

Sunday 16th August 2026

Christ Church with St Mary's

Informal Service of Holy Communion

Theme: From the heart

We say together all words in **bold**



Matthew 15: 21-28

‘A woman of great faith’

Welcome and Introduction





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

Opening Sentences

In the beginning
before time
before people
before the world began

All : **GOD WAS**



Here and now
among us
beside us
clearer than air
closer than breathing

All : GOD IS



In all that is to come
when we have turned
to dust and human
knowledge has been
completed

All : GOD WILL BE

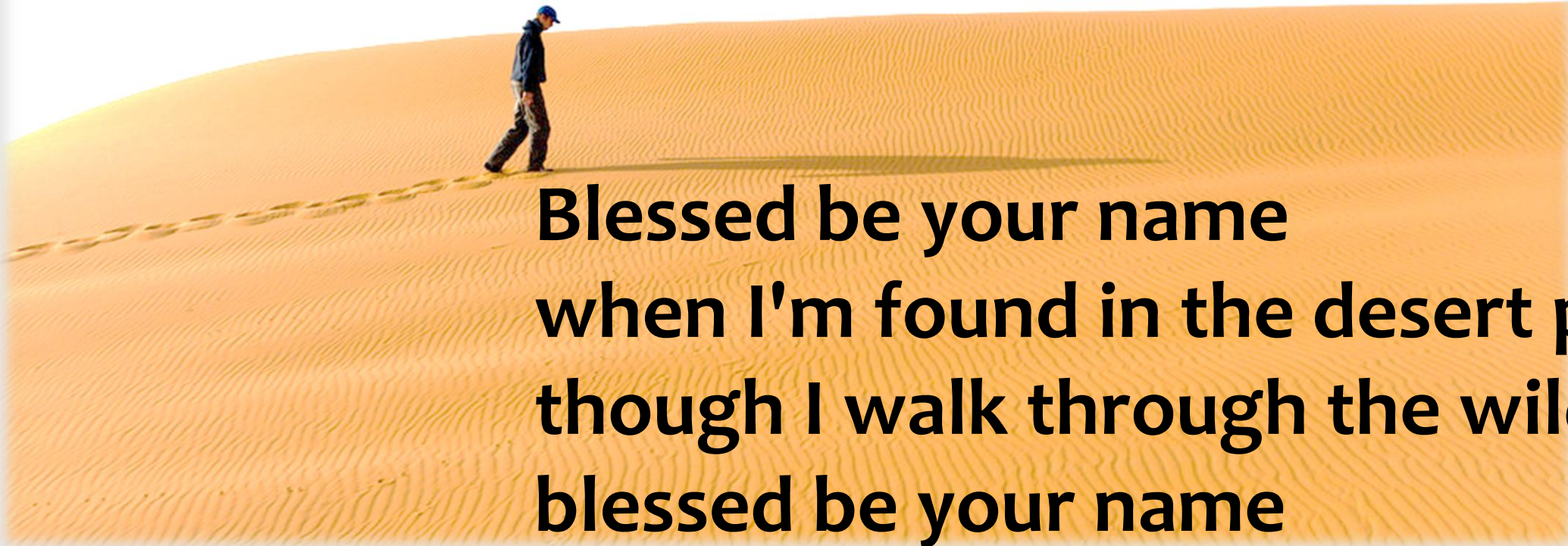


Not despairing of earth
but delighting in it
not condemning the world
but redeeming it
through Jesus Christ
by the power of the Holy Spirit

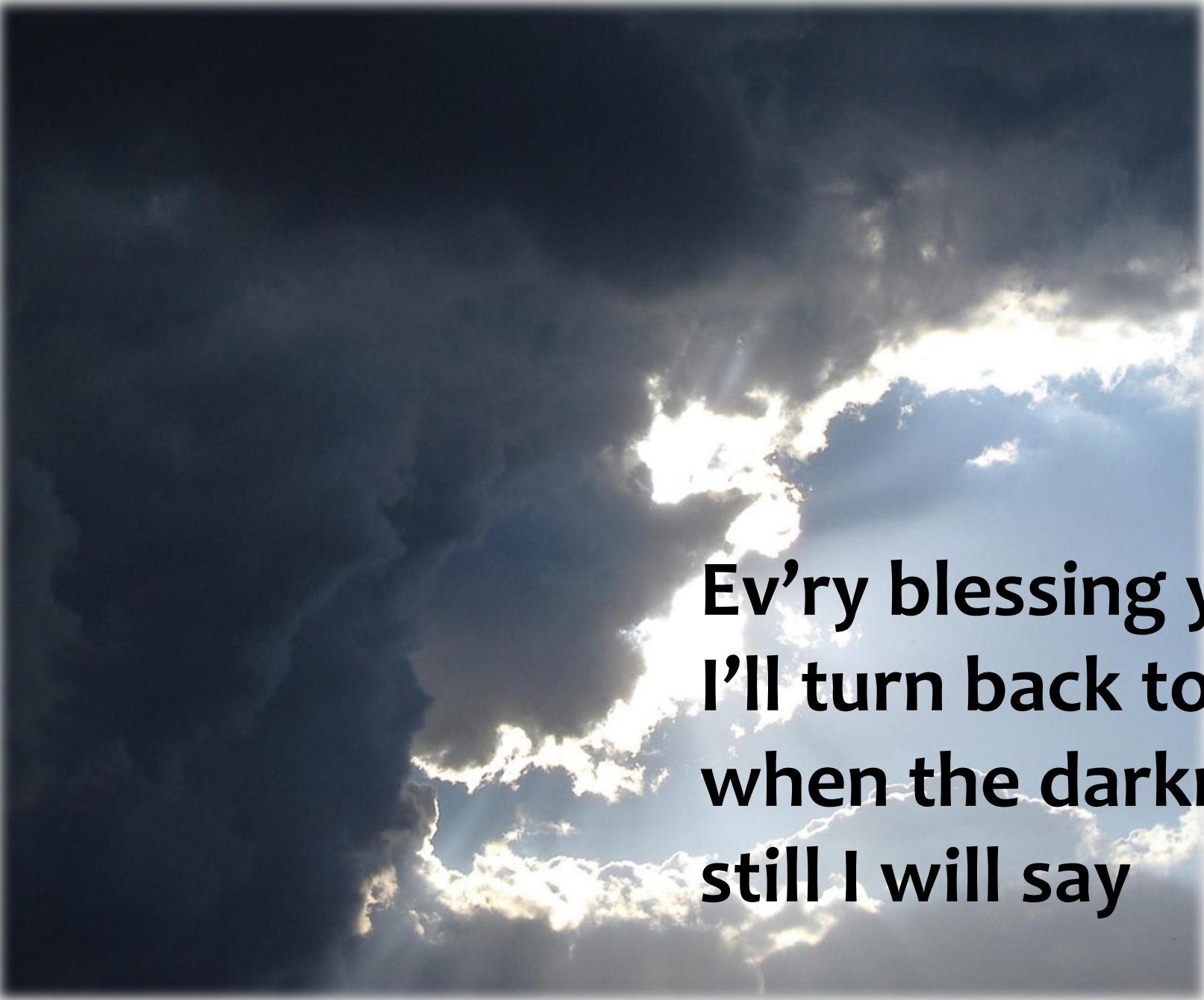
All: GOD WAS, GOD IS, GOD WILL BE.



**¹Blessed be your name
in the land that is plentiful
where your streams of abundance flow
blessed be your name**



**Blessed be your name
when I'm found in the desert place
though I walk through the wilderness
blessed be your name**



**Ev'ry blessing you pour out
I'll turn back to praise
when the darkness closes in Lord
still I will say**



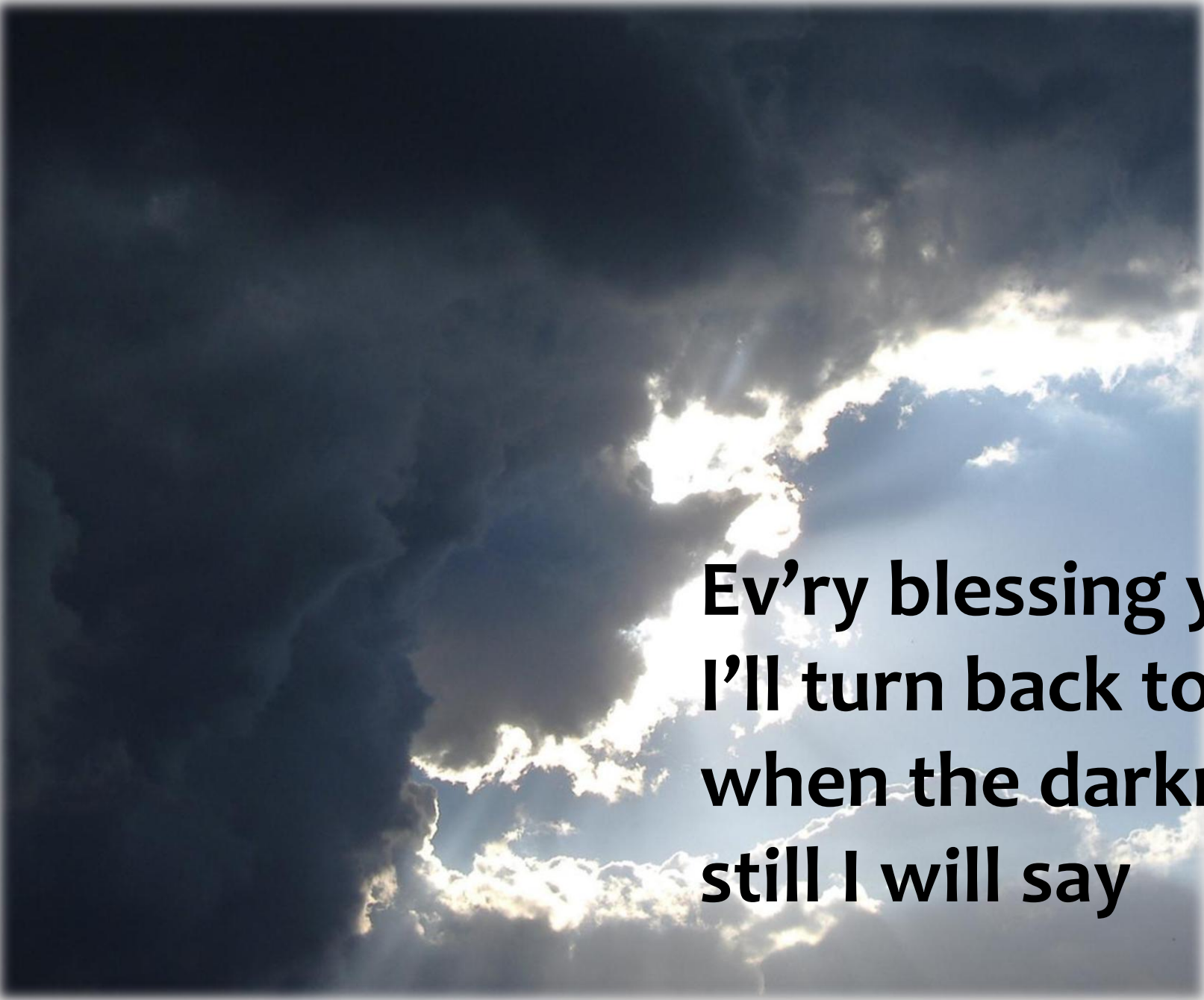
Chorus

**Blessed be the name of the Lord
blessed be your name
blessed be the name of the Lord
blessed be your glorious name**

**₂Blessed 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 marked with suffering
though there's pain in the offering
blessed be your name**





**Ev'ry blessing you pour out
I'll turn back to praise
when the darkness closes in Lord
still I will say**



Chorus

**Blessed be the name of the Lord
blessed be your name
blessed be the name of the Lord
blessed be your glorious name**

(Bridge)

**You give and take away
you give and take away
my heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be your name**

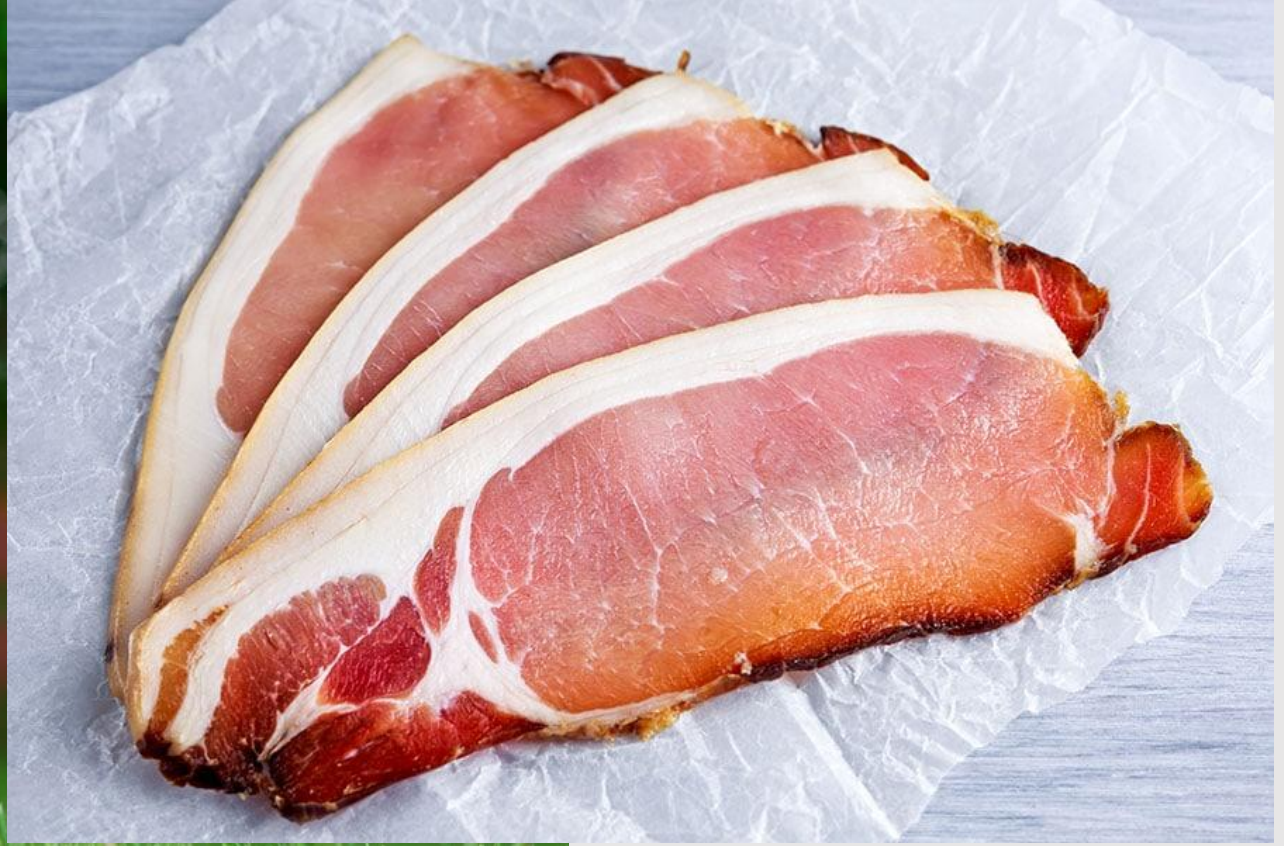


Offertory
and
thank you
prayer



Children's Talk – 'Whole heartedness'





Are you a half-hearted chicken or a wholehearted pig?

Prayer with the children



Confession

All of us carry with us past experiences, past failures or mistakes, which lie like burdens in our lives.

All of us have histories in relationships, things which we wish we had not done or said, or which will not enhance our future together.

In the silence that follows, let us reflect on things we would rather not carry with us and in the light of Christ confess our sins.

(silence)

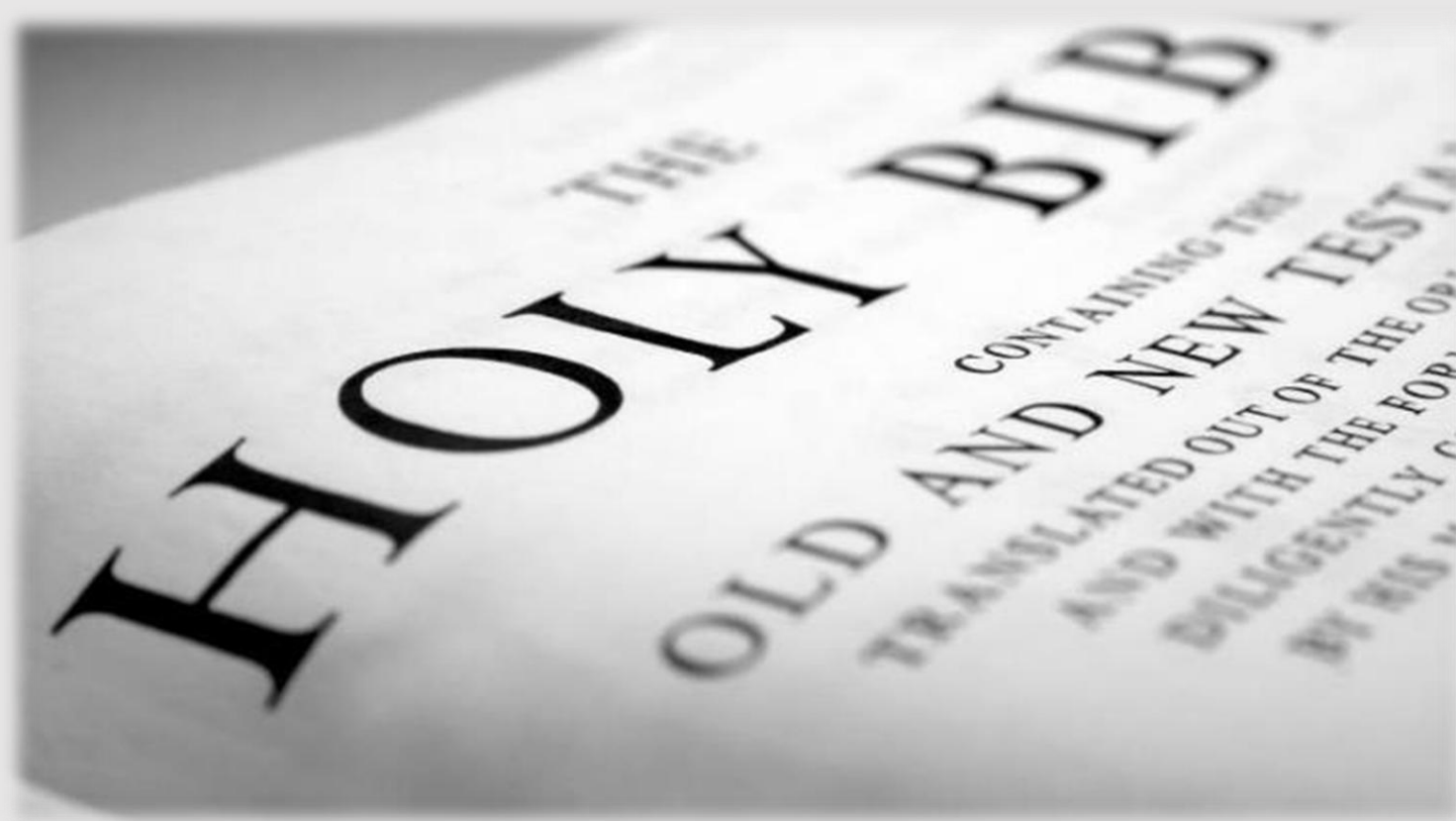
**All: Take all these our burdens into your life,
O God. We lay them down in faith for healing,
forgiveness, re-creation and release.**

Amen

Words of Forgiveness

May God forgive us, Christ befriend us and the
Spirit renew and change our lives.

Amen



Reader: This morning the first reading comes from....

Psalm 133

Listen now for the Word of God.

Psalm 133 A Song of Ascents.

¹How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like the precious oil on the head, running down
upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.

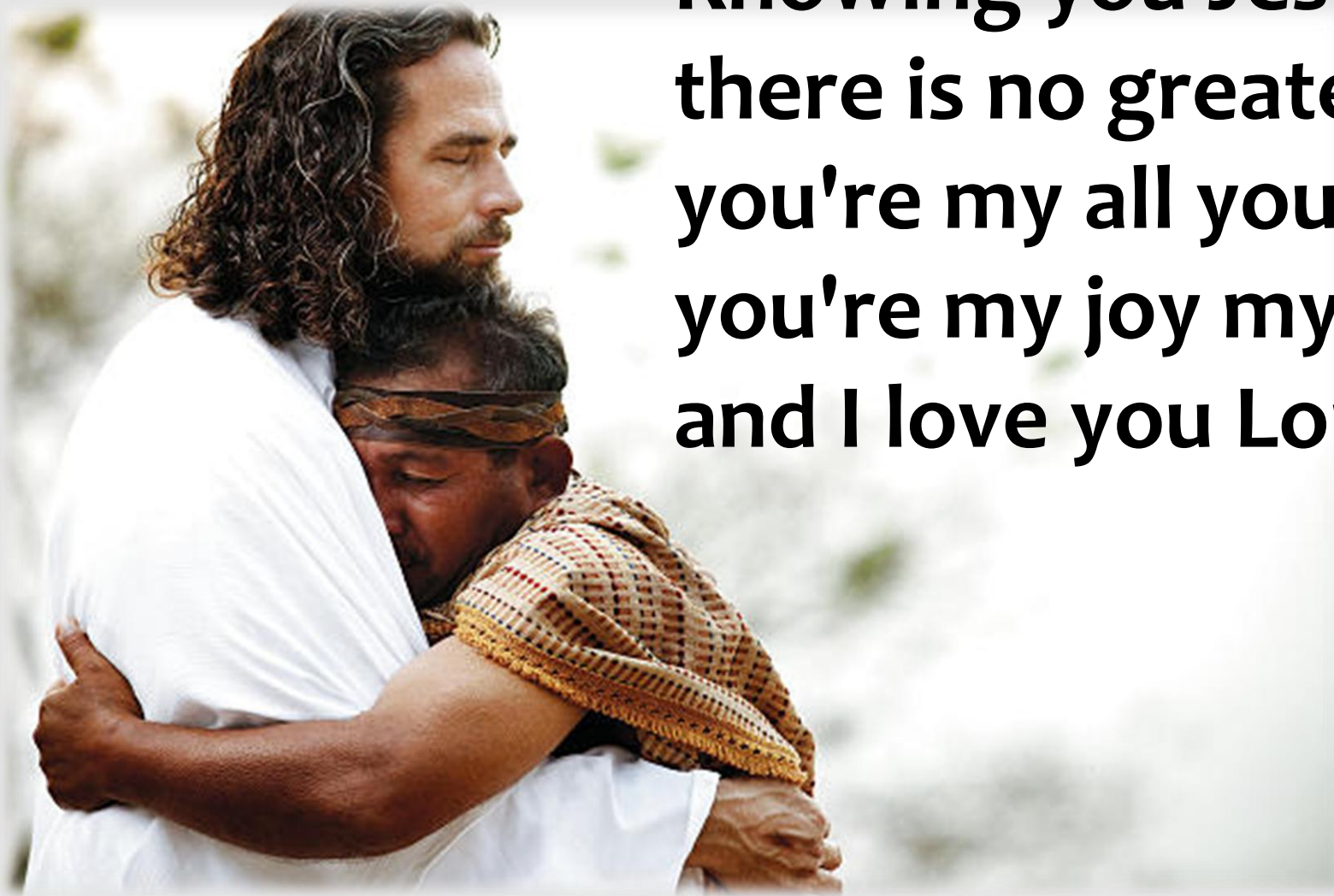
³It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there, the LORD ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

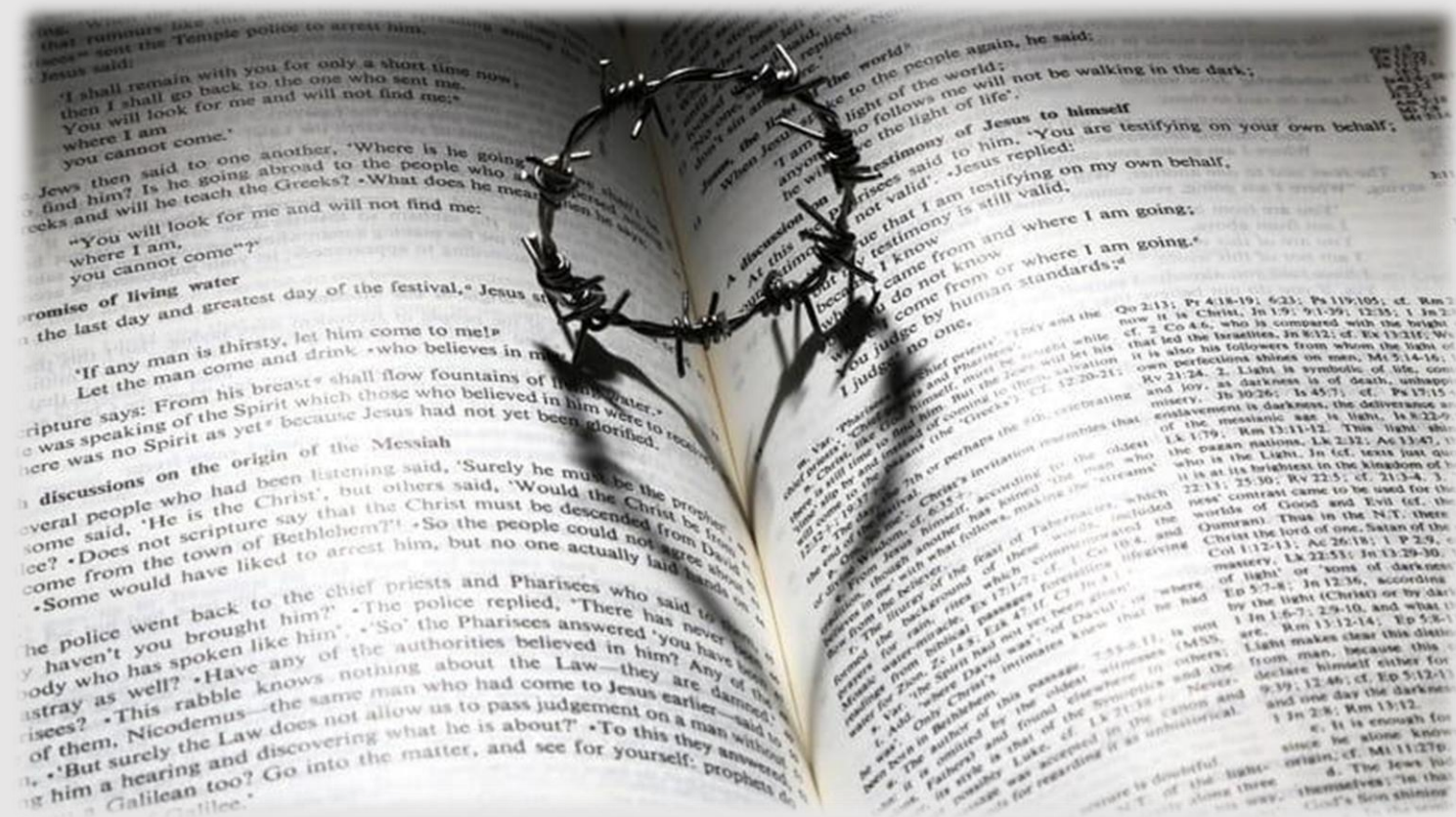


**1All I once held dear built my life upon
all this world reveres and wars to own
all I once thought gain I have counted loss
spent and worthless now compared to this.**

Chorus

**Knowing you Jesus knowing you
there is no greater thing
you're my all you're the best
you're my joy my righteousness
and I love you Lord love you Lord.**

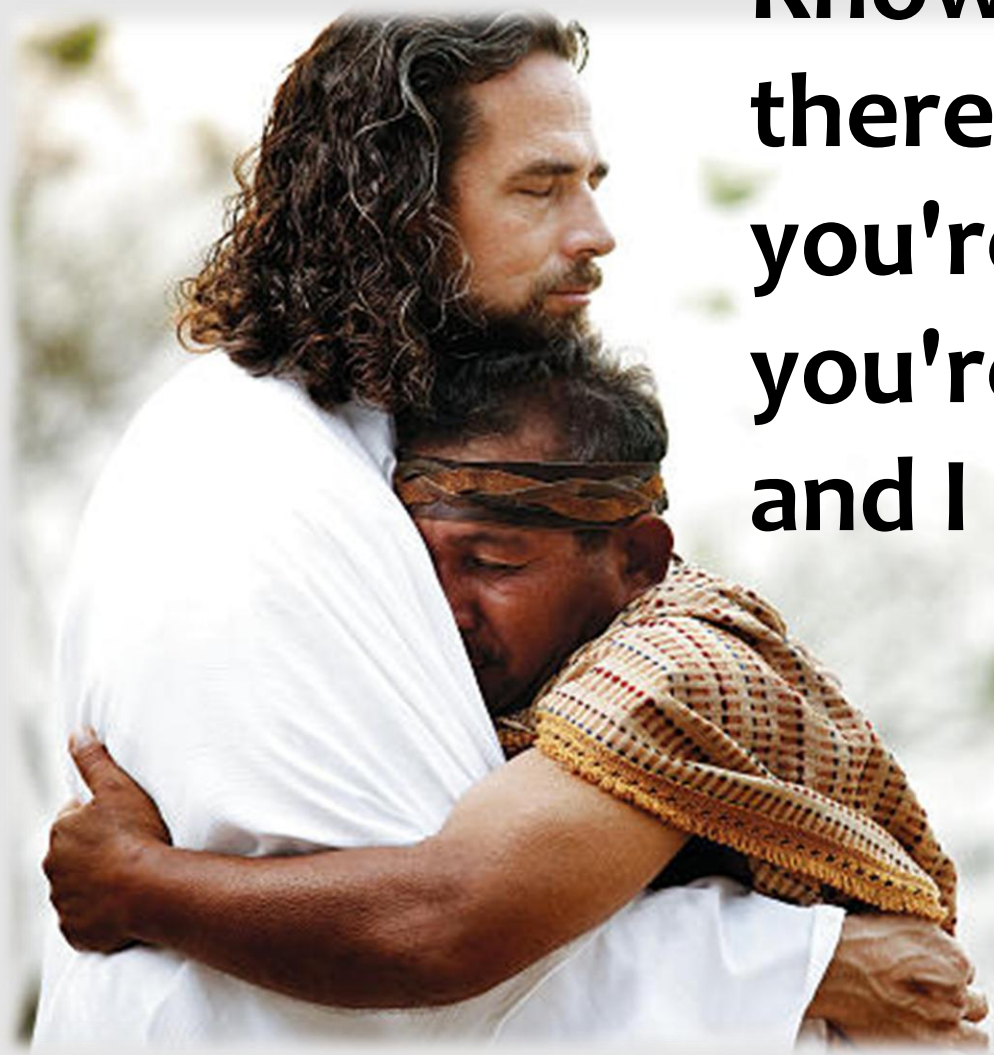


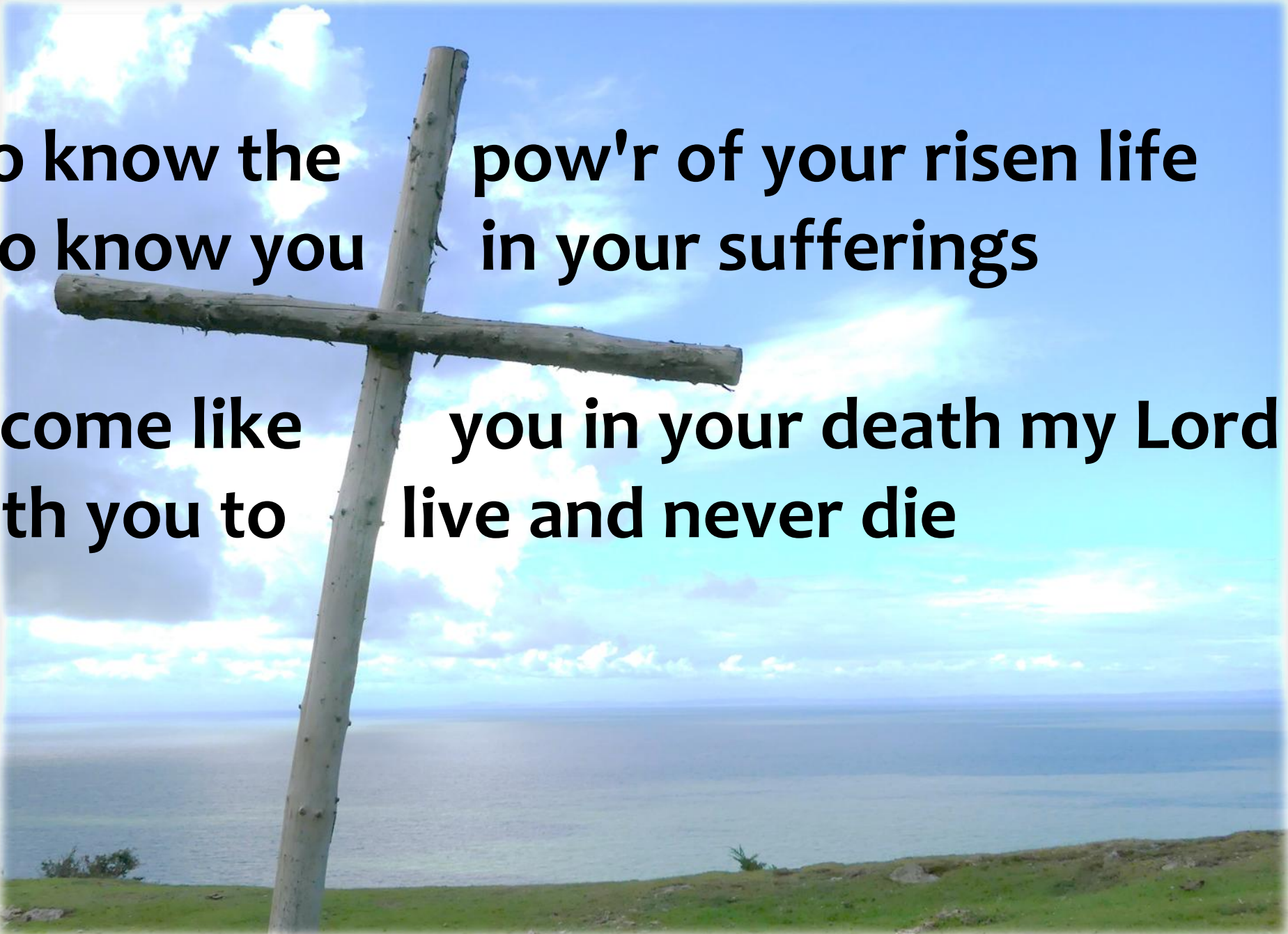


**Now my heart's desire is to know you more
to be found in you and known as yours
to possess by faith what I could not earn
all surpassing gift of righteousness.**

Chorus

**Knowing you Jesus knowing you
there is no greater thing
you're my all you're the best
you're my joy my righteousness
and I love you Lord love you Lord.**



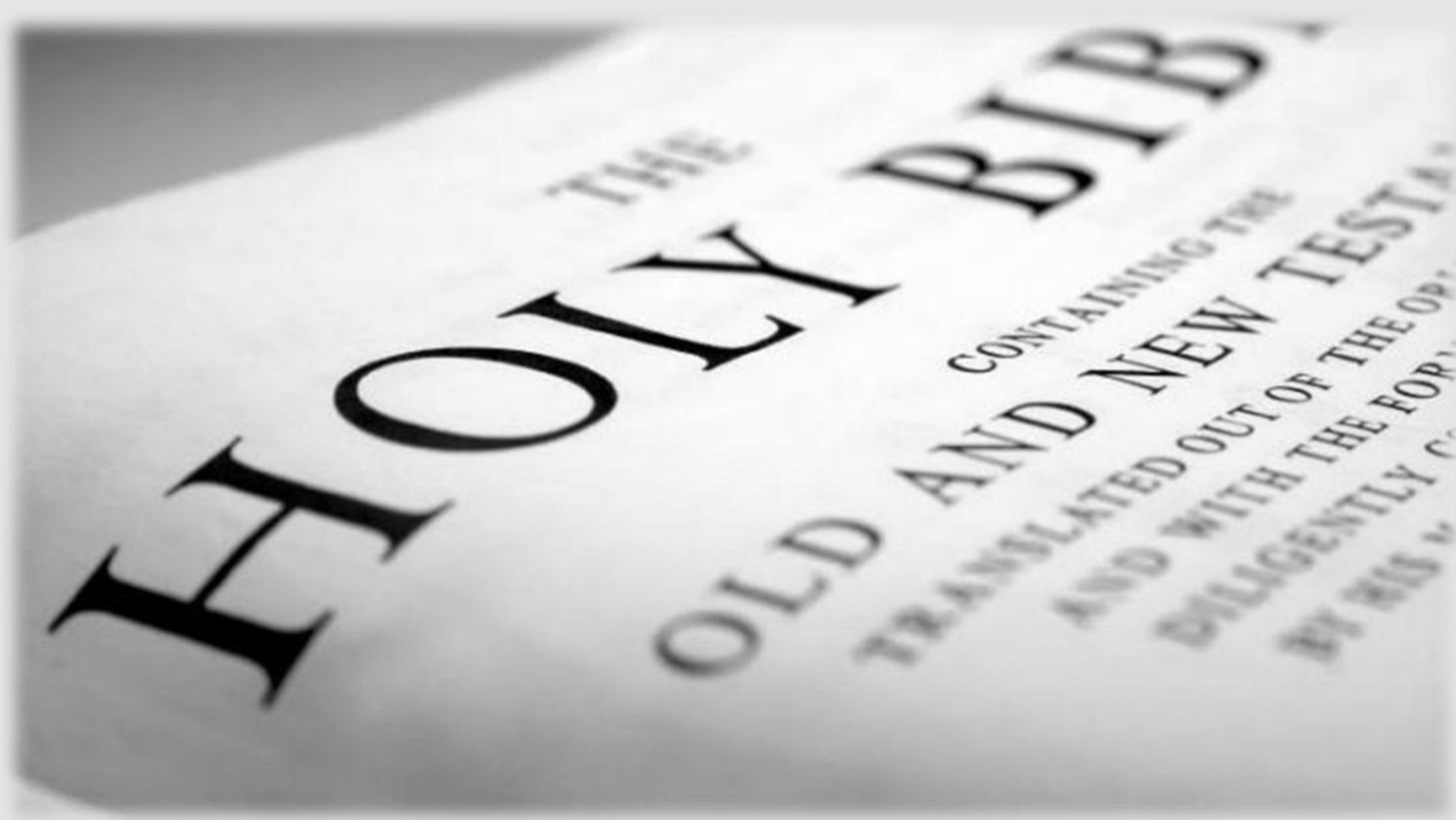


**3 Oh to know the pow'r of your risen life
and to know you in your sufferings
to become like you in your death my Lord
so with you to live and never die**

A photograph of two men embracing. The man on the left has long, wavy brown hair and a full beard, wearing a white t-shirt. He is hugging a man on the right who has a beard and is wearing a brown headband and a patterned shawl. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery.

Chorus

**Knowing you Jesus knowing you
there is no greater thing
you're my all you're the best
you're my joy my righteousness
and I love you Lord love you Lord**



Reader: This morning the second reading comes from...

Matthew 15 : 21 - 28

Listen now for the Word of God.



Sermon – 'From the heart'

We say together in faith



What We Believe

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was and is and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father
who created all things:
**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

What We Believe

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:
**for with his blood
he purchased us for God
from every tribe and language
from every people and nation.**

What We Believe

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
the Spirit and the Bride say ‘Come!’
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession



Final Response

**Merciful Father - Accept these prayers
for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

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

**Lord you have my heart
and I will search for yours
Jesus take my life and lead me on
Lord you have my heart
and I will search for yours
let me be to you a sacrifice.**



Chorus

**And I will praise you Lord
and I will sing of love come down
and as you show your face
we'll see your glory here.**

Martin Smith



**Lord you have my heart
and I will search for yours
Jesus take my life and lead me on
Lord you have my heart
and I will search for yours
let me be to you a sacrifice.**



Chorus

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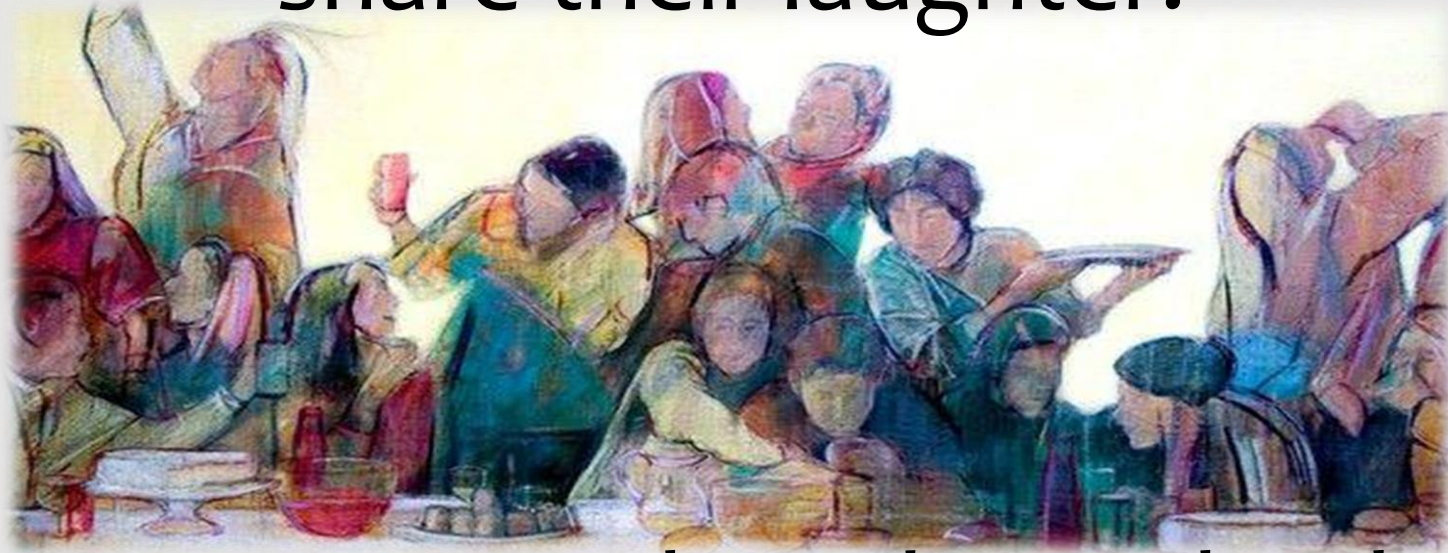


Invitation



Gathered round a table is where
Jesus so often met people
... gathered round the table of Matthew, Zacchaeus,
Simon, Peter, Lazarus and Martha and Mary,
the table of Joanna and Susannah

...gathered round a table where he could see people face to face, listen to their stories, share their laughter.



And here, we are gathered together because this is where Jesus has promised to be for those who want to meet him.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you
All: **And also with you**



Lift up your hearts
All: **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise**

It is right to praise you, for you are the
One from whom we came
and the One to whom we will return.

You conceived the universe, wove the world
together and hold all life in your hand.



You watch us waking or sleeping
you keep every tear that we shed
you hear every prayer we make
you know both our best and our worst
and you will not let us go.

So, with rain, wind and sunshine
with all that moves in time with its Maker
we praise you.

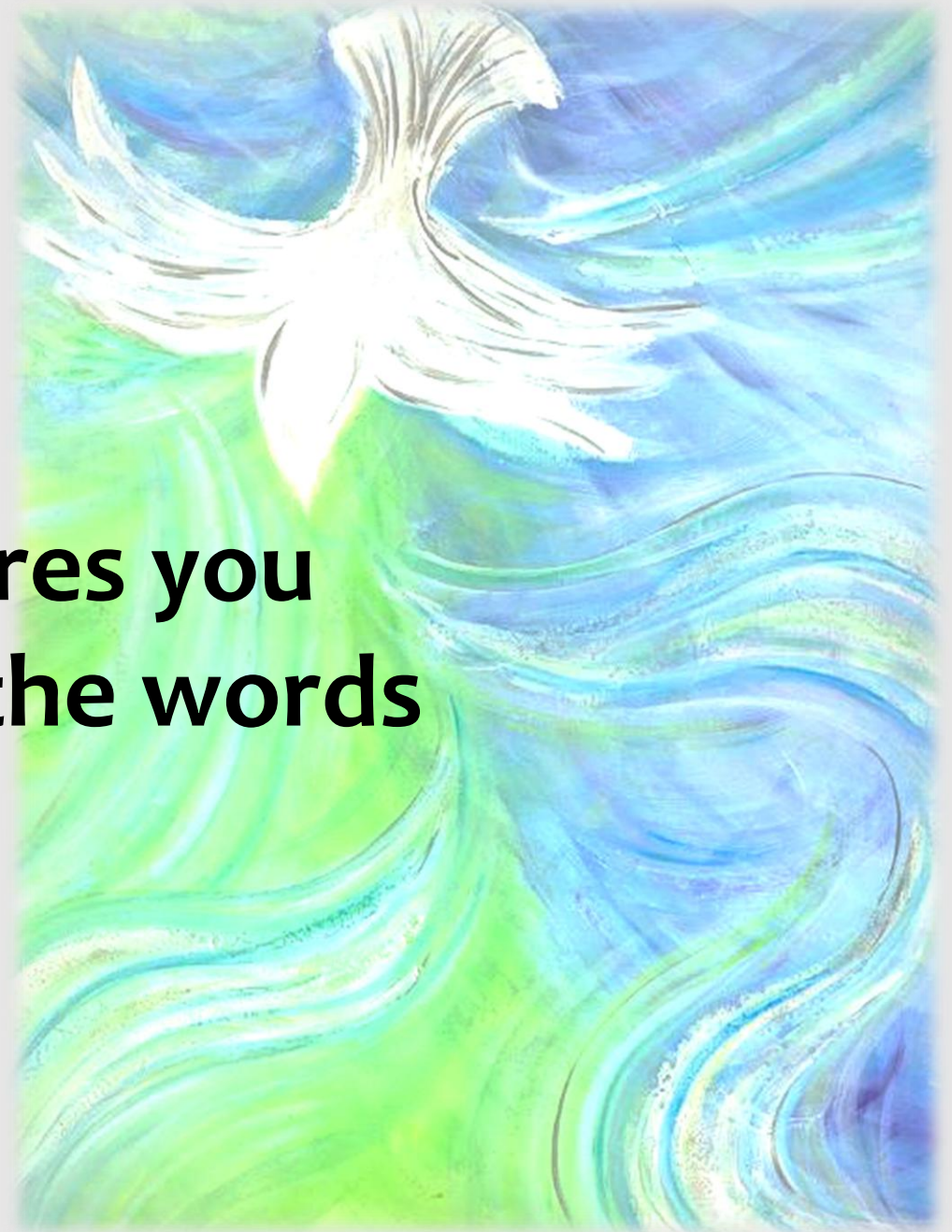
With angels and archangels, with the saints from
long ago, with our loved ones who are gathered
round your heavenly table,
we praise you.

With the church throughout the world,
with all who love Jesus and honour his name,
we praise you, singing the hymn of your
everlasting glory:

Argentinian Sanctus

**All: Holy, holy, holy
my heart, my heart adores you
my heart is glad to say the words
you are holy Lord.**

(x2)



So accept his invitation
and feel welcome at this table.



Jesus Christ
who here offers us a foretaste of eternal life
invites you to be his guests.

Prayer of Blessing

Yes, blessed is he...
who was born among us incognito,
who grew up without privilege or status,
who walked the way to heaven
through the back street of this world,

who told the deepest truths
in ordinary language,
who touched and healed,
blessed and disturbed
without fear or favour,
who showed inclusive
love in all its
unconditional glory;



who for all this, was crucified, died and was
buried, who, for all this and for all of us,
rose again; who, though high in heaven,
is present with us here and now.



Blessed is he in all his love and beauty.

God beyond holiness, as we do what Jesus once did, let your Spirit move among us to settle on this bread and this wine that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ.



And let that same Spirit
stir our souls so that as
we share this sacrament,
we may recognise our
Lord and receive him
that he may be in us
and we in him for ever.
Amen.



The Breaking of the Bread

Among friends gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread and when he had
blessed it, he broke it and said

“Take this and eat it. It is my body. It is given for you.
Do this to remember me.”



Then later he took a cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks, he said,
“In this cup is the new relationship with God
made possible because of my death.
Take this all of you, to remember me”.

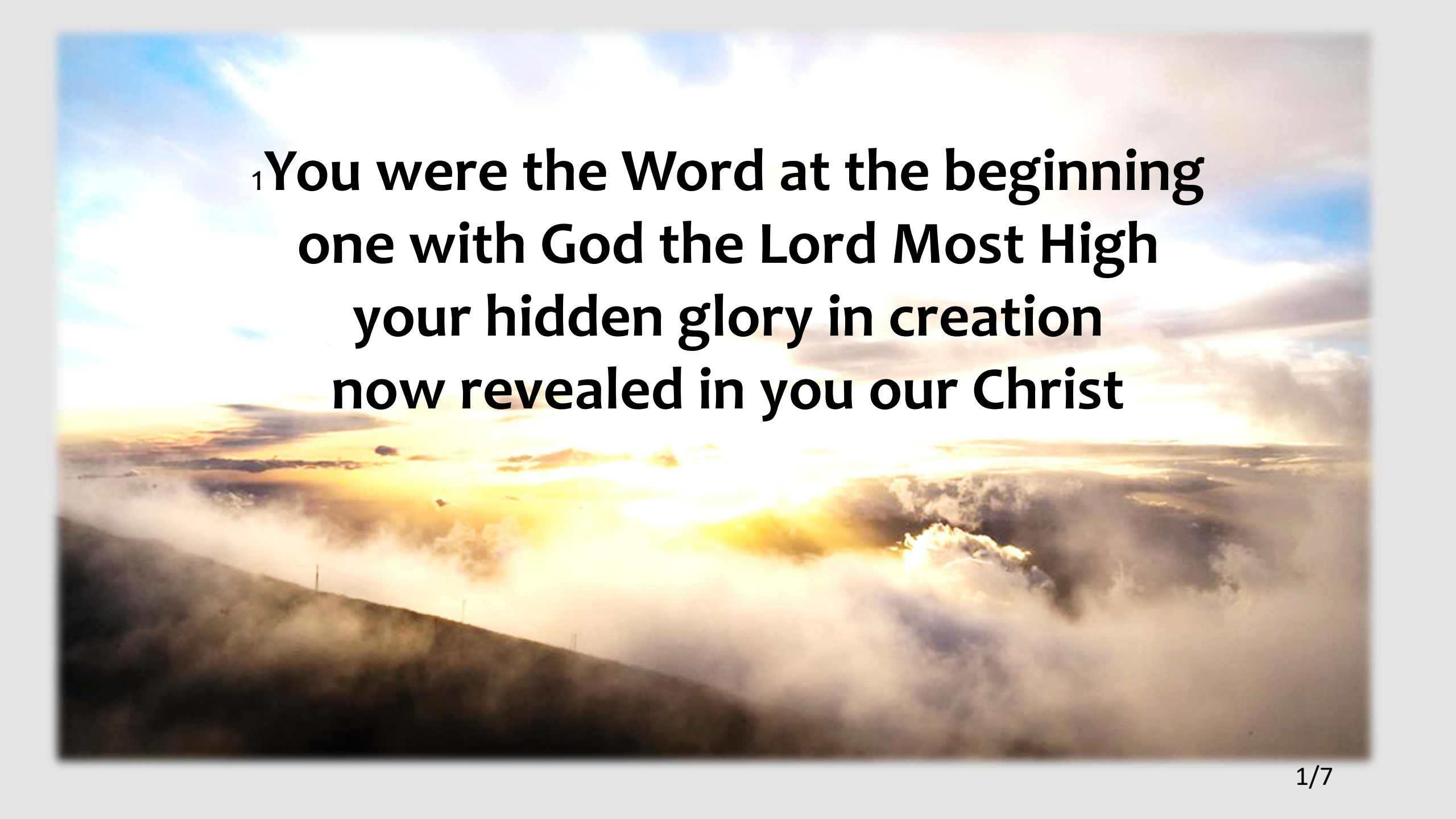


All who hunger and thirst for a better life,
for a deeper faith, for a better world,
here is the bread of life
feed on it with gratitude
here is the cup of salvation
drink from it and believe.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Sharing the bread and wine



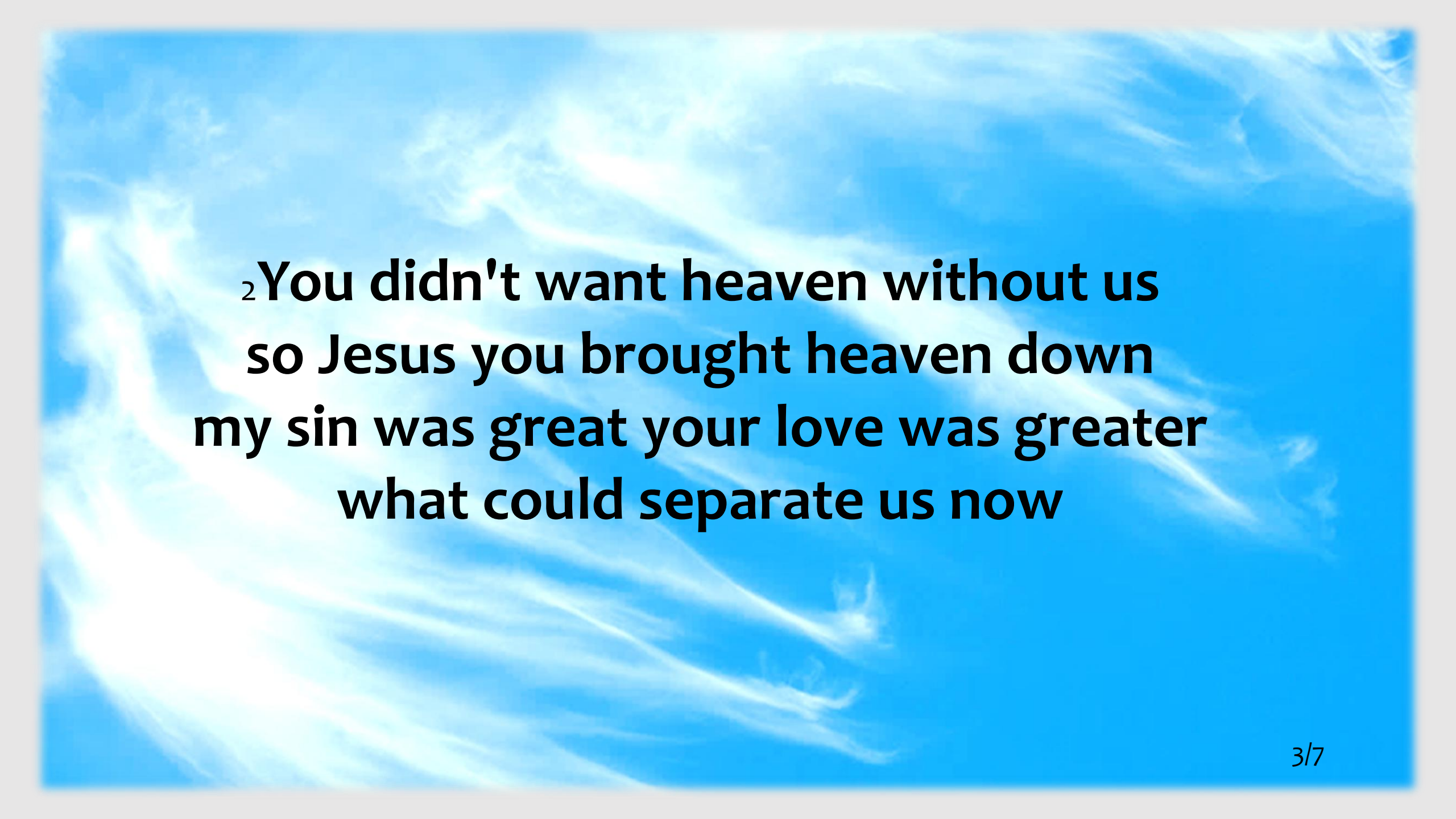
A dramatic landscape photograph featuring a mountain ridge in the foreground, partially shrouded in mist. The sky is filled with a massive, bright sunburst breaking through a layer of clouds, creating a powerful, golden light that illuminates the scene. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

**¹You were the Word at the beginning
one with God the Lord Most High
your hidden glory in creation
now revealed in you our Christ**

Chorus 1

**What a beautiful Name it is
what a beautiful Name it is
the Name of Jesus Christ my King
what a beautiful Name it is
nothing compares to this
what a beautiful Name it is
the Name of Jesus**





**₂You didn't want heaven without us
so Jesus you brought heaven down
my sin was great your love was greater
what could separate us now**

Chorus 2

**What a wonderful Name it is
what a wonderful Name it is
the Name of Jesus Christ my King
what a wonderful Name it is
nothing compares to this
what a wonderful Name it is
the Name of Jesus
what a wonderful Name it is
the Name of Jesus**



Bridge

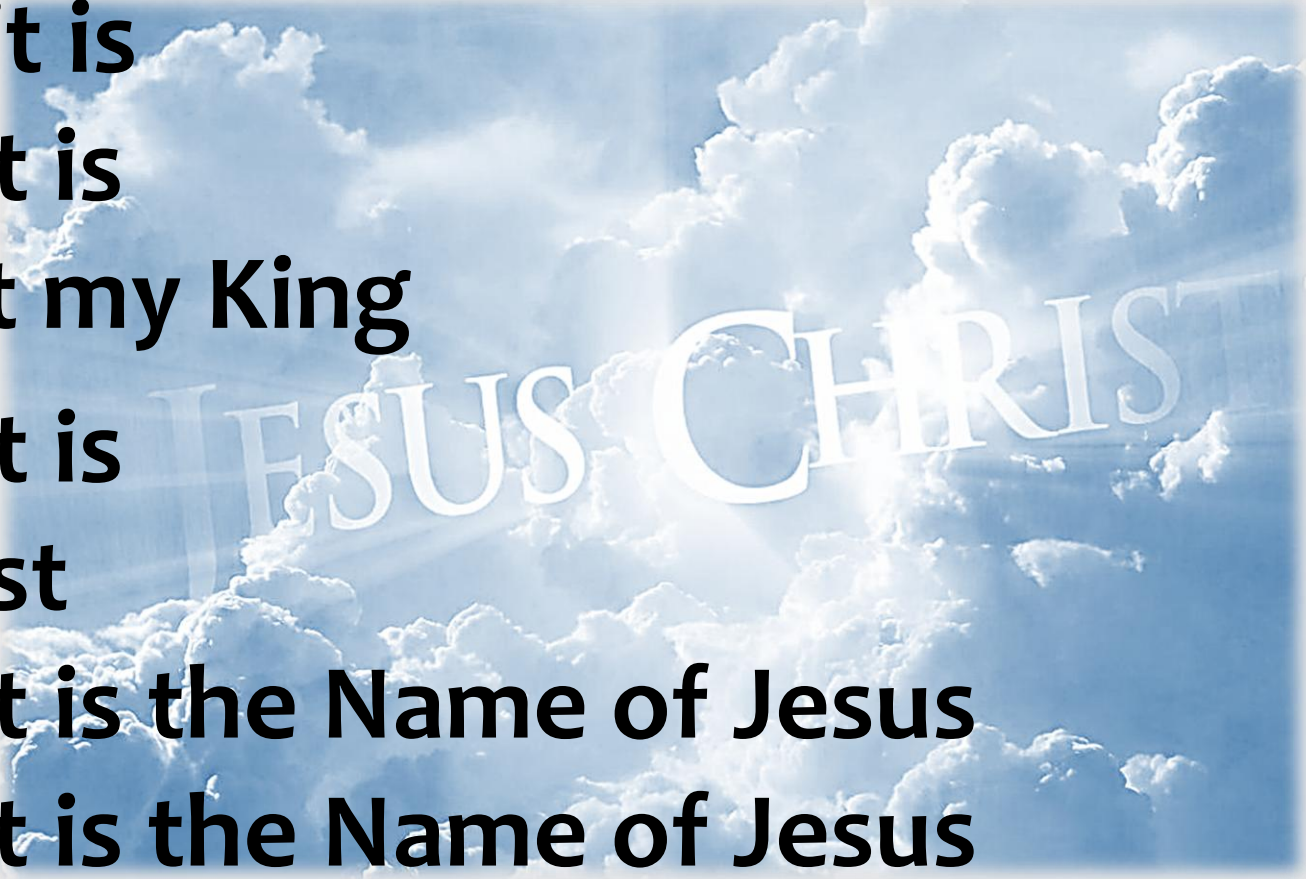
**Death could not hold you
the veil tore before you
you silence the boast of sin and grave
the heavens are roaring
the praise of your glory
for you are raised to life again**

Bridge

**You have no rival
you have no equal
now and forever God you reign
yours is the kingdom
yours is the glory
yours is the Name above all names**

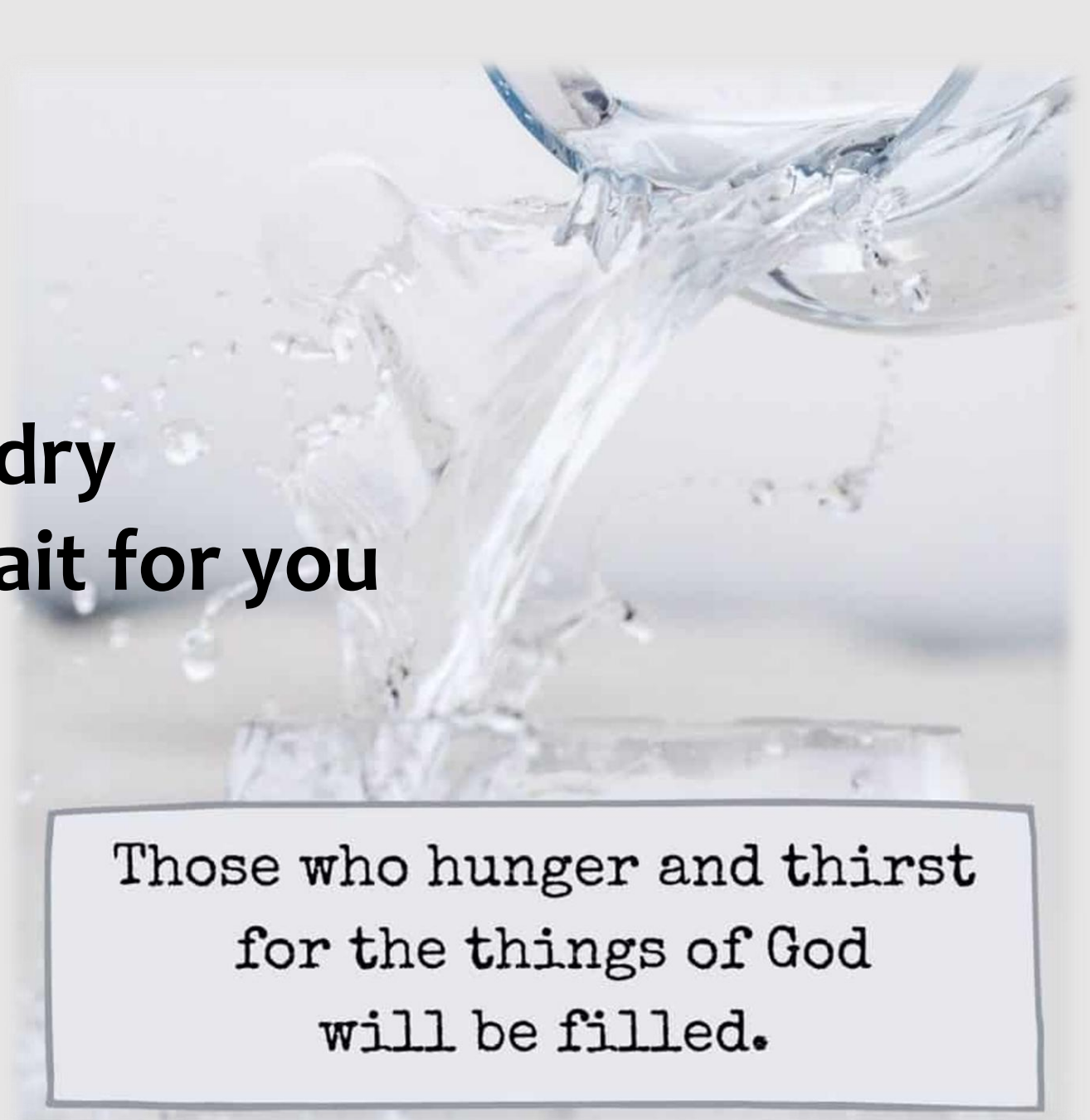
Chorus 3

**What a powerful Name it is
what a powerful Name it is
the Name of Jesus Christ my King
what a powerful Name it is
nothing can stand against
what a powerful Name it is the Name of Jesus
what a powerful Name it is the Name of Jesus
what a powerful Name it is the Name of Jesus**



**Hungry I come to you
for I know you satisfy
I am empty but I know
your love does not run dry
so I wait for you, so I wait for you**

**I'm falling on my knees
offering all my needs
Jesus, You're all
this heart is living for.**



Those who hunger and thirst
for the things of God
will be filled.

**Broken I run to you
for your arms are open wide
I am weary but I know your touch
restores my life
so I wait for you, so I wait for you**

**I'm falling on my knees
offering all my needs
Jesus you're all
this heart is living for.**

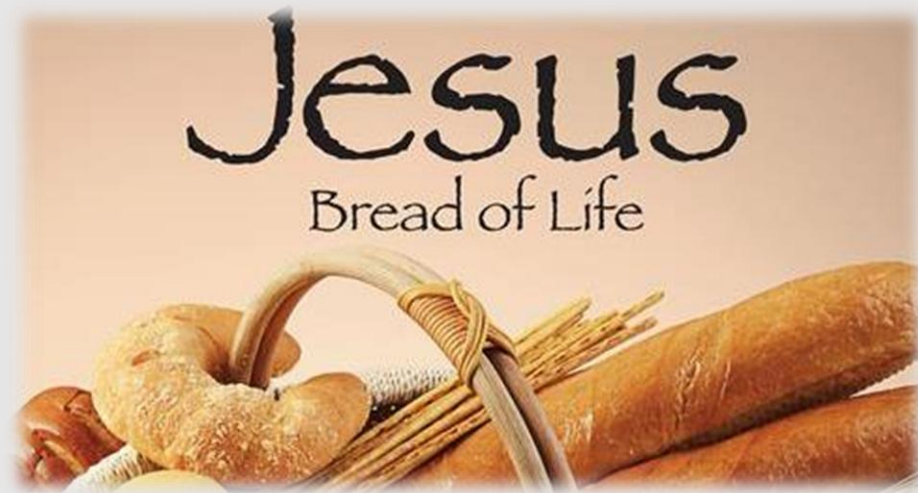
**Hungry I come to you
for I know you satisfy
I am empty but I know
your love does not run dry
so I wait for you, so I wait for you**

**I'm falling on my knees
offering all my needs
Jesus, you're all
this heart is living for.**



.Prayer after Communion

**In gratitude for this moment, this meal,
these people, we give ourselves to you.
Take us as we are to live as changed people
because we have shared the Living Bread
and cannot remain the same.**



**Ask much of us,
expect much from us, enable much by us,
encourage many through us.**

**So Lord, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth and
citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.**

Amen



The Peace

Not an easy peace
not an insignificant peace
not a half-hearted peace
but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
is with us now.

Let us share it with each other.....

28.12.61.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.



All: And also with you

Family News

What's going on?



RIDE & STRIDE 2026



WHAT IS RIDE AND STRIDE?

- Raise money by walking or cycling between churches
- Half of sponsorship goes to your chosen church
- Half supports Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust grants
- Supports projects to make our buildings accessible for people with disabilities, as well as protecting our heritage
- Takes place on Saturday 12th September from 10am to 6pm

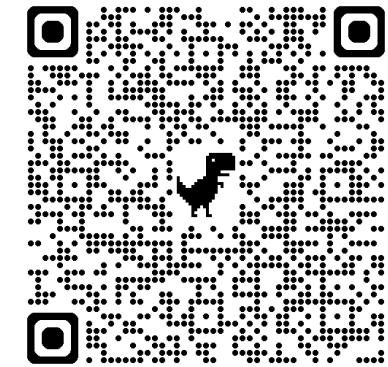
WHY TAKE PART?

- Awards for most churches visited
- Awards for most money raised
- Brooke Cup plus £500 for best-achieving church
- Junior Group Cup plus £100 for under-18 group

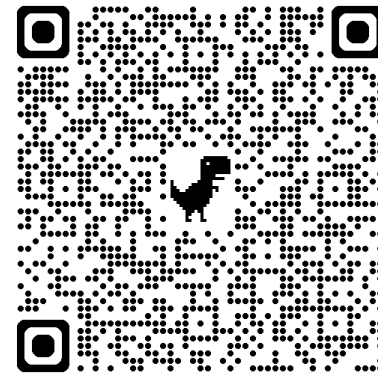


HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. TAKE PART



2. DONATE



3. DO BOTH!



OPTION 1

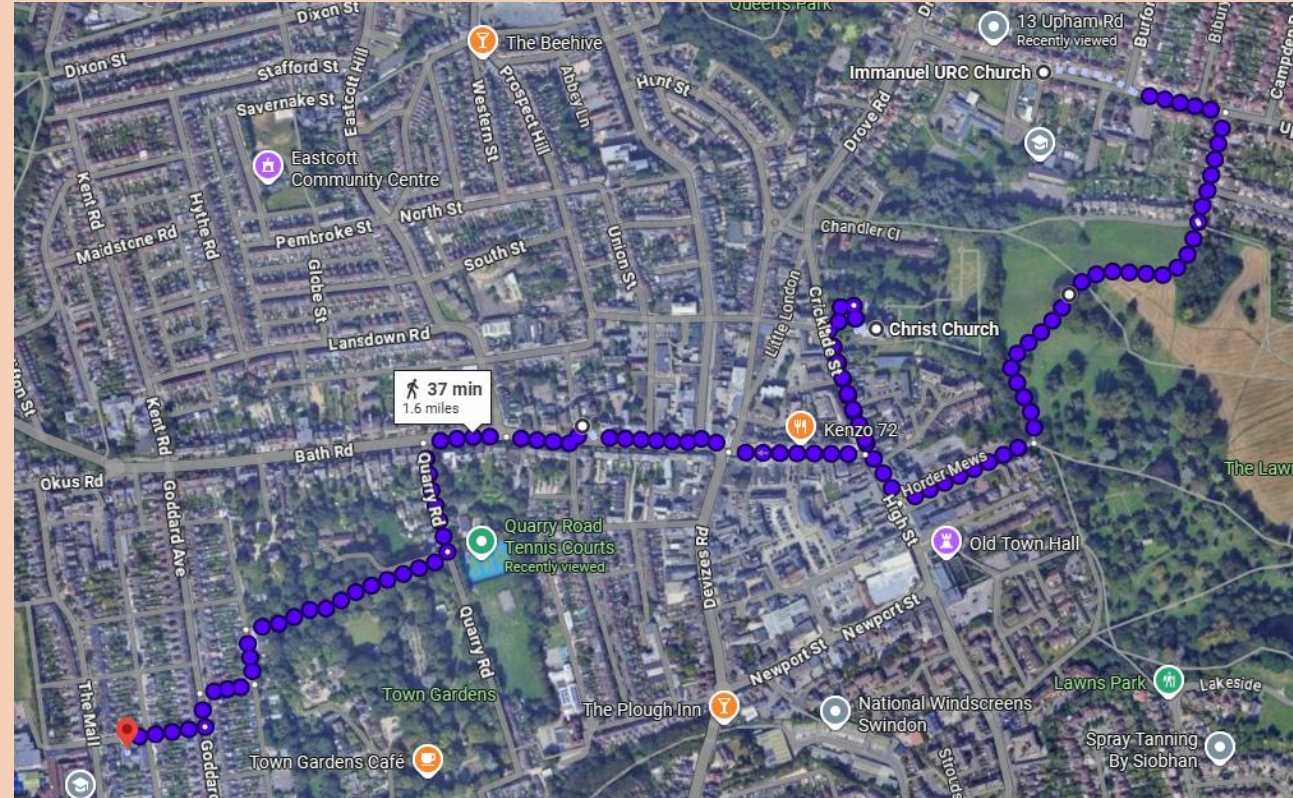
Starts at 11 am.

About 40 minutes walking time, longer if needed.

Parking available around the starting point.

Visits all churches in our partnership.

I will walk us back again.



OPTION 2



Starts at 3pm

Shorter 25 minutes walking time,
longer if needed.

Parking available around the
starting point.

Visits 3 churches in our
partnership.

I will walk us back again



OPTION 3

**WALK/CYCLE
EVEN
FURTHER!!!**

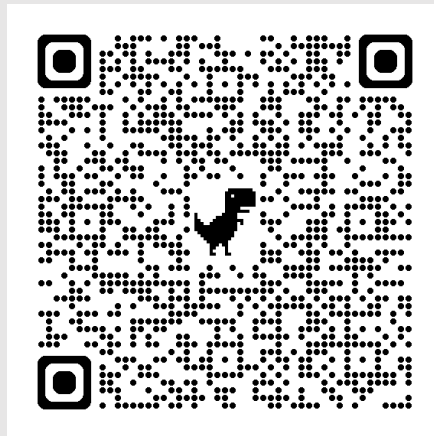


WILTSHIRE CHURCHES' OPEN DAY

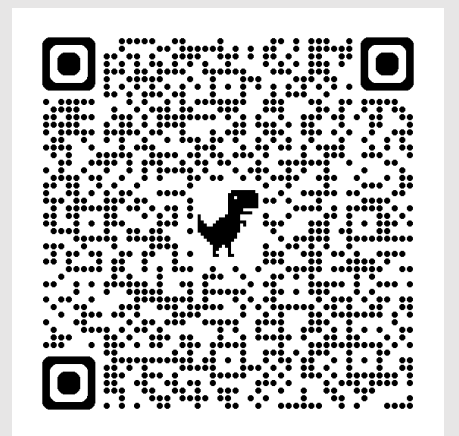
Join us on a bike, on foot or on horseback to keep Wiltshire's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses looking beautiful and open for the future by raising money for your own church and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.



Take Part



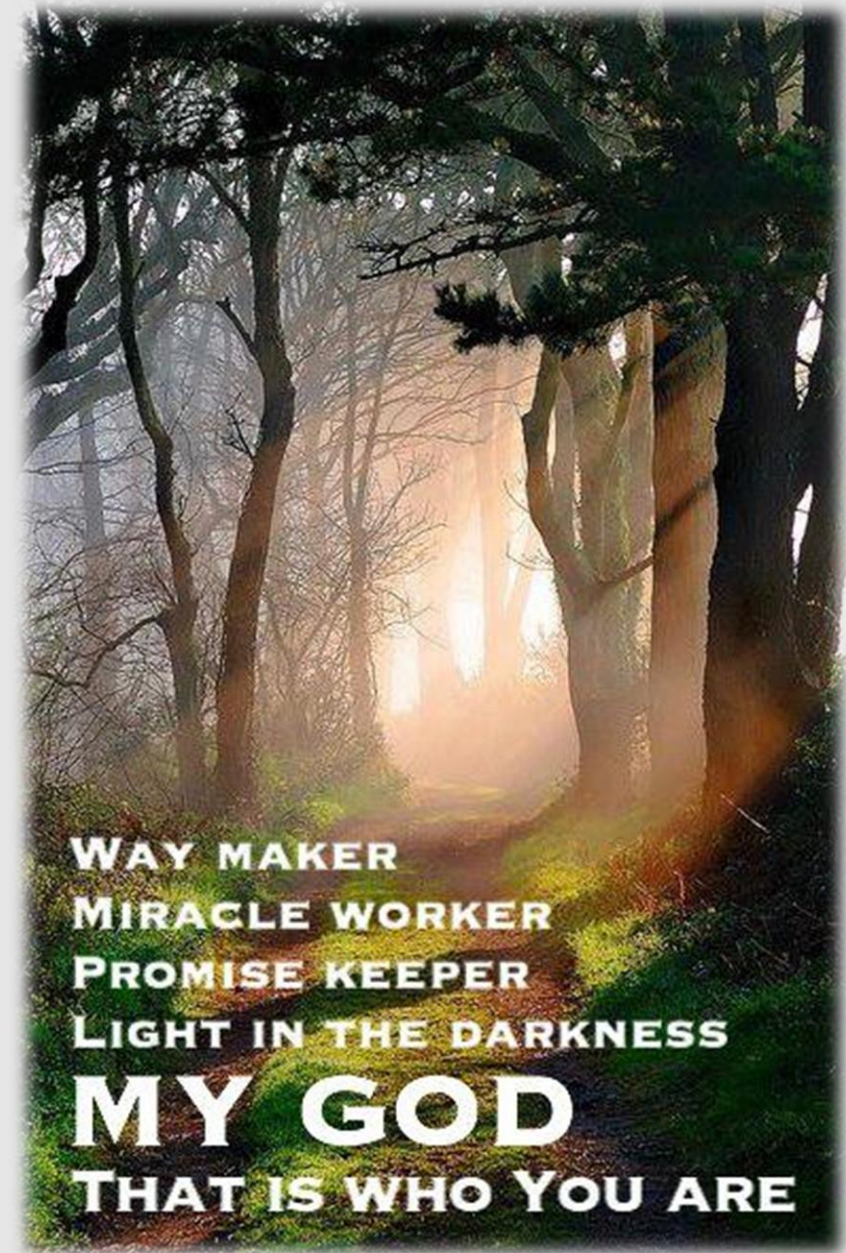
Donate



¹You are here moving in our midst
I worship you I worship you
you are here working in this place
I worship you I worship you

Chorus

(You are) Way Maker
Miracle Worker
Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness
my God that is who you are



² You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship you I worship you
you are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship you I worship you

Chorus

(You are) Way Maker
Miracle Worker
Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness
my God that is who you are

²/4

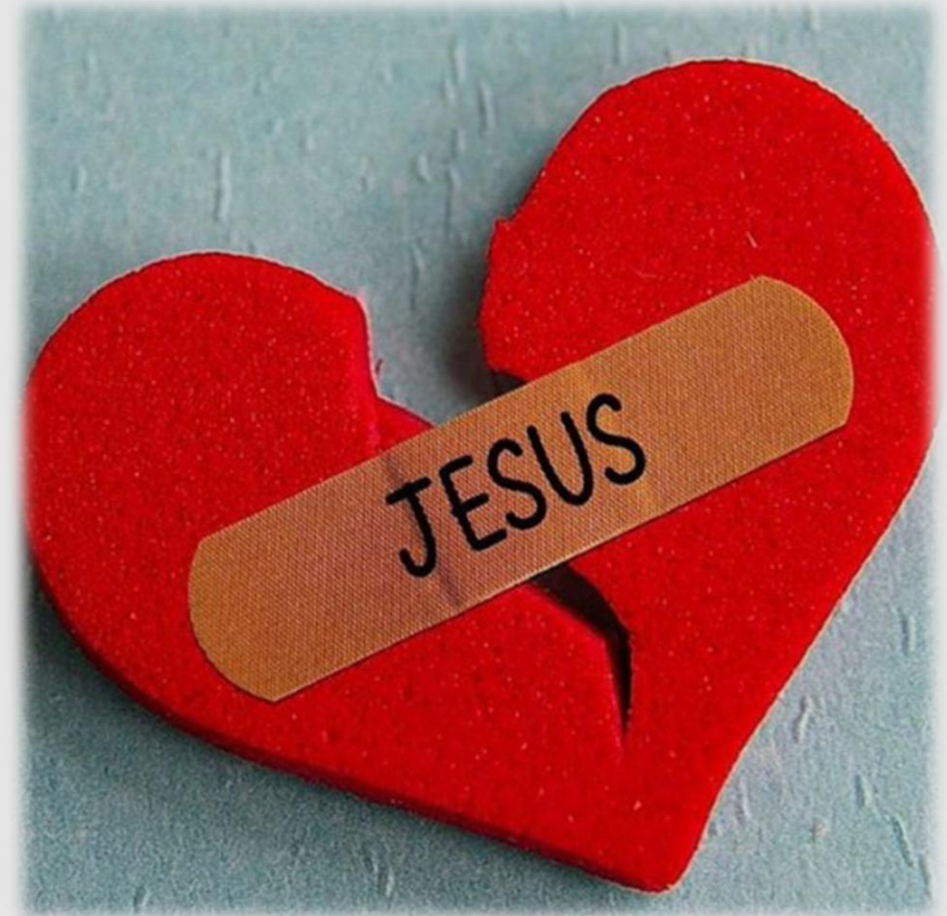


³ You are here turning lives around
I worship you I worship you
you are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship you I worship you Lord

Chorus

(You are) Way Maker
Miracle Worker
Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness
my God that is who you are

²/₄



**That is who you are
that is who you are
that is who you are
that is who you are**

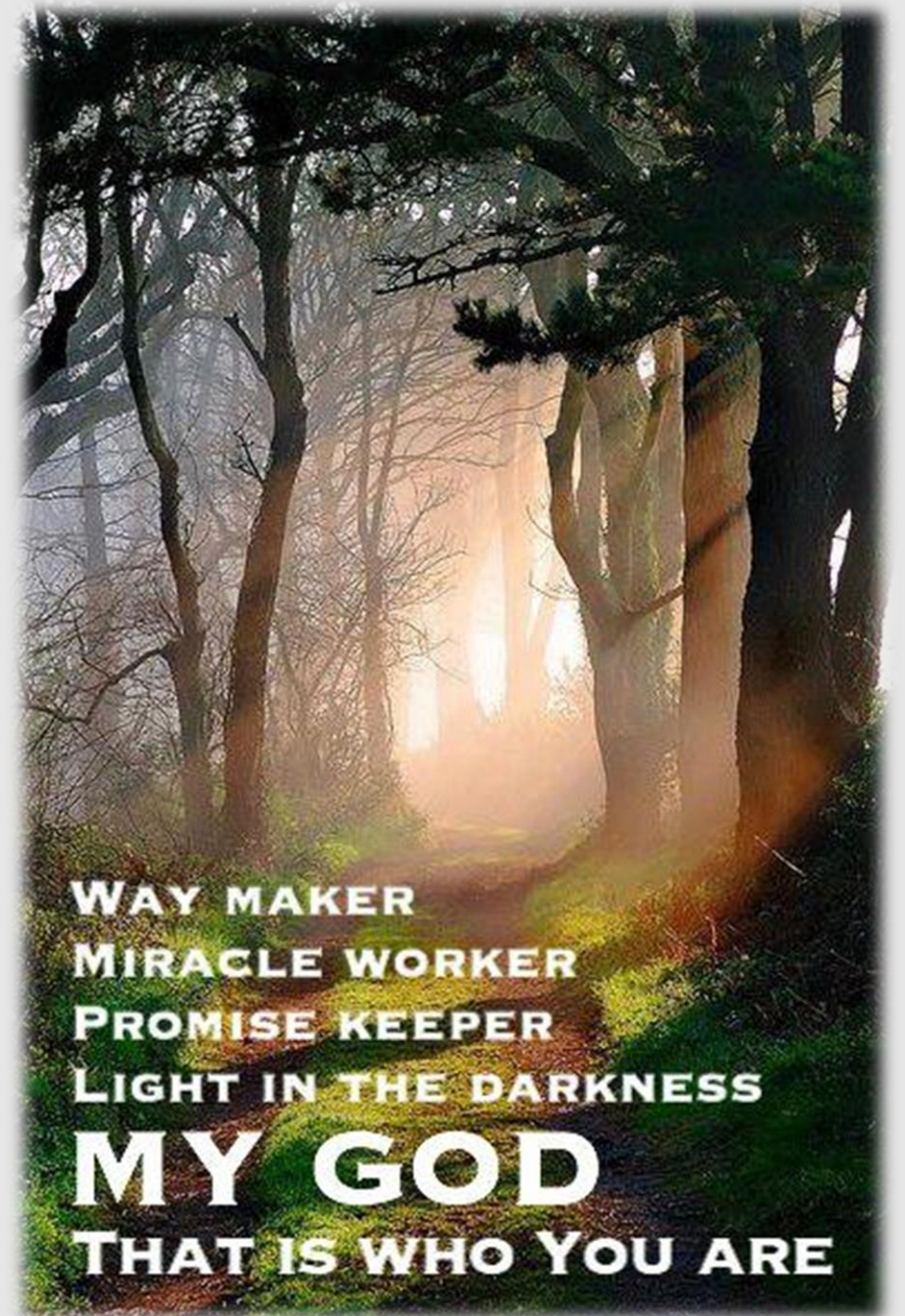
Bridge

**Even when I don't see it you're working
even when I don't feel it you're working
you never stop you never stop working
you never stop you never stop working**



Chorus

**(You are) Way Maker
Miracle Worker
Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness
my God that is who you are**



We say together

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you have put your life into our hands
now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew and remake us.
What we have been is past
what we shall be, through you,
still awaits us.
Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen**



The Blessing

