

# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026

## **“One Body, One Spirit”**

The material for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is prepared by our brothers and sisters of the Armenian churches and extends an invitation to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.



Welcome and Introduction

# Call to Worship

May the name of the Lord be blessed forever,  
whose name is before the sun.

All the nations of the earth will be blessed  
and all generations will extol the Lord.

Blessed is the Lord God of Israel,  
the only worker of wondrous deeds,  
the holy name of His glory is forever blessed.  
The whole world will be filled with His glory.

All: Amen! Amen!



Parish Bible verse  
2025 - 2026

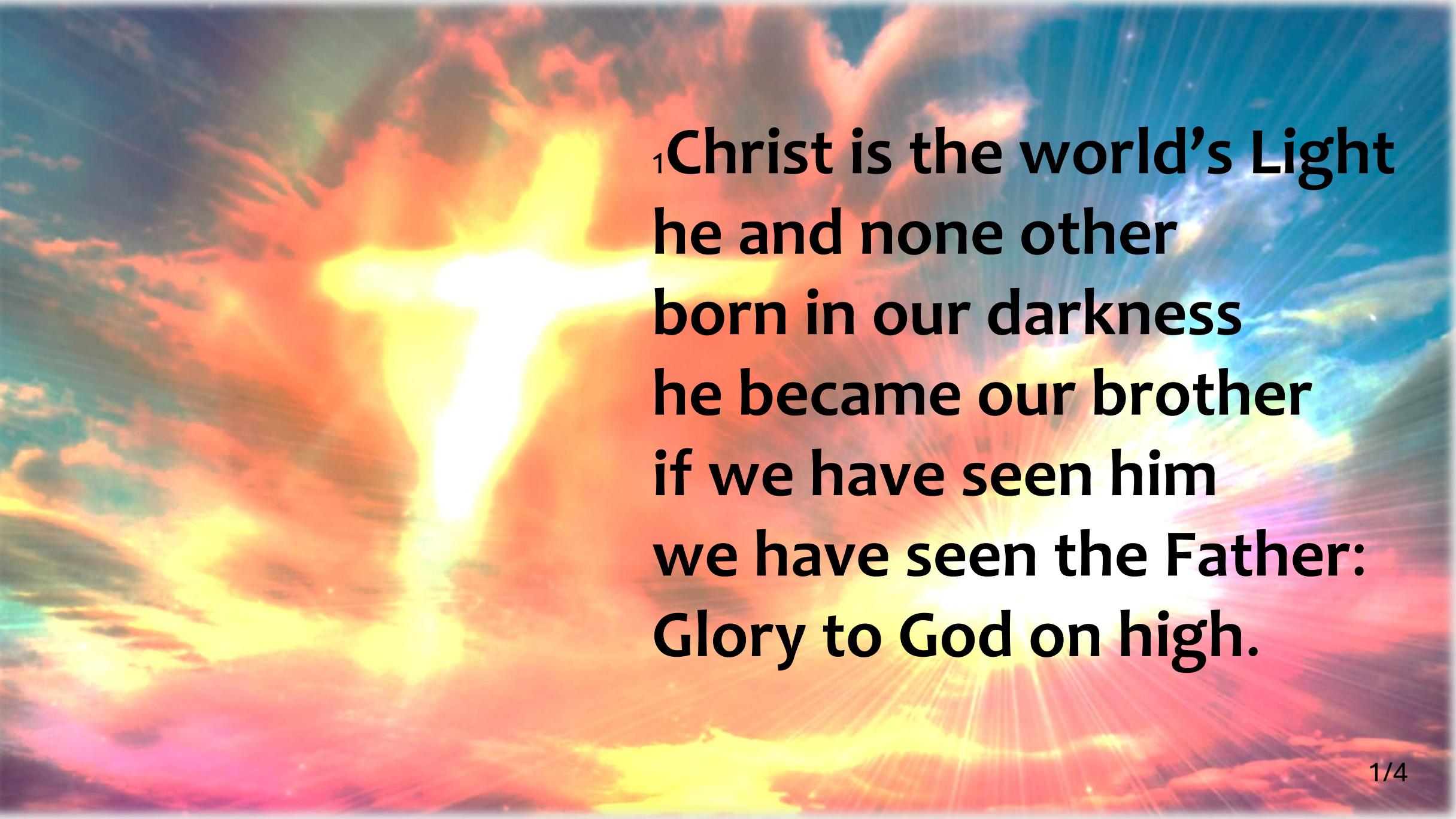
**Love never  
wrongs anyone-  
hence love is  
the fulfilment  
of the law.**

Romans 13:10

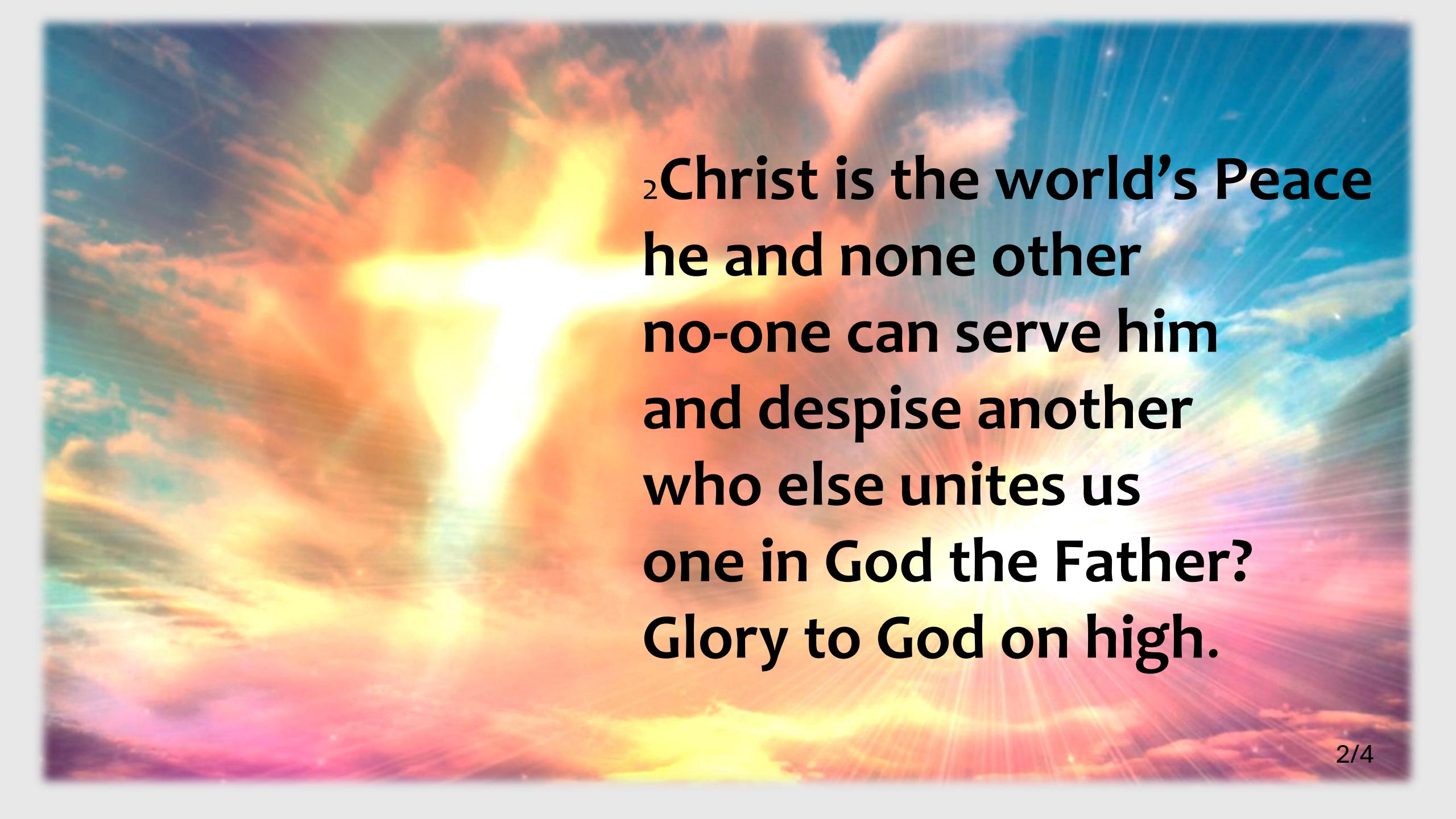
## A Prayer for Growth

**God of mission  
who alone brings growth to your church,  
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning  
wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.  
Help our Partnership of Churches to grow in numbers  
in spiritual commitment to you  
and in service to our Swindon community  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

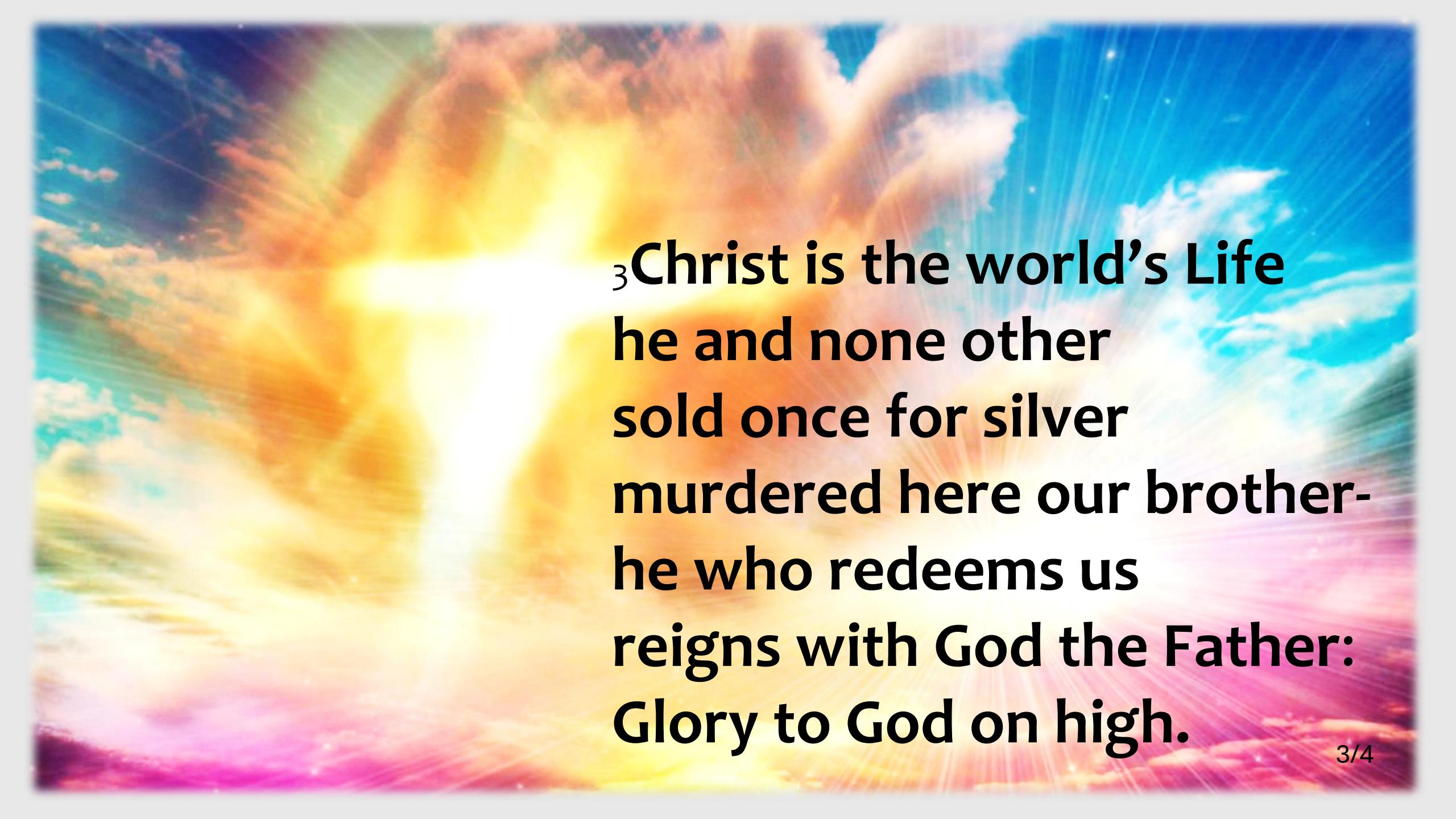
**Amen**



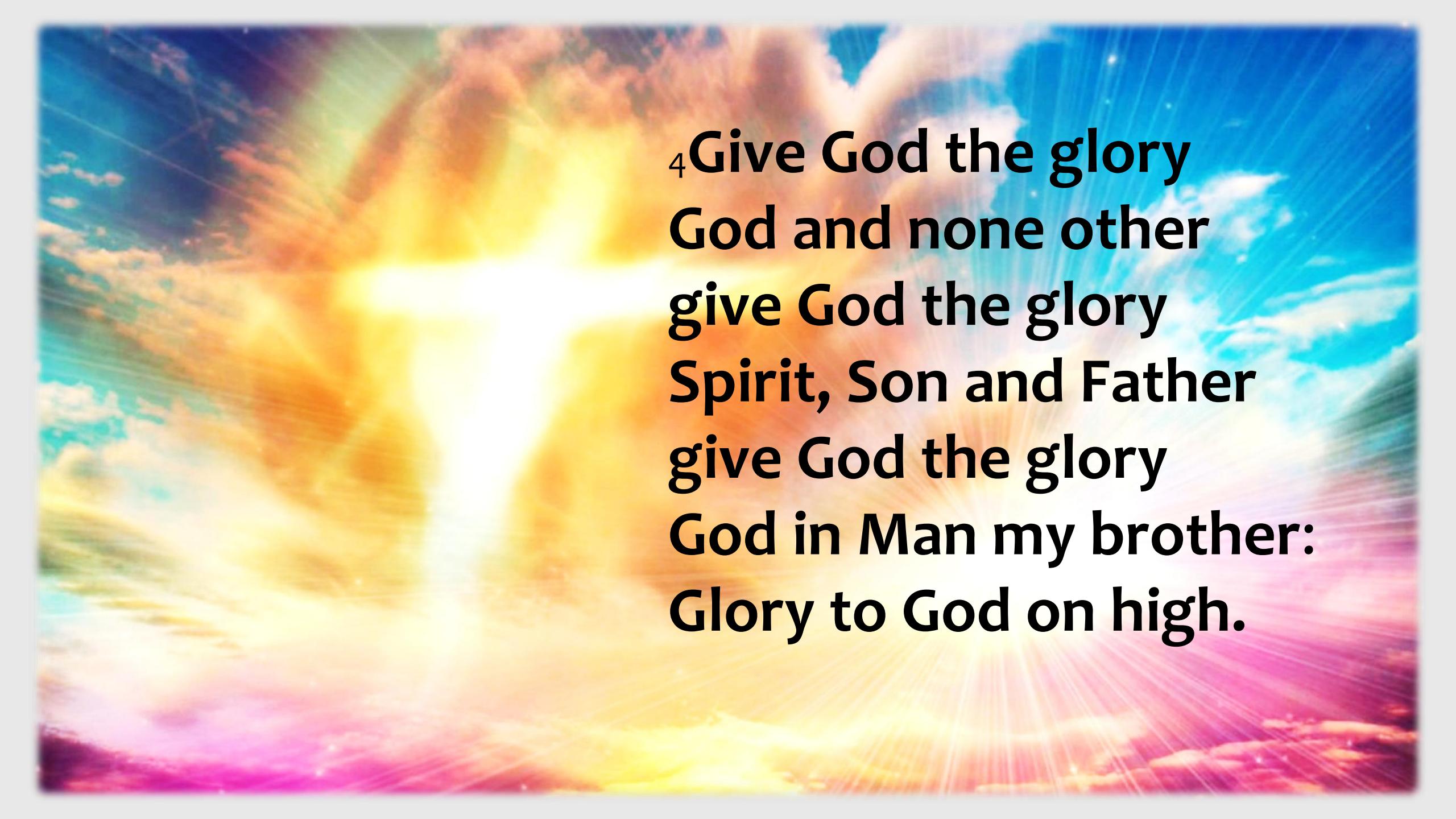
**<sup>1</sup>Christ is the world's Light  
he and none other  
born in our darkness  
he became our brother  
if we have seen him  
we have seen the Father:  
Glory to God on high.**



**2Christ is the world's Peace  
he and none other  
no-one can serve him  
and despise another  
who else unites us  
one in God the Father?  
Glory to God on high.**



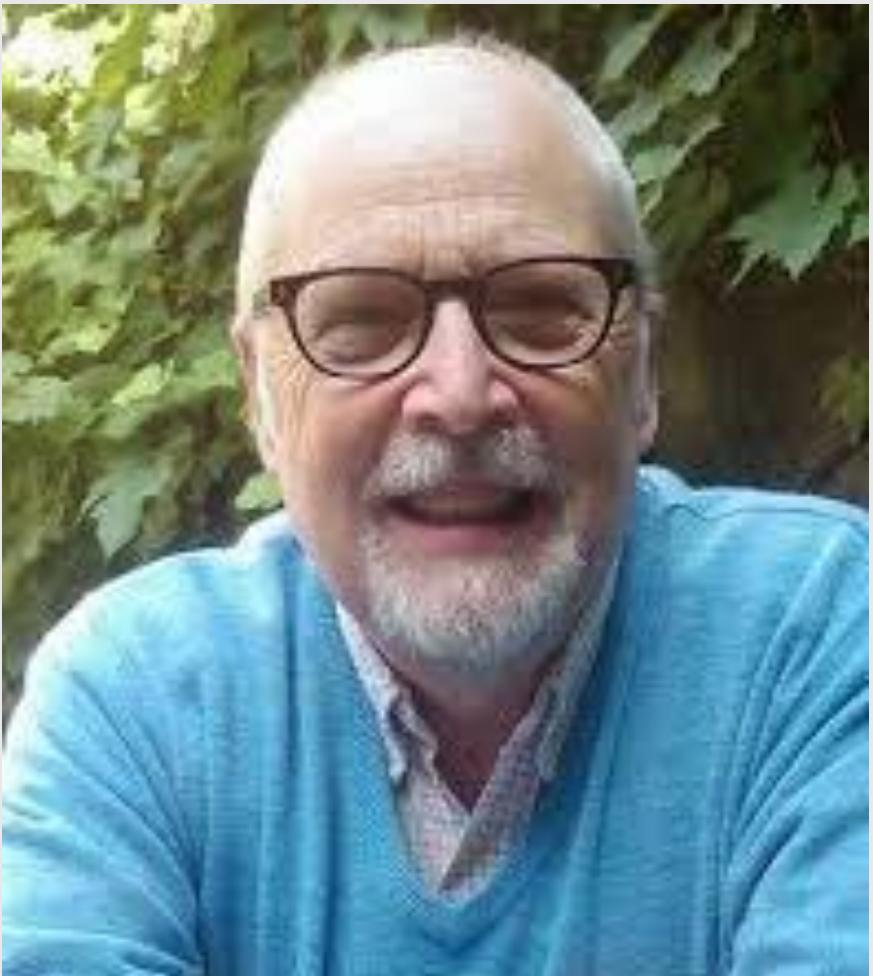
**3Christ is the world's Life  
he and none other  
sold once for silver  
murdered here our brother-  
he who redeems us  
reigns with God the Father:  
Glory to God on high.**



**<sup>4</sup>Give God the glory  
God and none other  
give God the glory  
Spirit, Son and Father  
give God the glory  
God in Man my brother:  
Glory to God on high.**



Offertory  
and  
thank you  
prayer



## Children's Talk – ‘Receiving Presents’



Prayer  
with the  
children

## Prayer

From sunrise in the east to sunset in the west,  
by all people and in every place,  
may the holiness of the Lord be proclaimed.

May that holiness come as light in our midst,  
guiding our way along pathways of grace.

Walking with the angels of peace,  
may we be led away from temptation and sin.

Hearing words of mercy,  
may we know ourselves forgiven, loved and free.

Knowing the power of the resurrection  
may we find ourselves raised into that same light.  
Gathered into the community of God's faithful  
people, may we come together in peace.

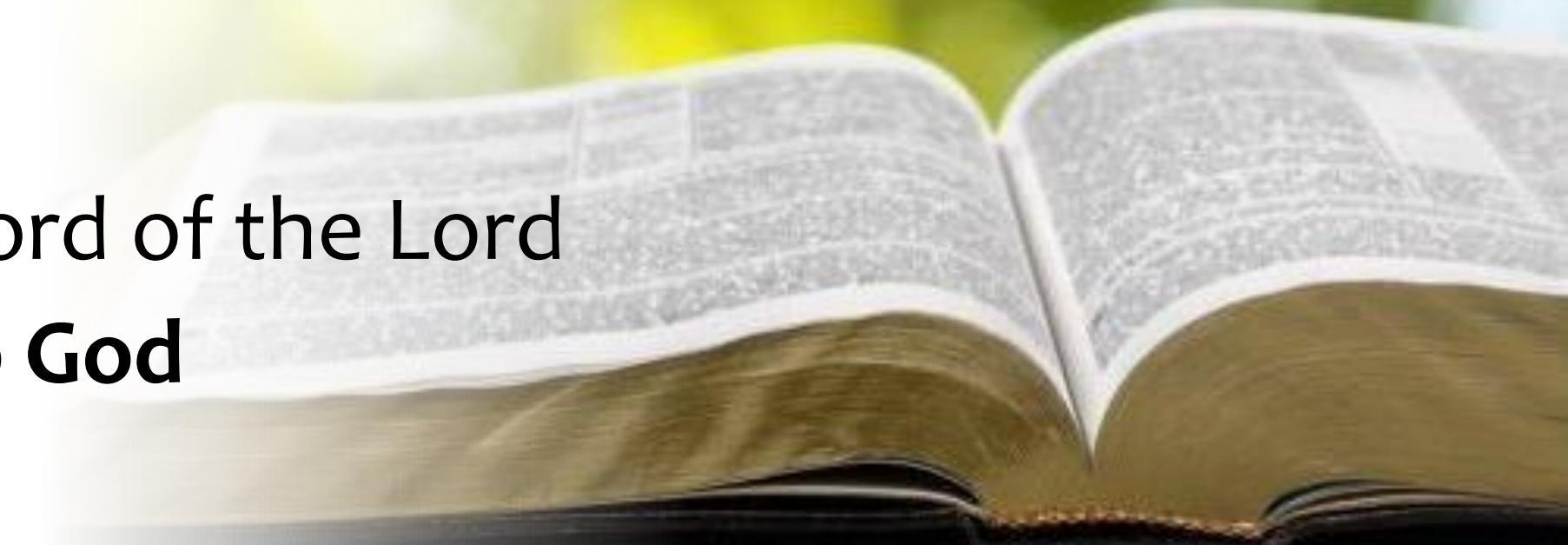
Peace be with you  
**All: And with your spirit**



We offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Isaiah 58 : 6 - 11

This is the word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God



The choir sings

‘Arise, shine for your light has come’

by Richard Shephard



Ephesians 4 : 1 - 13

Peace to all

**R: And with your spirit**



<sup>1</sup>God is working his purpose out  
as year succeeds to year  
God is working his purpose out  
and the day is drawing near.  
Nearer and nearer draws the time  
the time that shall surely be  
when the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.



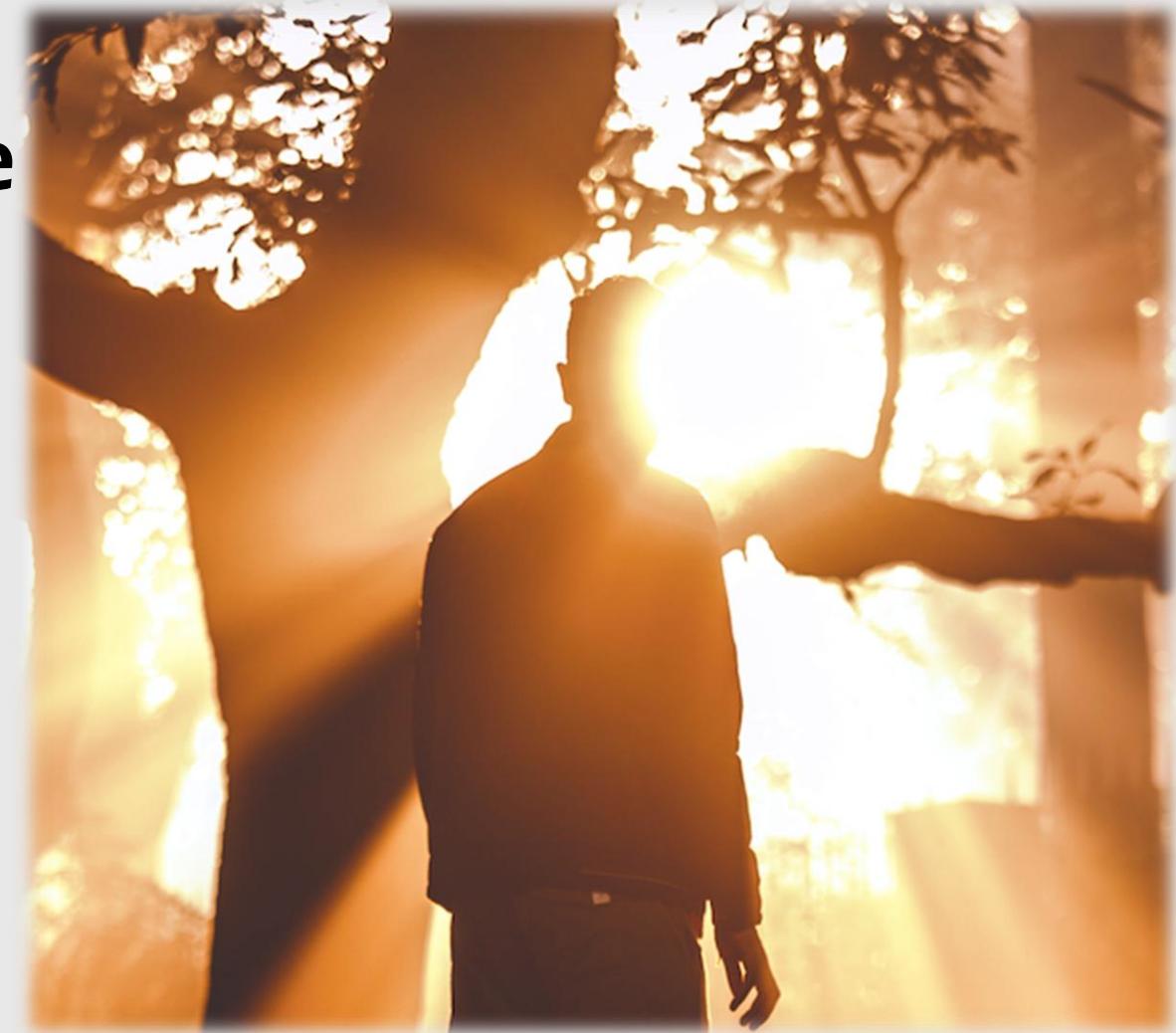
<sup>2</sup>From the east to the utmost west  
wherever foot has trod  
through the mouths of messengers  
echoes forth the voice of God  
‘Listen to me ye continents,  
ye islands give ear to me,  
that the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea’.



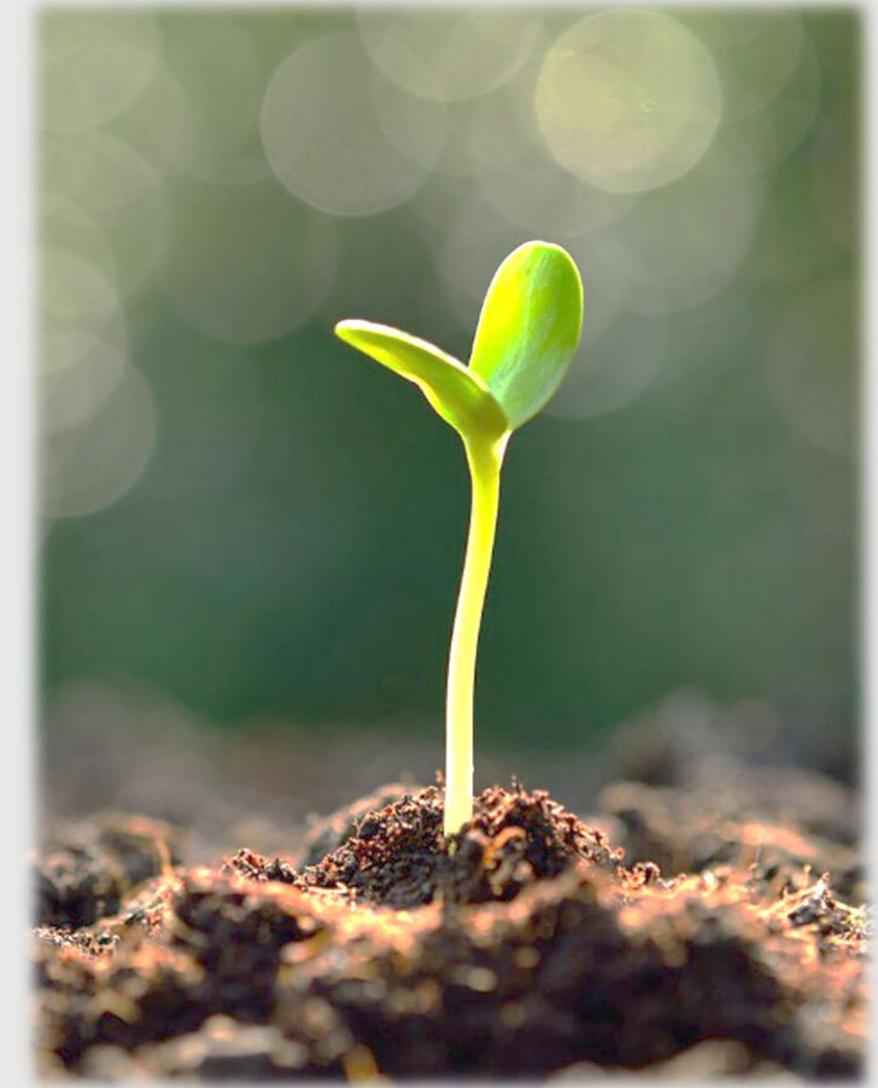
<sup>3</sup>How can we do the work of God  
how prosper and increase  
harmony in the human race  
and the reign of perfect peace?  
What can we do to urge the time  
the time that shall be surely be  
when the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea?

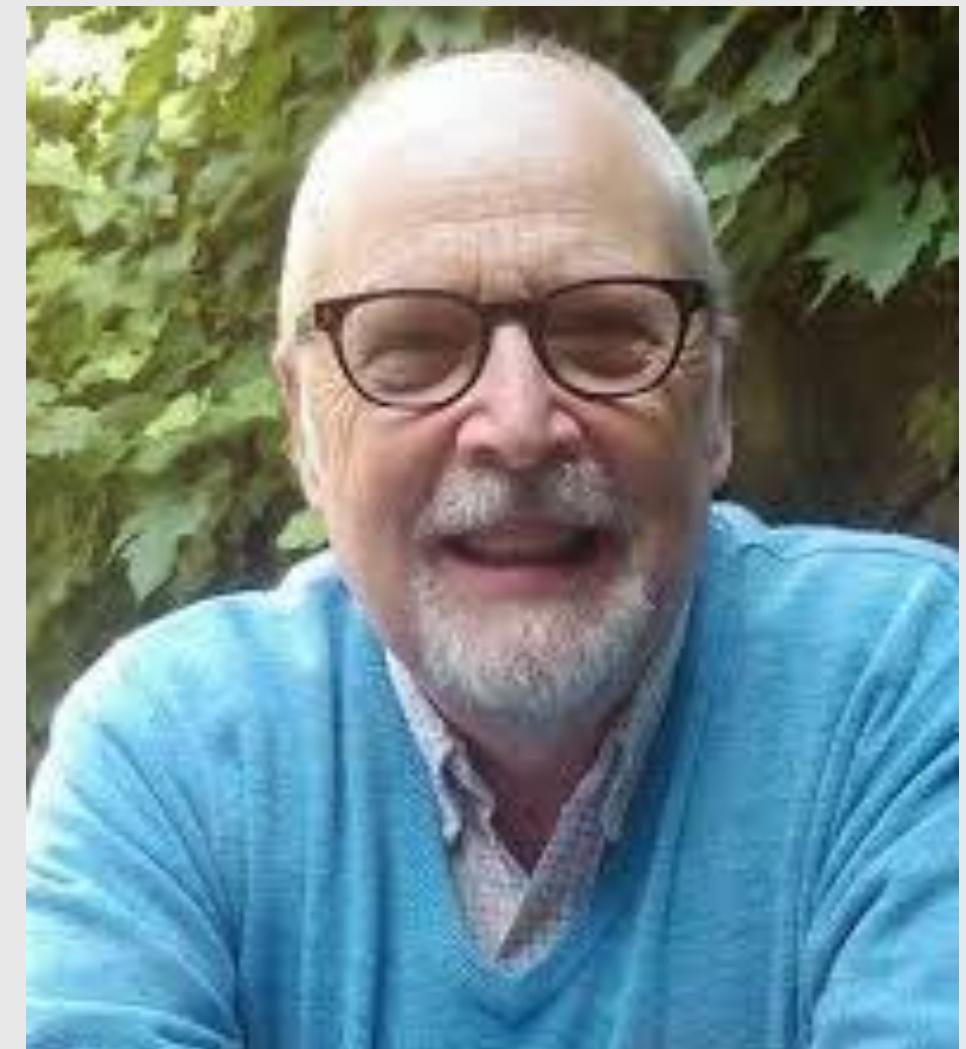


<sup>4</sup>March we forth in the strength of God  
his banner is unfurled  
let the light of the gospel shine  
in the darkness of the world  
strengthen the weary  
heal the sick and  
set ev'ry captive free  
that the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God  
as the waters covered the sea.



<sup>5</sup>All our efforts are nothing worth  
unless God bless the deed  
vain our hopes for the harvest tide  
till he brings to life the seed.  
Yet ever nearer draws the time  
the time that shall surely be  
when the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.





Sermon – ‘Who wants to be a watered garden?’

## Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 97)

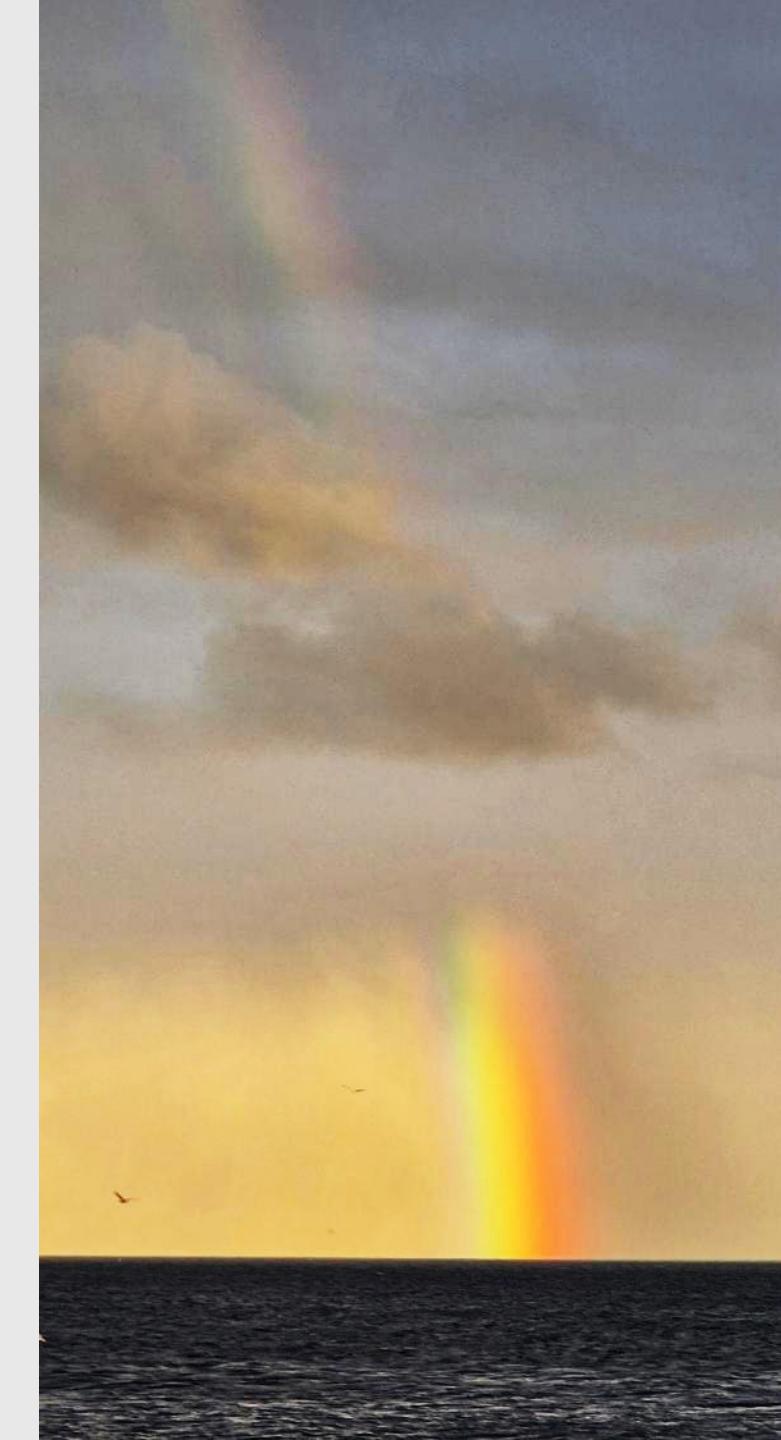
The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the  
foundation of his throne.

**Our eyes turn to You, O God.  
In Your mercy, hear our prayers.**

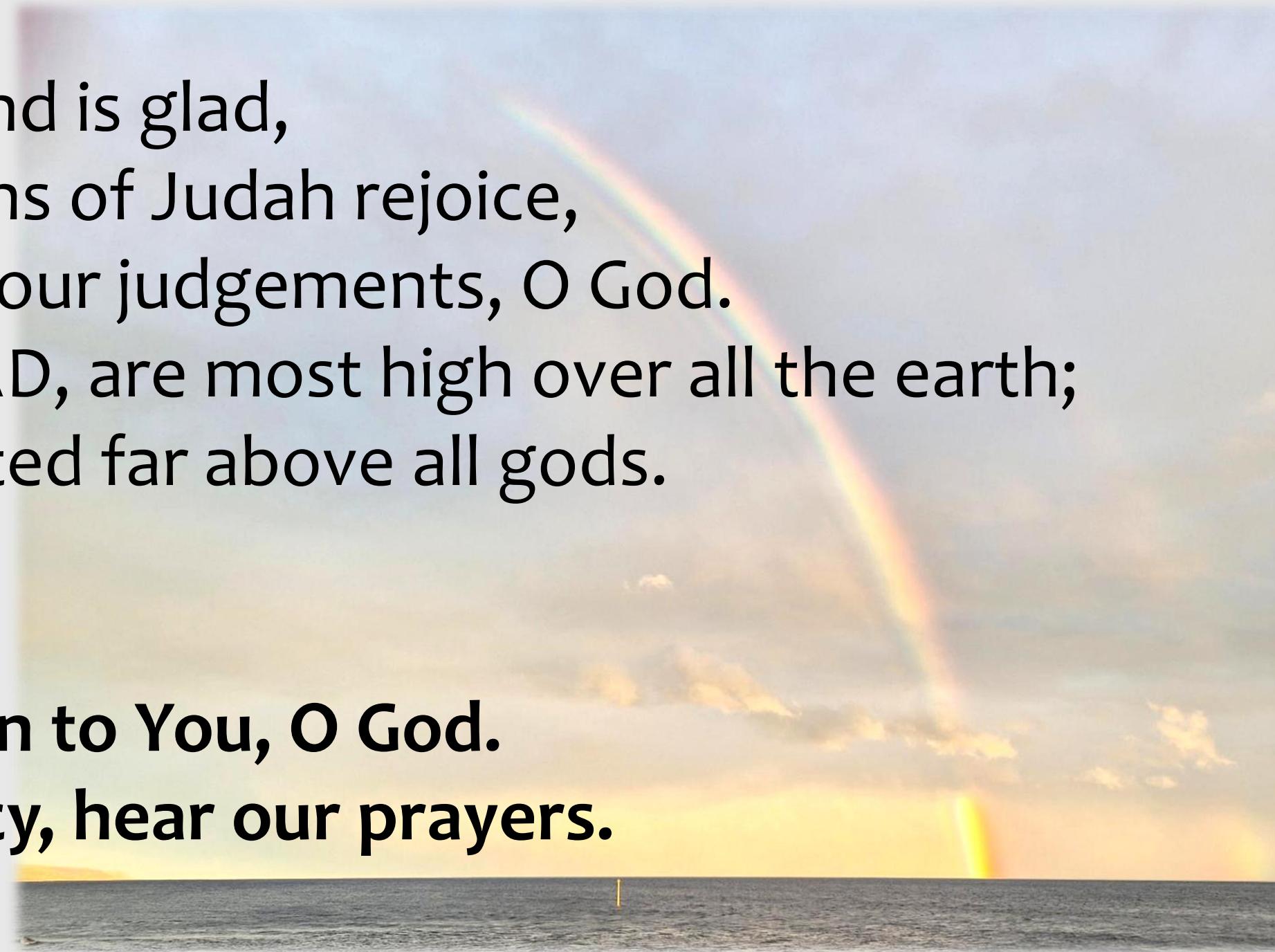
His lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.  
The heavens proclaim  
his righteousness,  
and all the peoples behold his glory.

**Our eyes turn to You, O God.  
In Your mercy, hear our prayers.**



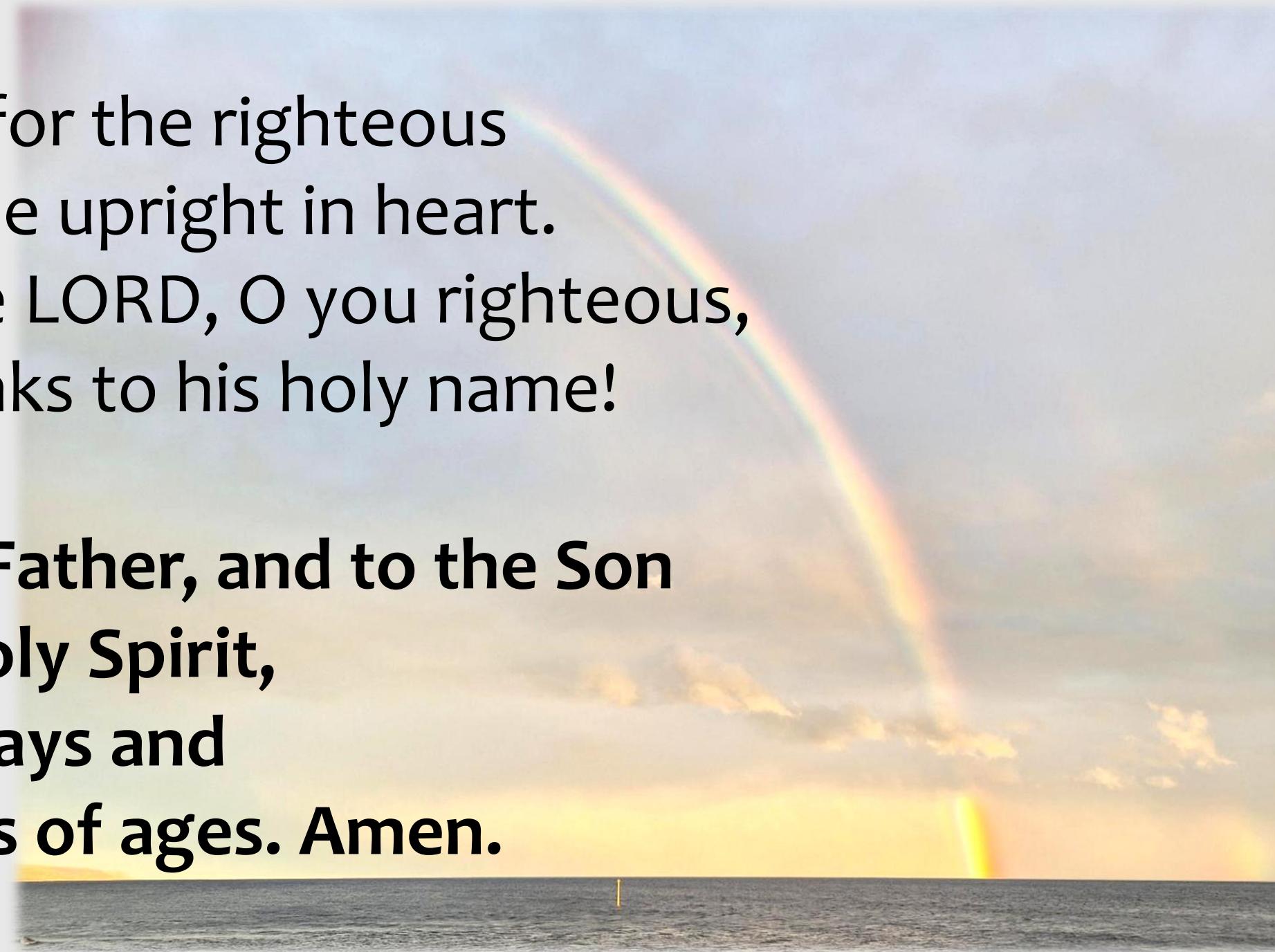
Zion hears and is glad,  
and the towns of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgements, O God.  
For you, LORD, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.

**Our eyes turn to You, O God.  
In Your mercy, hear our prayers.**

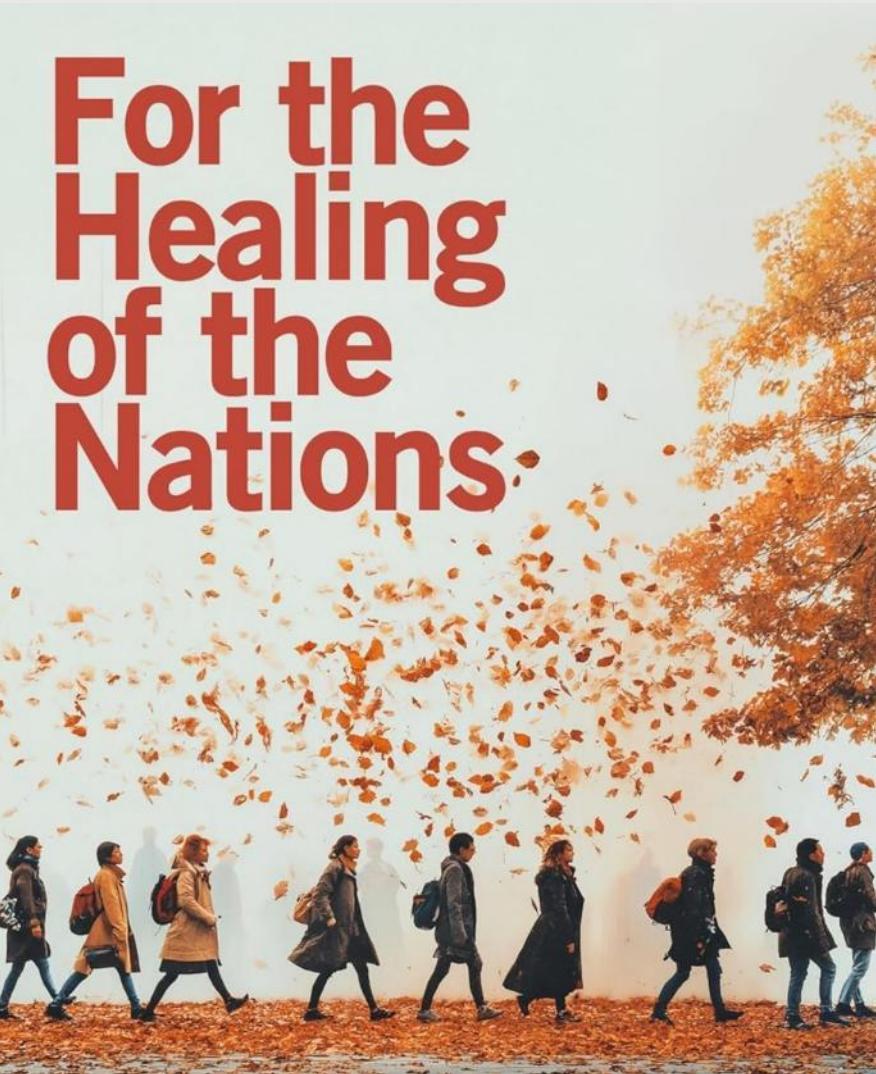


Light dawns for the righteous  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and always and  
unto the ages of ages. Amen.**



# For the Healing of the Nations



<sup>1</sup>For the healing of the nations  
Lord, we pray with one accord  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.



**Lead us forward into freedom  
from despair your world release  
that, redeemed from war and hatred  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through  
care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.**

<sup>3</sup>All that kills abundant living  
let it from the earth be banned  
pride of status, race, or schooling  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.





<sup>4</sup>You, Creator God, have written  
your great name on humankind  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

## The Creed

**Leader** - Bathed in the light of the Wisdom of Christ, together, let us confess our common faith.

**All : We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.



For us all, and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven  
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin  
Mary and was made human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate  
he suffered and was buried.

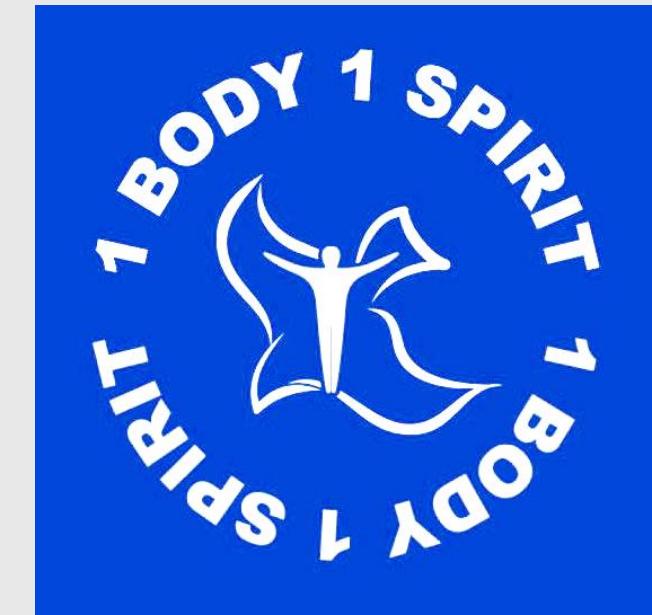
On the third day he rose from the dead in  
accordance with the scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.**

**Who, with the Father and the Son,  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the Prophets.**



We believe in one, holy, catholic  
and apostolic Church.

We confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the age to come.

Amen



# Prayers of Intercession



# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

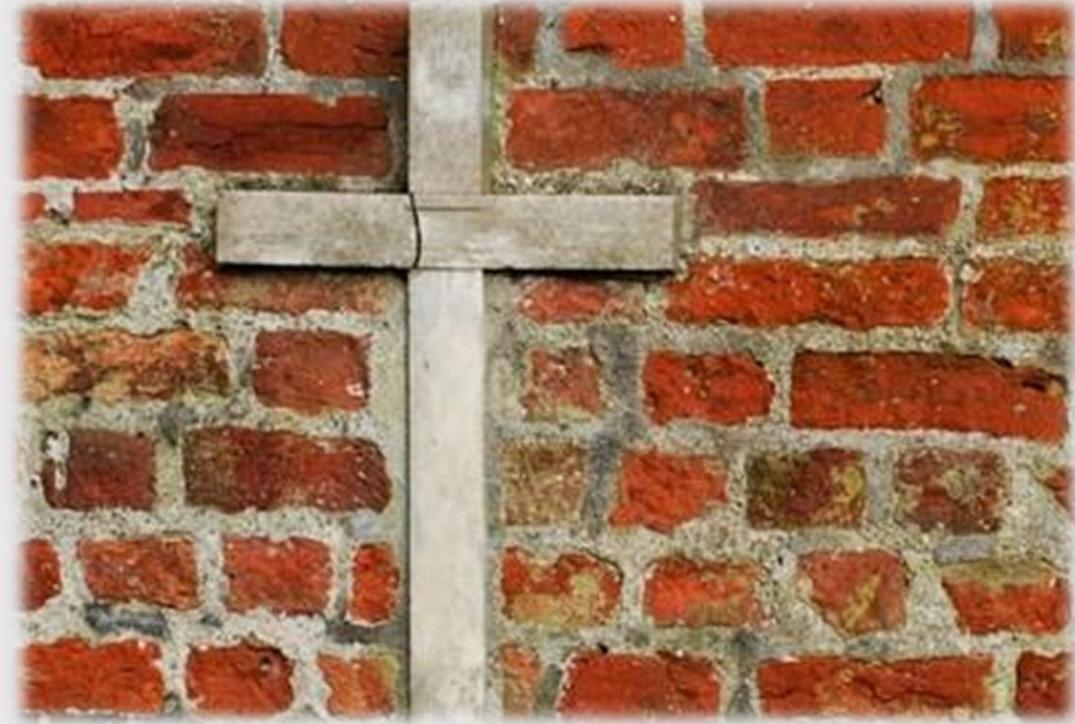
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power and  
the glory are yours now and for ever.

Amen

**1The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ her Lord  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word  
from heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride  
with his own blood he bought her  
and for her life he died.**



<sup>2</sup>Elect from ev'ry nation  
yet one o'er all the earth  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth  
one holy name she blesses  
partakes one holy food  
and to one hope she presses  
with ev'ry grace endued.



3 Mid toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war  
she waits the consummation  
of peace for evermore  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest  
and the great Church victorious  
shall be the Church at rest.



<sup>4</sup>Yet she on earth hath union  
with God the Three in One  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is one  
O happy ones and holy  
Lord give us grace that we  
like them the meek and lowly  
on high may dwell with thee.



# Final prayer (Adapted from St Gregory of Narek)

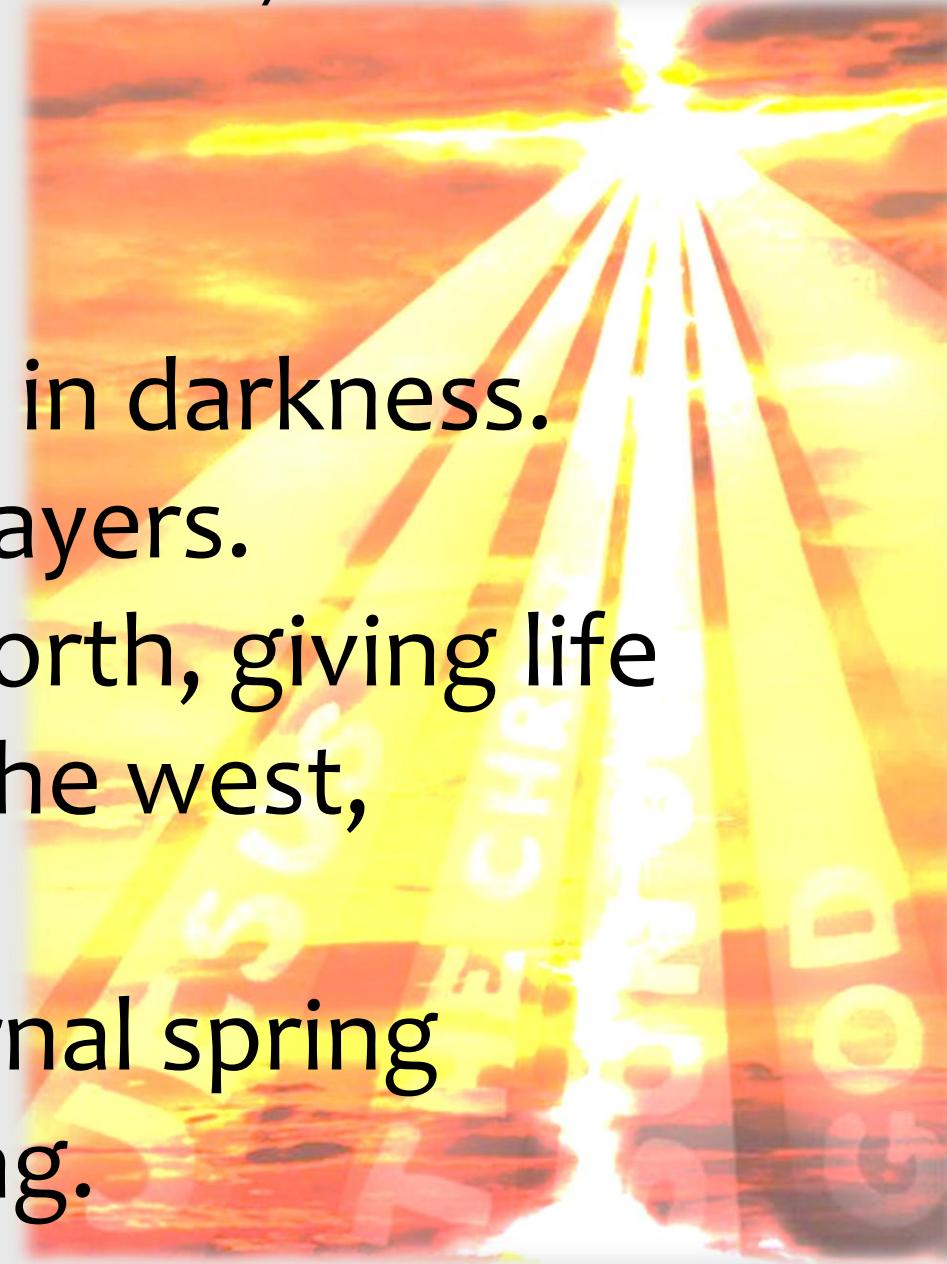
## Leader

Gracious Lord, God of all,  
guide for the lost, Light for those in darkness.

Our eyes turn to You; hear our prayers.

May the sun of Your glory shine forth, giving life  
and light to all, from the east to the west,  
and from the north to the south.

Let the morning rays of Your eternal spring  
awaken us who await Your coming.



O Jesus Christ, Light from the Light,  
dwell within us, who have come together to  
worship Your holy and precious name.

Let Your life-giving radiance kindle within us  
a deeper love for one another.

May Your brilliant light stir us  
to ever more flourishing unity.

Like diverse flowers in the garden of  
Your Kingdom, may Your divine brilliance cause  
us to bloom in harmony.

And so, all as one, may we joyfully  
praise and glorify You, and the Father



and the Holy Spirit, now and always  
and unto the ages of ages.



**All : Amen! Amen! Amen!**



Christ Church Organ

Organ Voluntary

Toccata in G  
Theodore Dubois