

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!



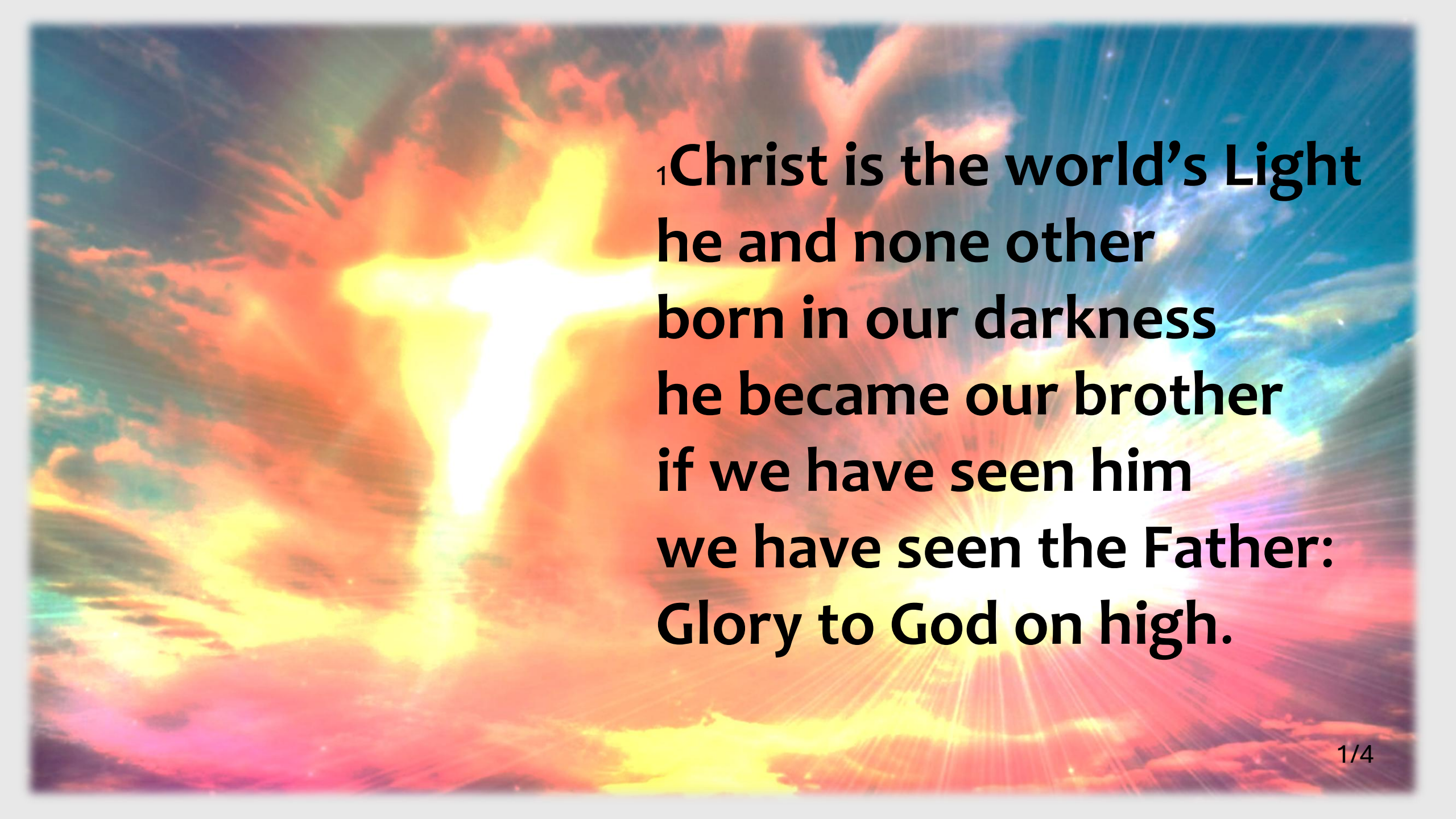
Parish Bible verse
2025 - 2026

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

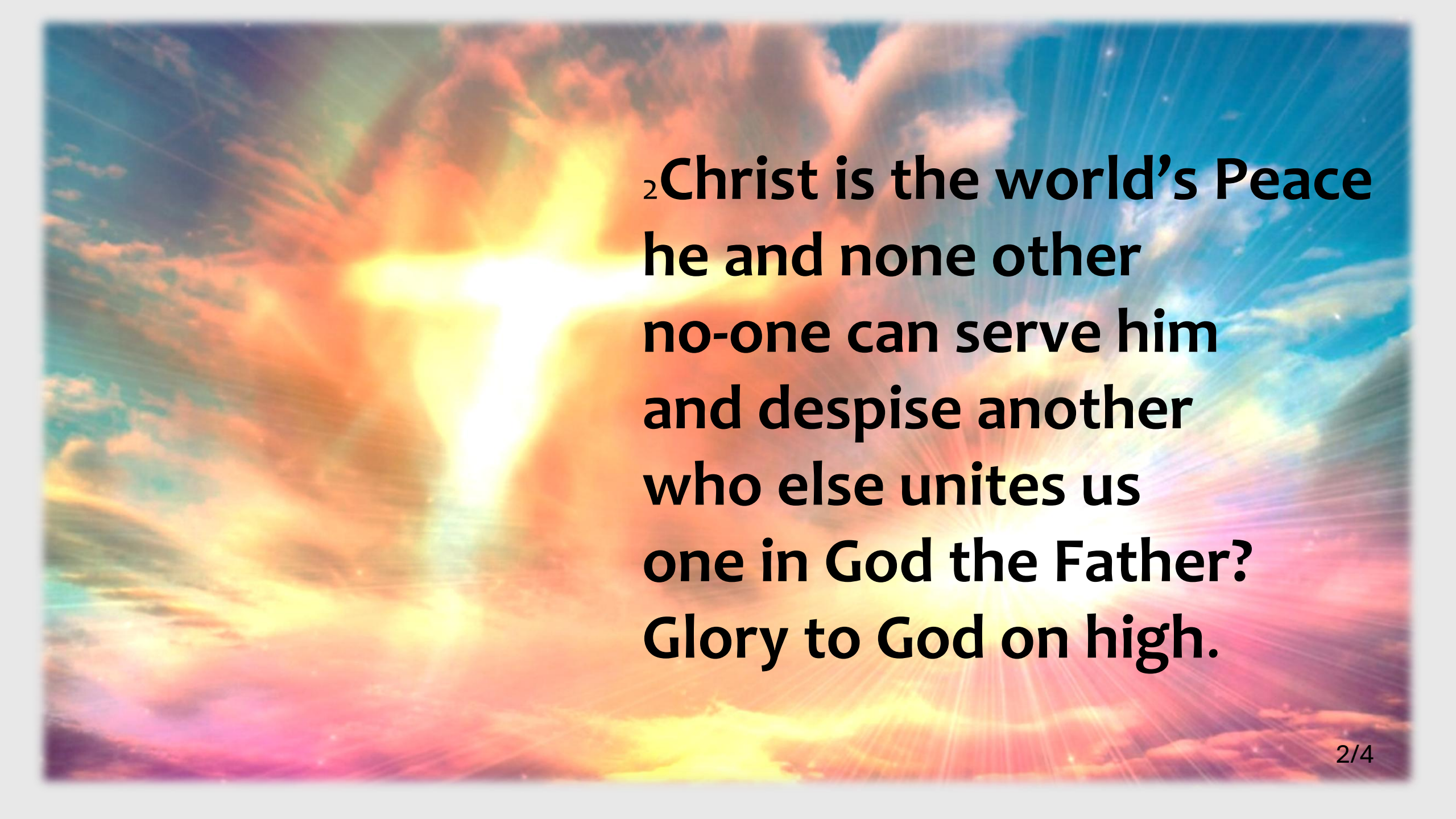
Romans 13:10

A Prayer for Growth

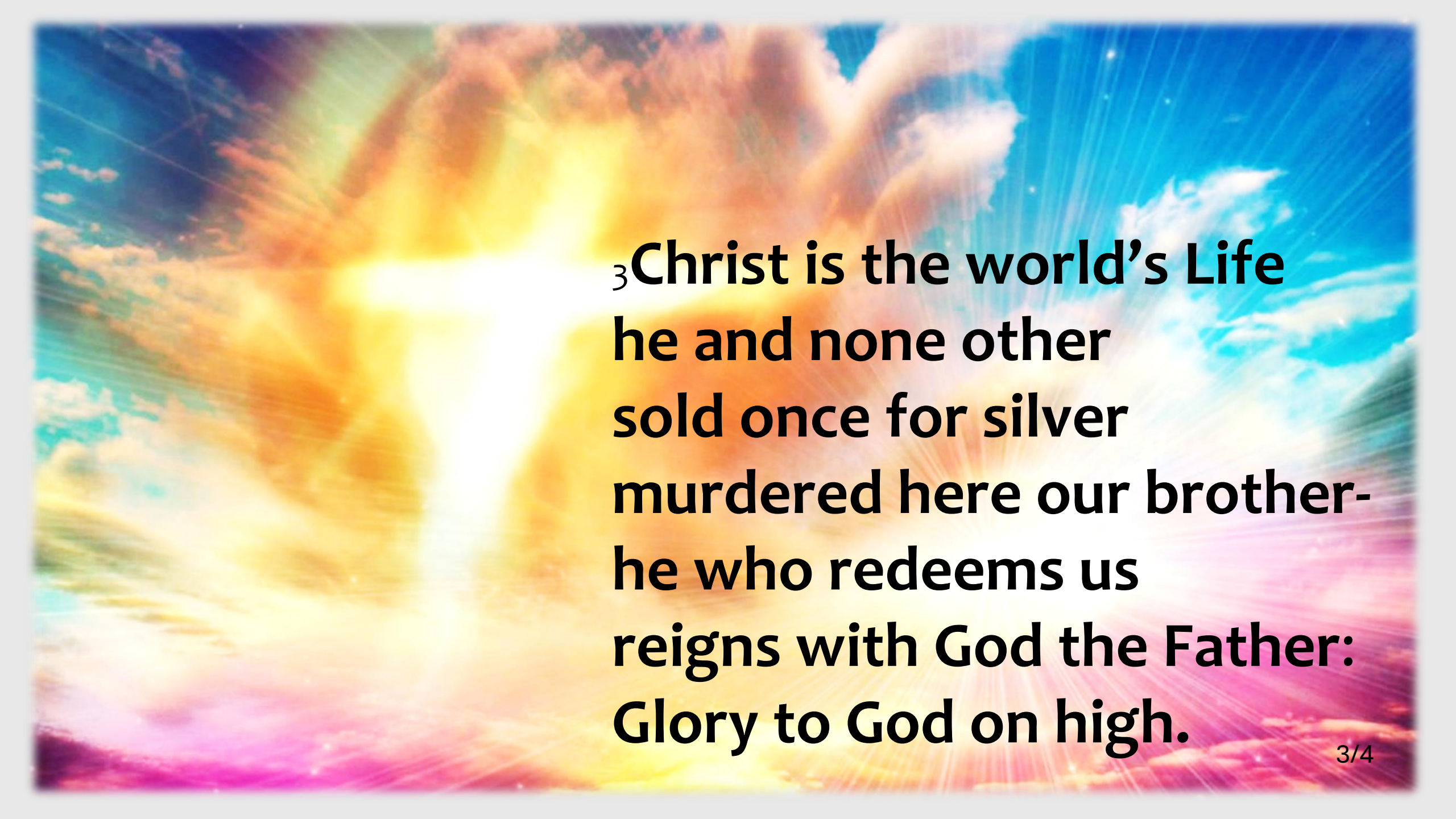
**God of mission
who alone brings growth to your church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning
wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.
Help our Partnership of Churches to grow in numbers
in spiritual commitment to you
and in service to our Swindon community
through Jesus Christ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



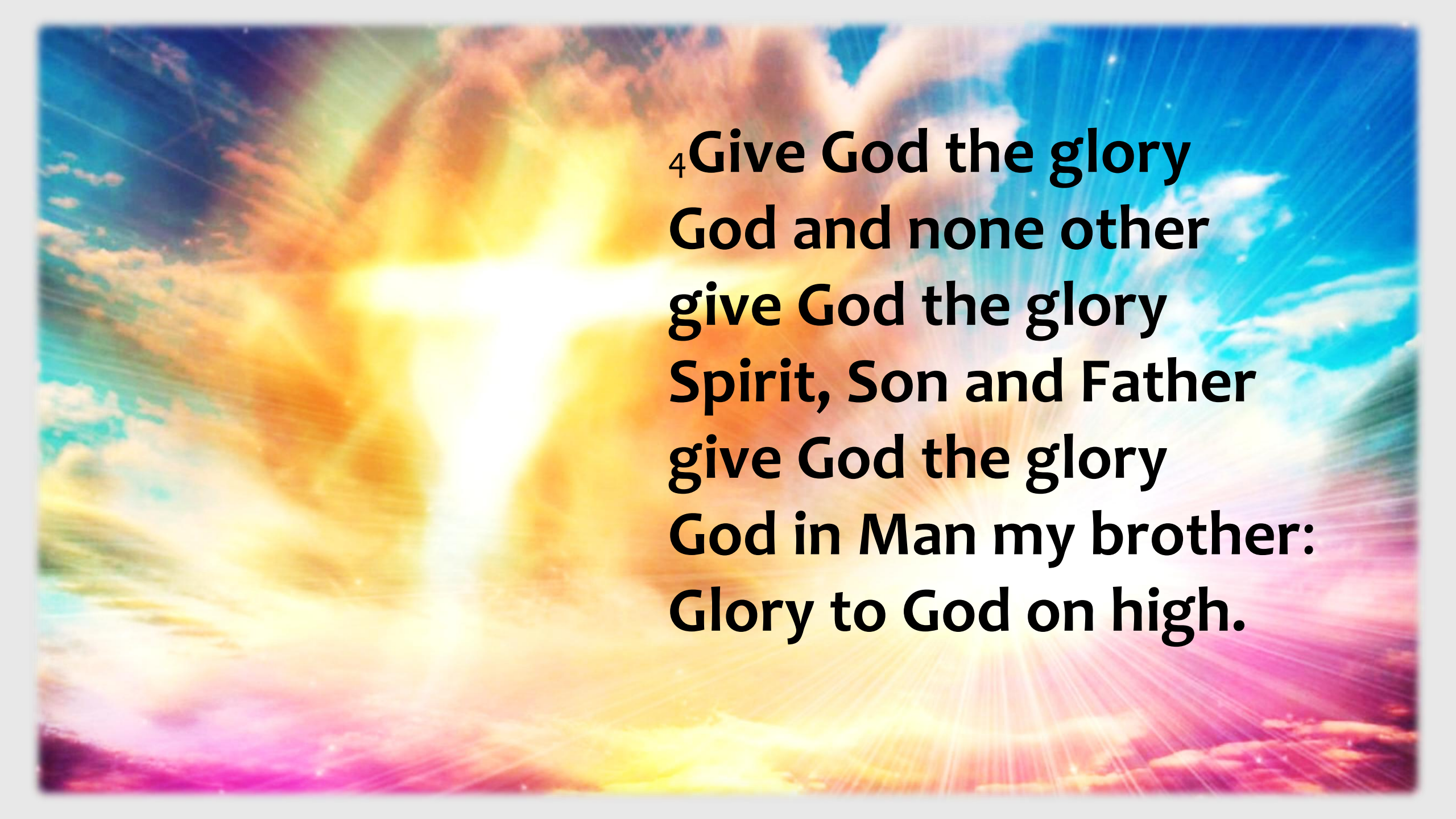
**1 Christ is the world's Light
he and none other
born in our darkness
he became our brother
if we have seen him
we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high.**



**2 Christ 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.**



**3 Christ 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.**



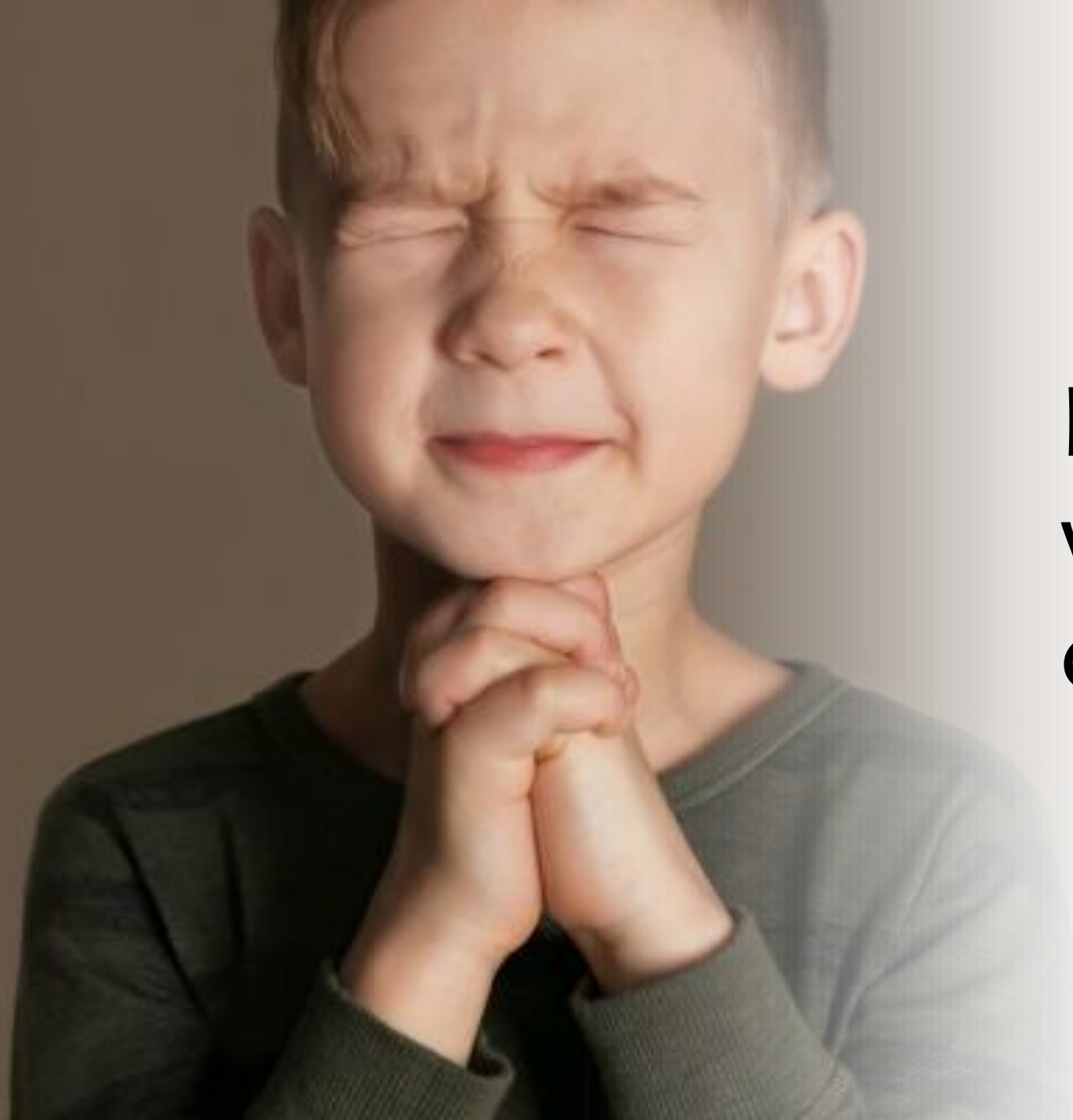
**⁴Give God the glory
God and none other
give God the glory
Spirit, Son and Father
give God the glory
God in Man my brother:
Glory to God on high.**



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.

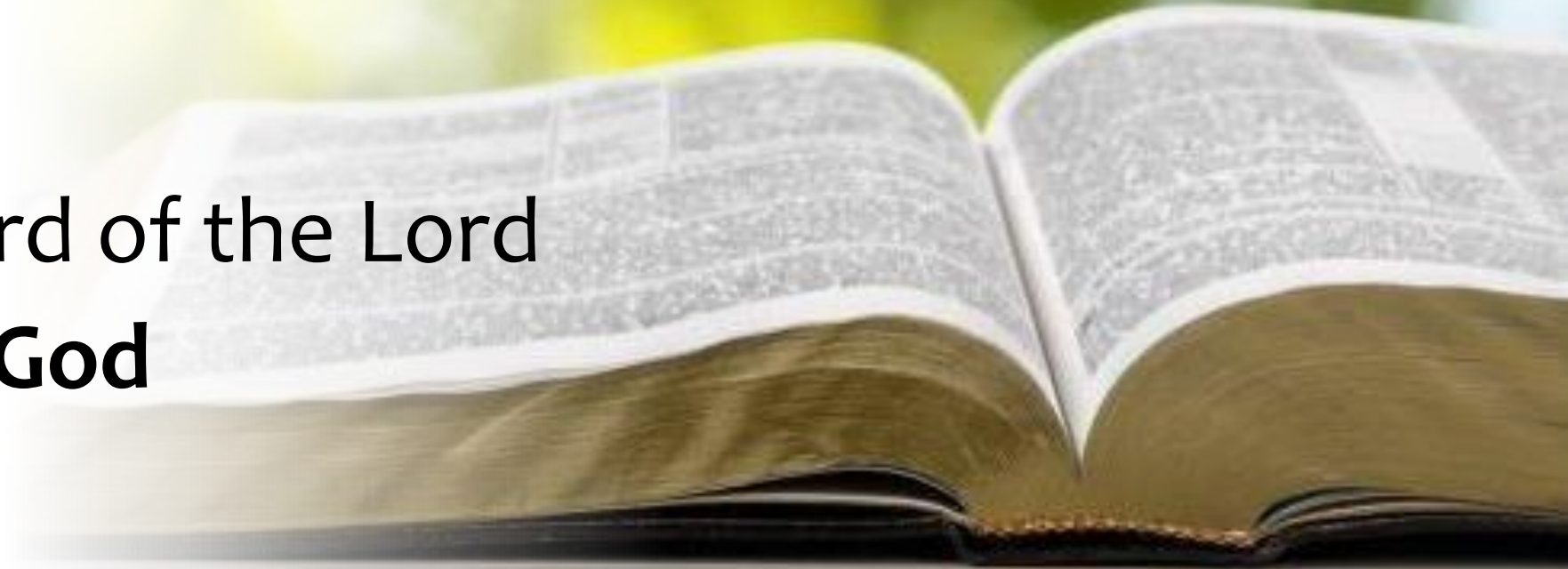
Peace be with you
All: And with your spirit



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



**1 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.**



**²From 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'.**



**3 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?**

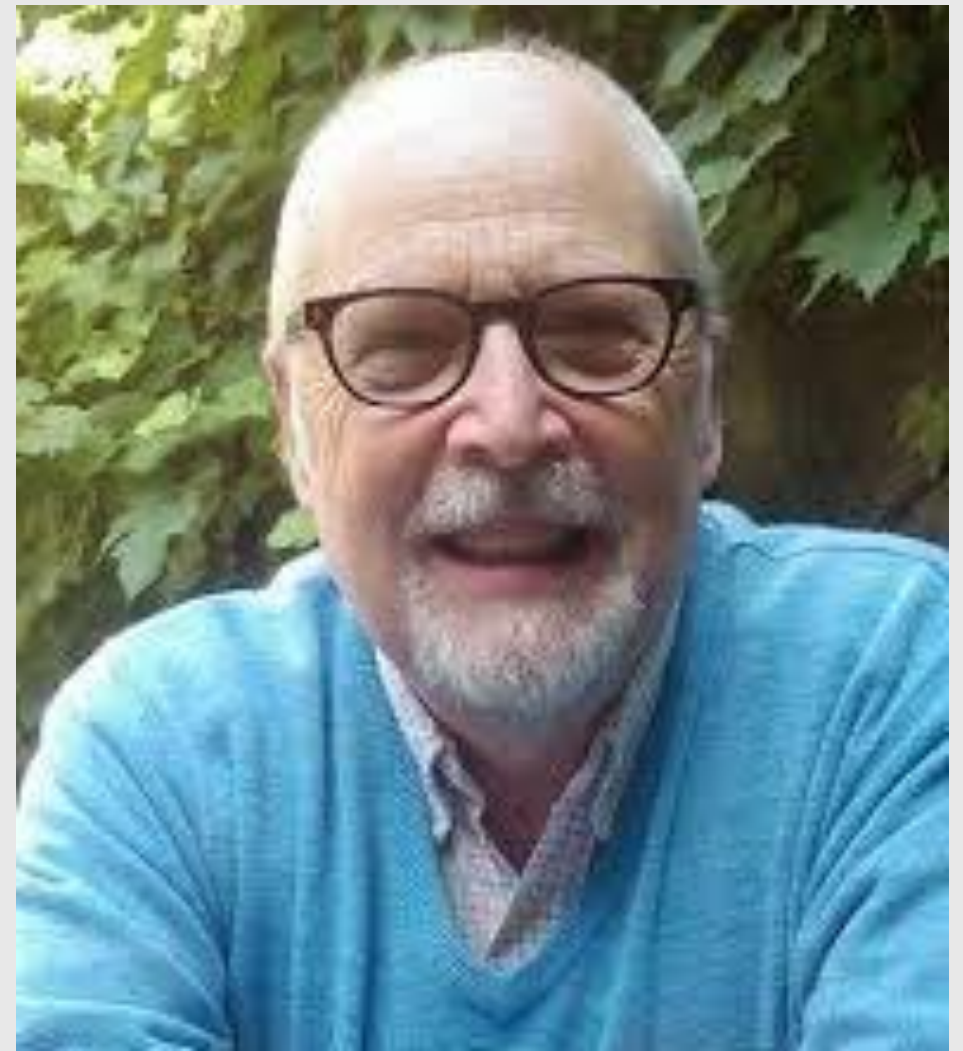


**4 March we forth in the strength of God
his banner is unfurled
let the light of the gospel shine
in the darkness of the world
strengthen the weary
heal the sick and
set ev'ry captive free
that the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters covered the sea.**



**5 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?’

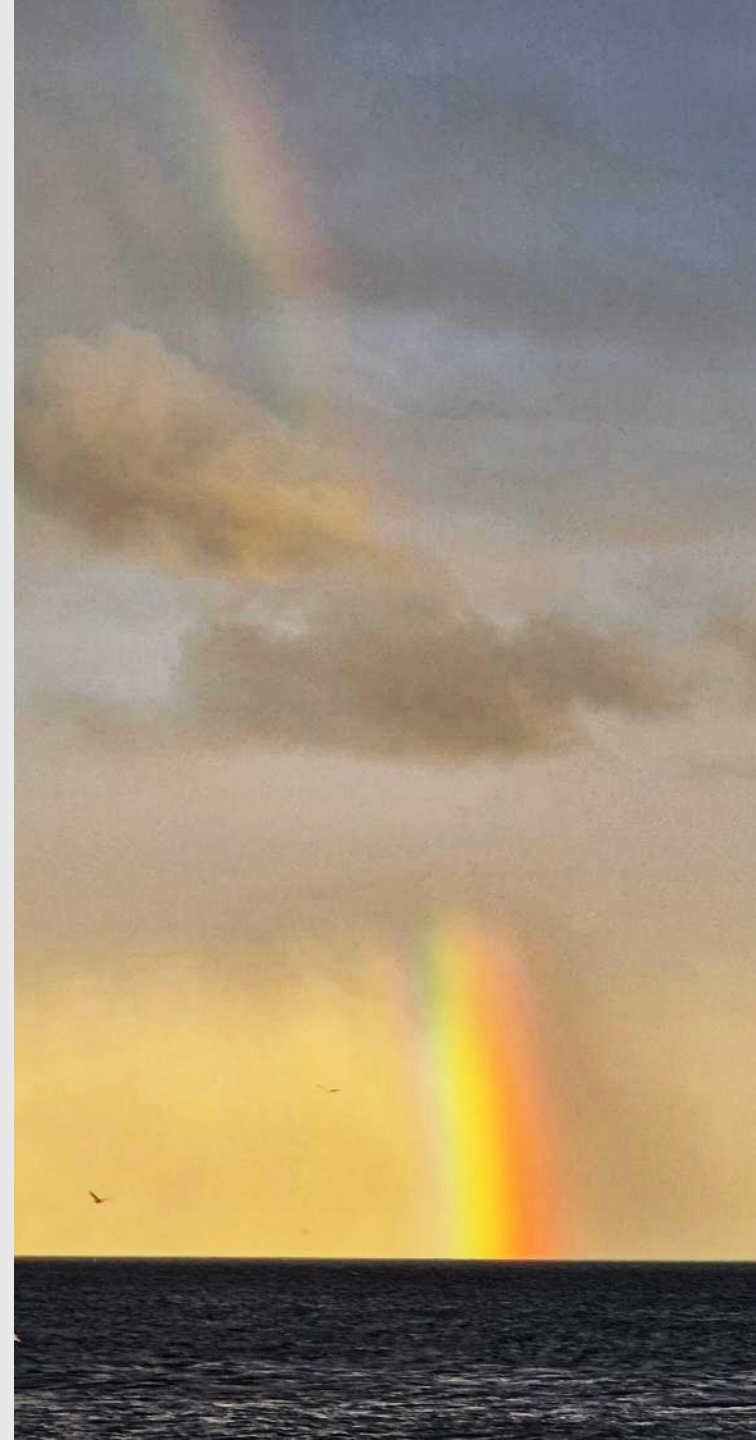
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 97)

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.**

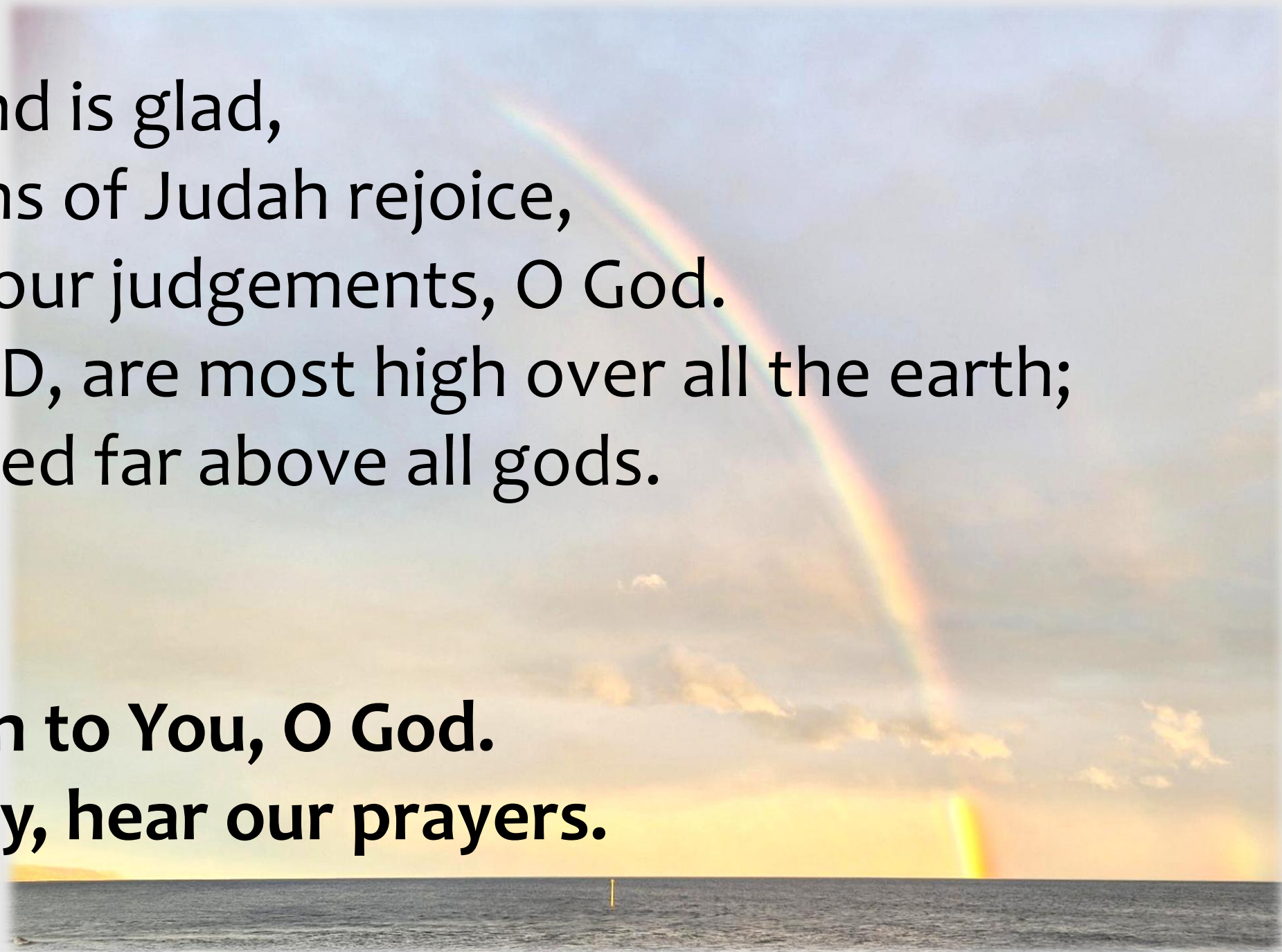
His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
The heavens proclaim
his righteousness,
and all the peoples behold his glory.

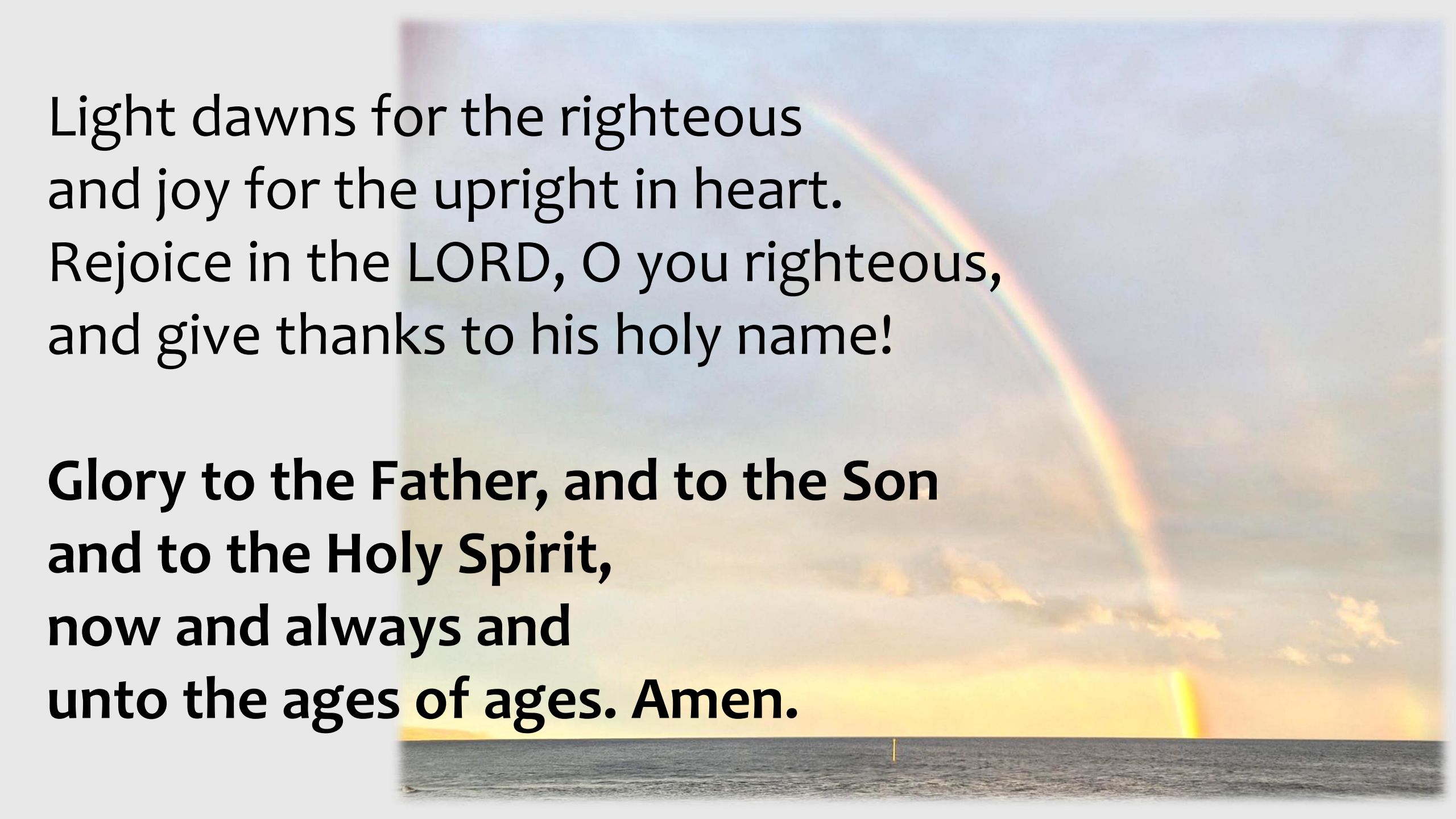
**Our eyes turn to You, O God.
In Your mercy, hear our prayers.**



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.**



A vibrant rainbow arches across a sky filled with soft, golden clouds. Below the rainbow, a calm body of water reflects the warm light of the setting or rising sun. A semi-transparent rectangular box is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the text.

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

**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.**



**2Lead 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.**

**3 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.**



**4 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.**



**₂Elect 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.**



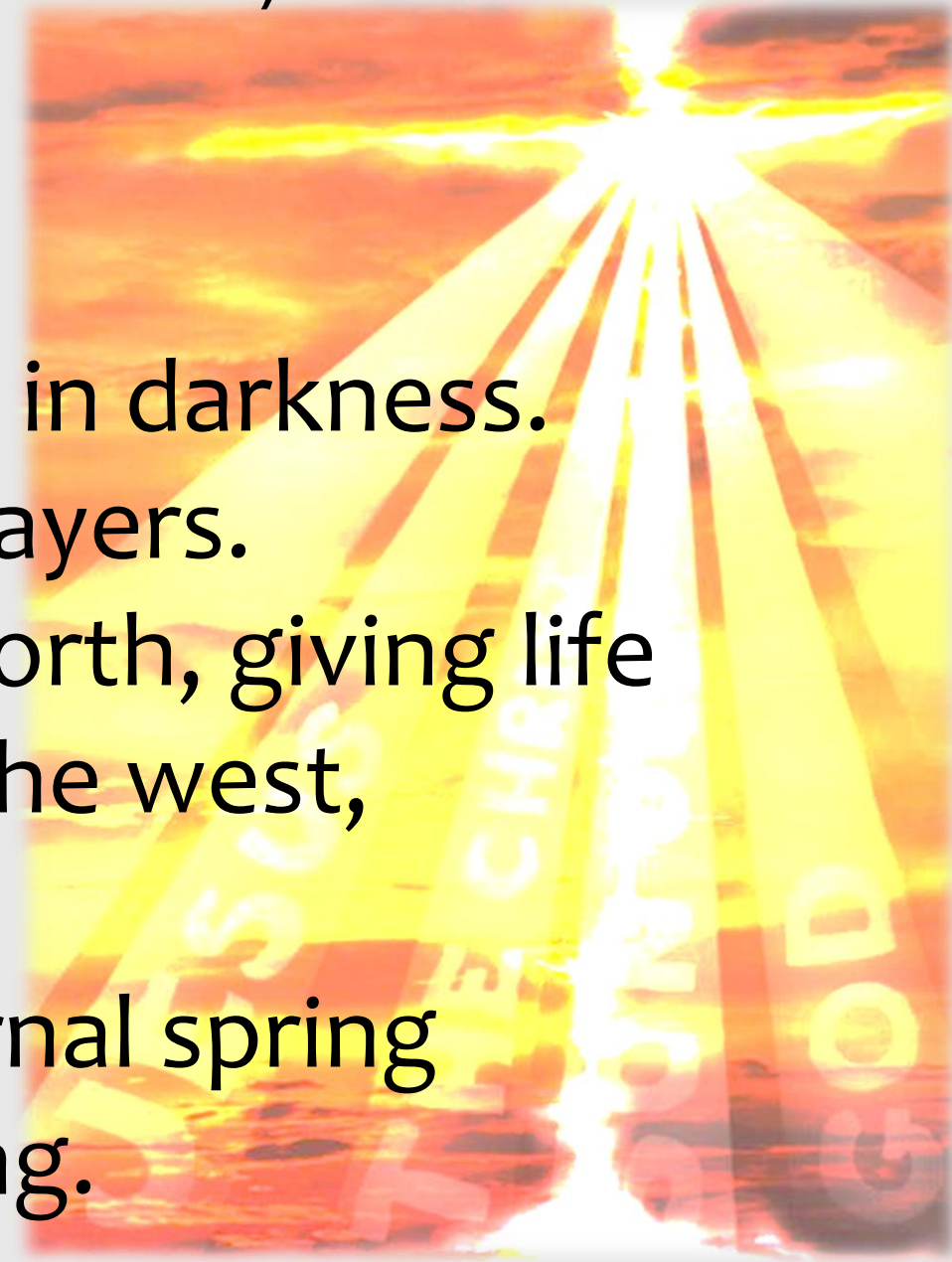
**⁴Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is one
O happy ones and holy
Lord give us grace that we
like them the meek and lowly
on high may dwell with thee.**



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.

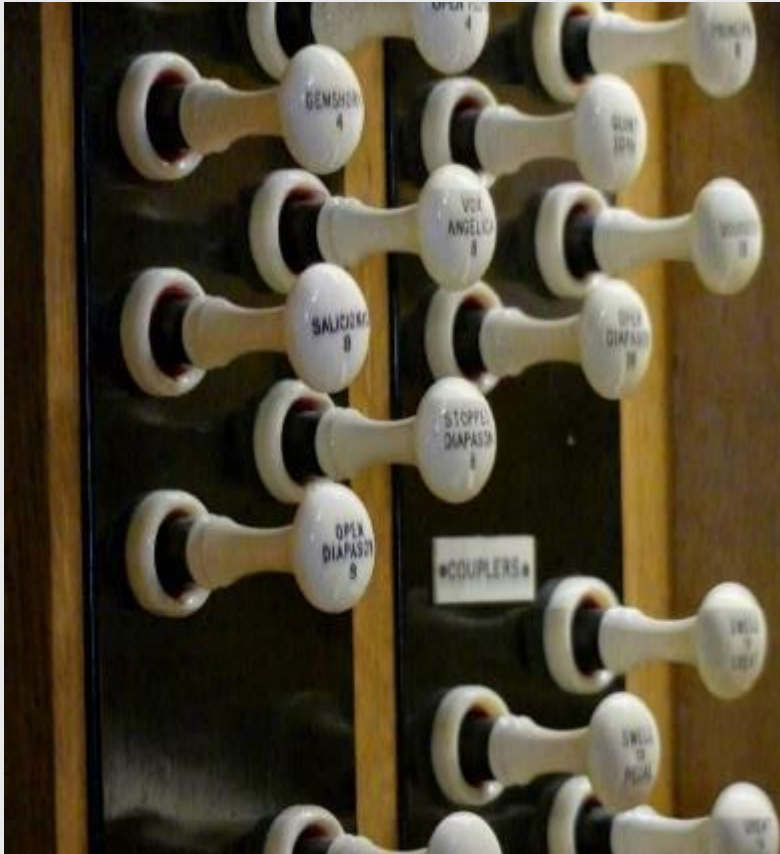
May Your brilliant light stir us
to ever more flourishing unity.

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!



Organ Voluntary



Christ Church Organ

Toccata in G Theodore Dubois