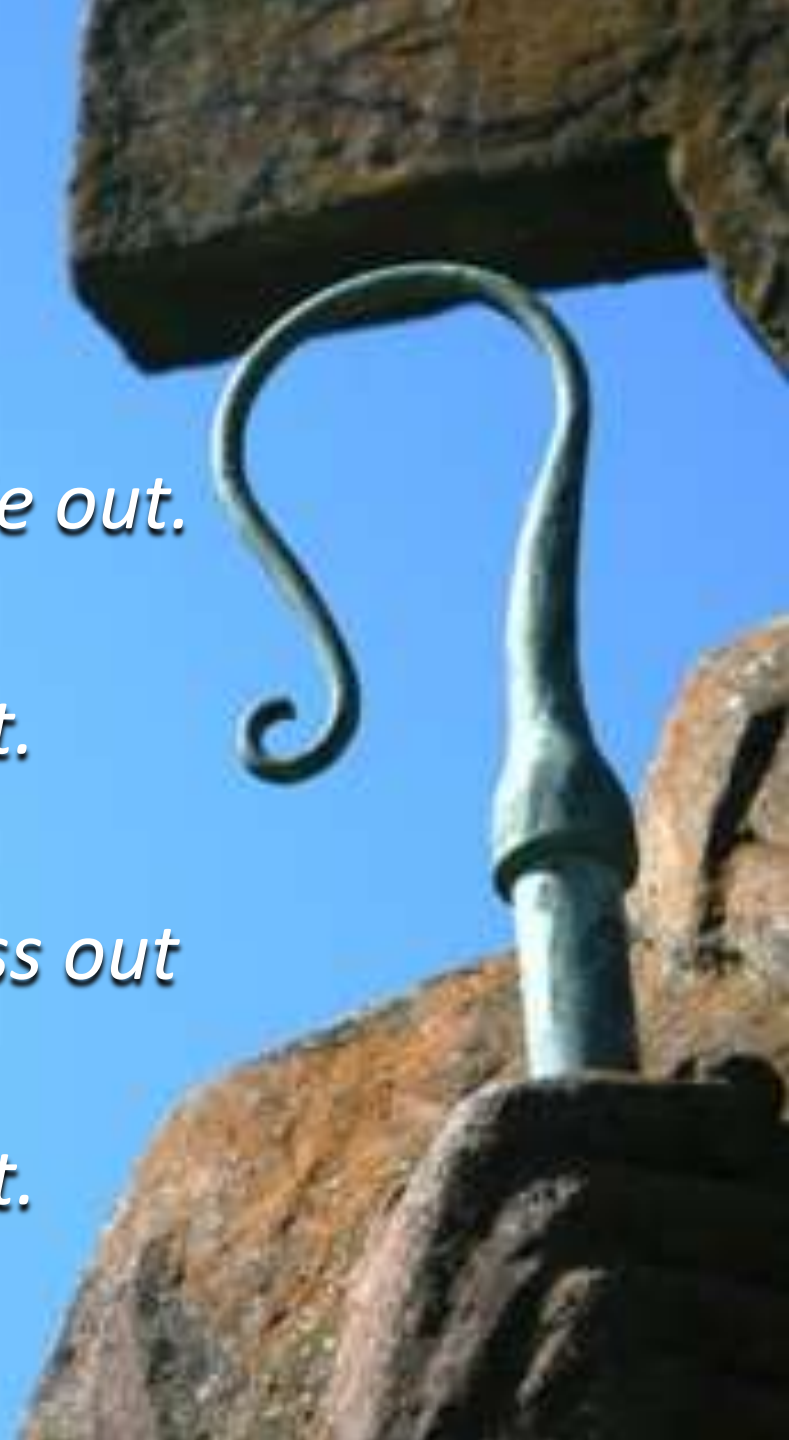
The Blessing

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 open your eyes to see Jesus coming certainly and mysteriously inviting you into the adventure of life that follows the Way. And may you know without doubt that God has a unique role to play in the restoration of this world.

Go in peace and open those gates to Heaven!