

Cheltenham United Methodist Church

ADVENT

G R E A T E X P E C T A T I O N S



Visit us online at:
www.cheltenhamumc.com

LIGHTNING OF THE CANDLES

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

LIGHTNING OF THE CANDLES

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace,
believing that true peace comes
when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.**

Second Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

UPDATES

Monday, December 8, 2025

Monday Methodists 9am
Knitting Circle 10am

Advent Bible Study

Weds, December 10-24, 2025 11am
Heaven and Earth by Will Willimon

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Pastor's Office Hour 2pm-4pm

Tuesday, December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Pastor's Office Hour 10pm-12noon
Senior Luncheon 12noon

Monday, January 12, 2026

Planning Meeting & Church Council
12noon

M A R K Y O U R C A L E N D A R

GREETING

In this season of promise and preparation,
we come to be renewed.

**We come to hear stories of the One who
transforms the world.**

We open our hearts
to the hope and joy of new beginnings.

We listen for words of challenge and grace.

We come with open minds and trusting spirits.

**Come, let us worship the One
who fulfills every holy promise.**

PRAYER

**God of hope, in this busy season,
grant us space to pause and listen.
Prepare our hearts to receive love,
our minds to trust your promise,
and our spirits to rejoice in your coming.
Fill us with peace, joy, and courage
as we worship and await new beginnings. Amen.**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

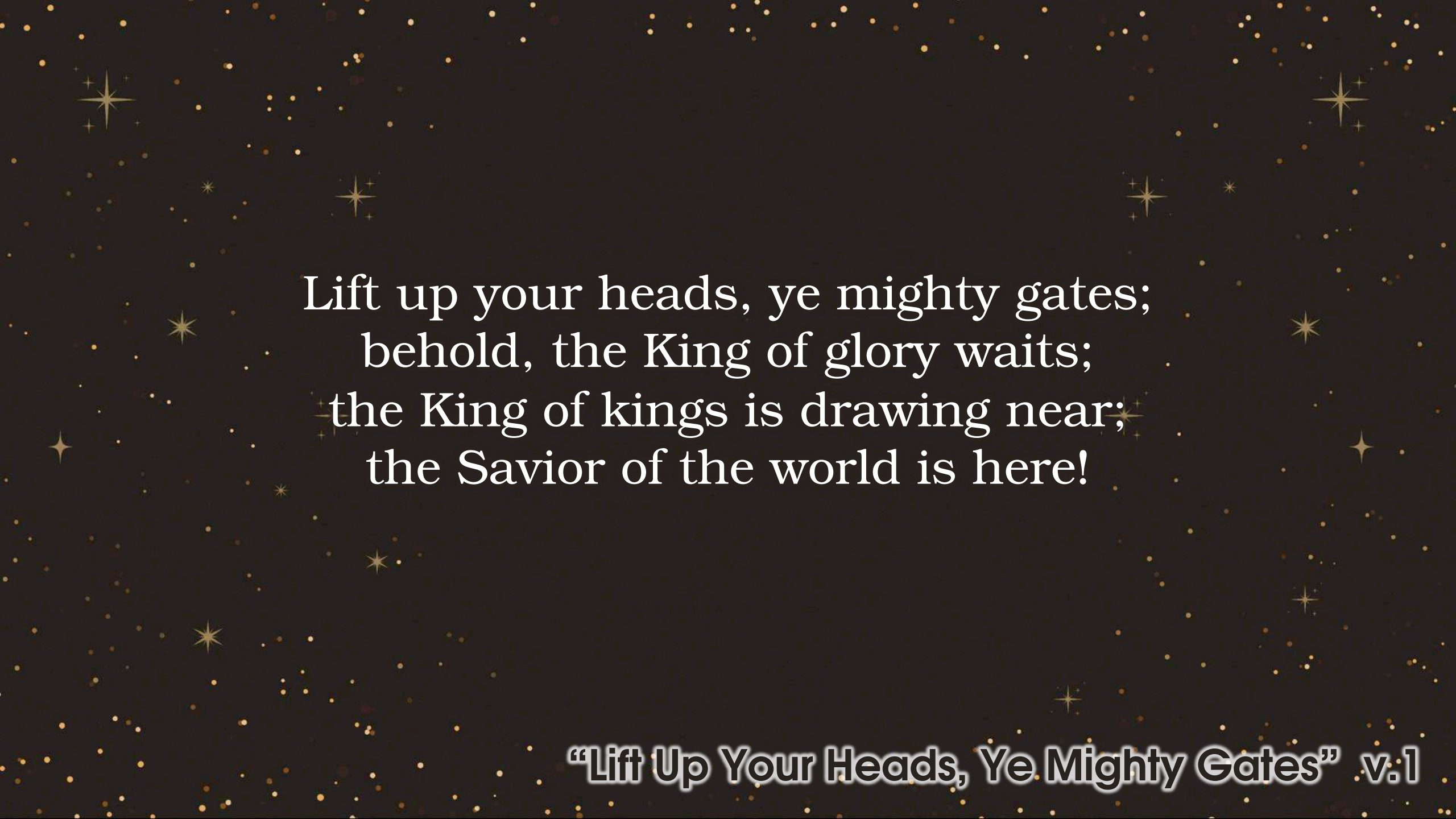
UMH 213

*Words: Georg Weissel, 17th cent.;
trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855 (Ps. 24)*

Music: Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

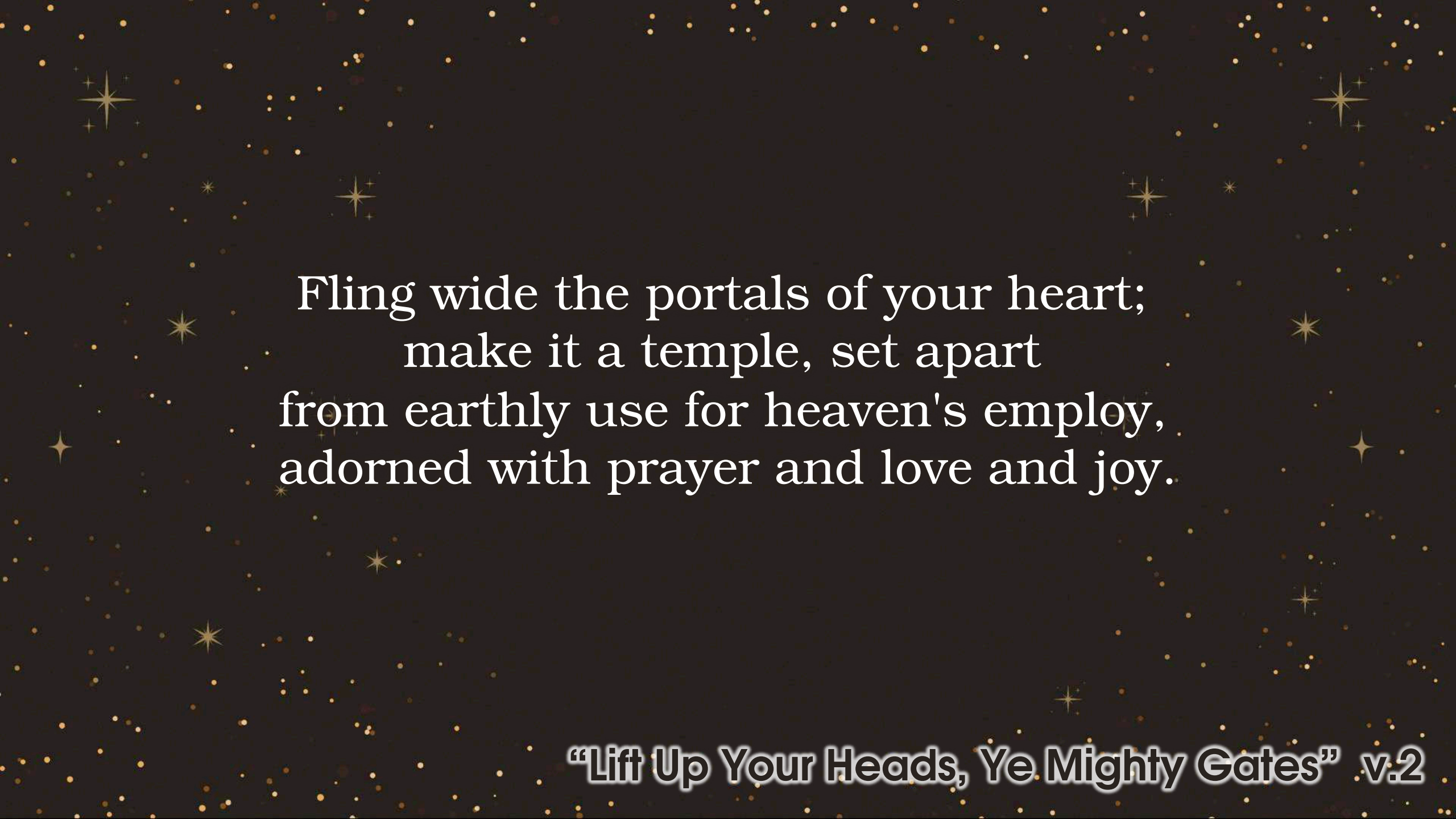
Tune: TRURO

© Public Domain. CCLI License Account #3551380



Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” v.1



Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” v.2

Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” v.3

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” v.4



+PASSING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

The background of the image is a dark, deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, white stars. Below the sky, there is a landscape of rolling sand dunes. The dunes are rendered in shades of dark blue and black, with some highlights suggesting the texture of the sand. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

*Writer: Ken Medema (1973)
© 1973, Hope Publishing Company
CCLI License Account #3551380*



“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”



LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come; thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906

Tune: HYFRYDOL

© Public Domain

CCLI License Account #3551380

Played by Chiara Griffith



Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.



“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” v.1

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.



“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” v.2

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 NRSV

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. ² May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice. ³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. ⁵ May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 NRSV

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. ¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 15:4-13 NRSV

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 15:4-13 NRSV

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”;

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 15:4-13 NRSV

¹⁰ and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹ and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹² and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.”¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

SERMON

Peace: The Gifted Vigilance

Rev. Daein Park

OFFERTORY “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” UMH 216

*Music: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1609, Tune: ES IST EIN ROS
St. 3 © 1940, 1943, renewed 1971 The Church Pension Fund. CCLI License Account #3551380*

To make a gift of your tithe or offering online, visit:

<http://www.cheltenhamumc.com/give>

or mail a check to:

Cheltenham UMC
P.O. Box 146
Cheltenham, MD 20623



DOXOLOGY

UMH 95. Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Music: attr. to Louis Bourgeois. Tune: OLD 100th

© Public Domain. CCLI License Account #3551380

Played by Chiara Griffith

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

† *Invitation*

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God
and one another.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

† **Confess and Pardon**

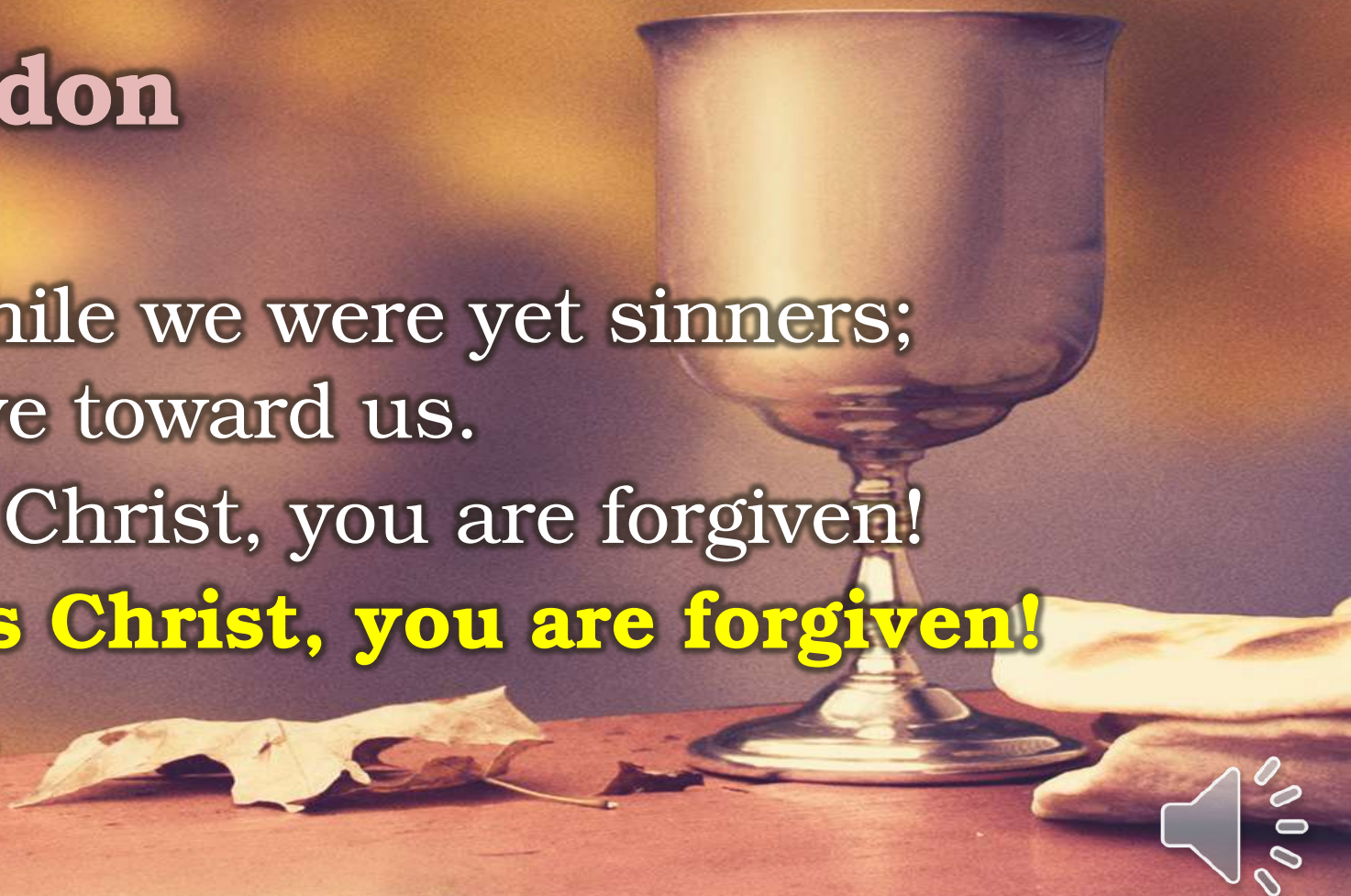
Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

† **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

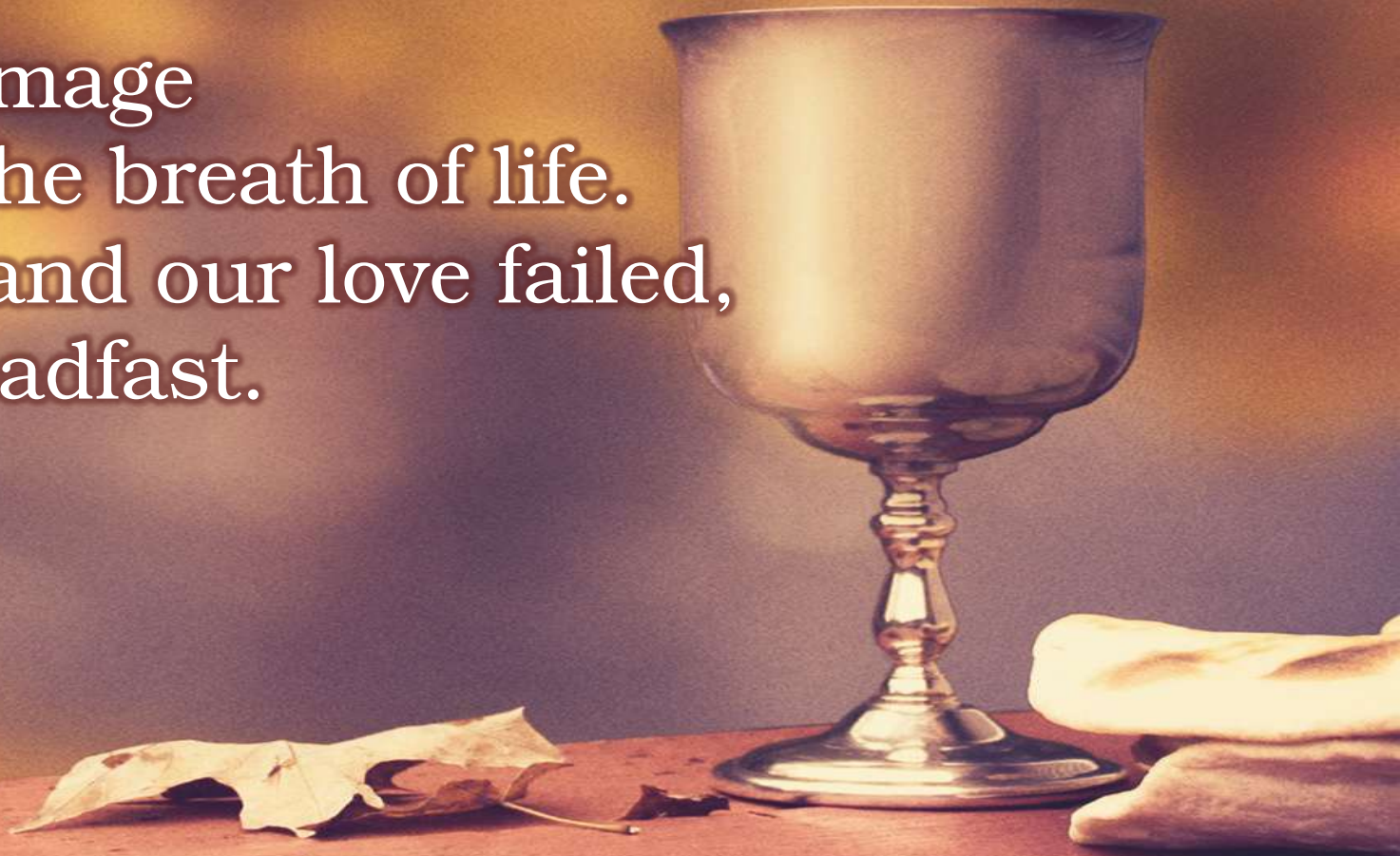
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through the prophets,
who looked for that day
when justice shall roll down like waters
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:



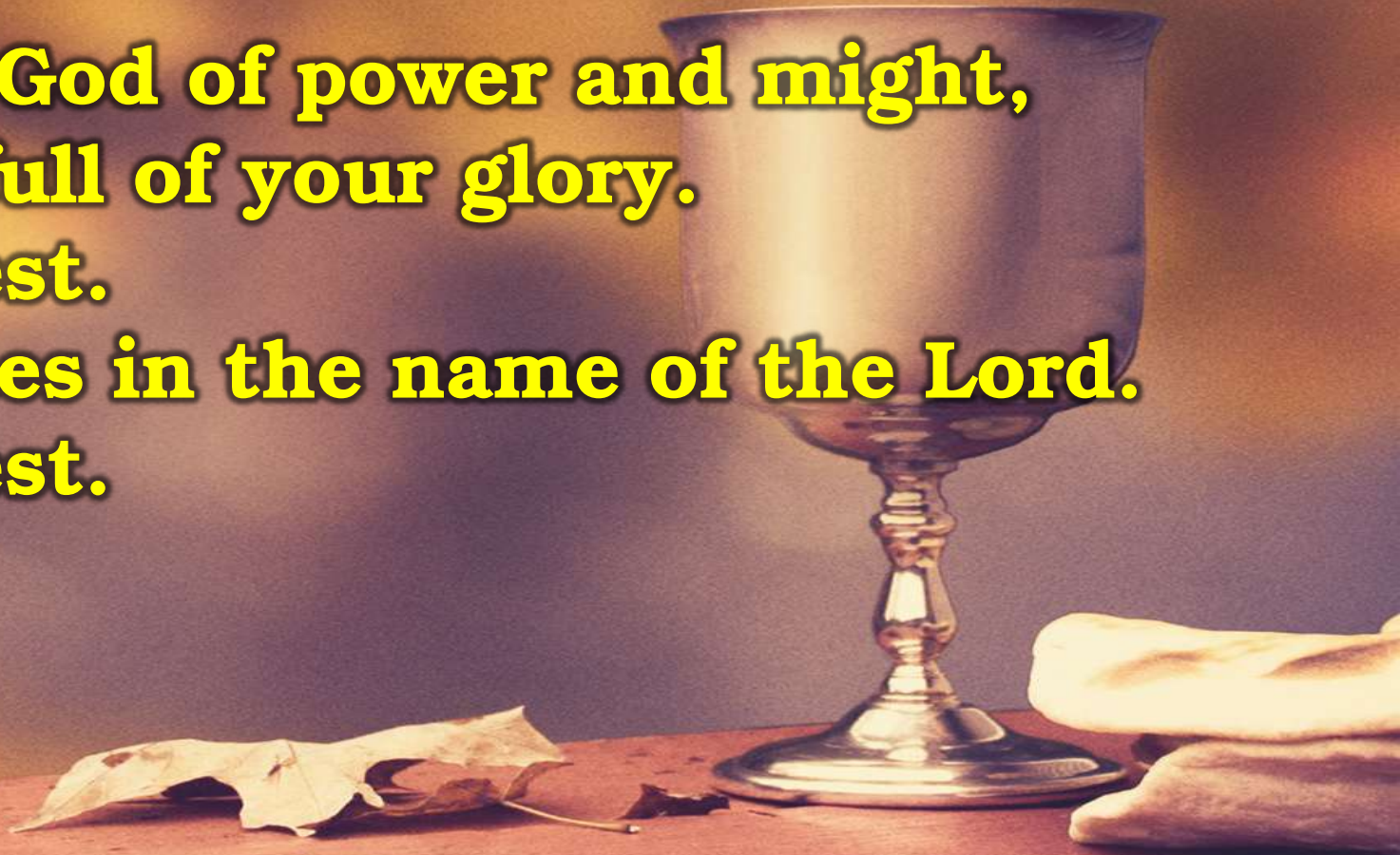
CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
whom you sent in the fullness of time
to be a light to the nations.
You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts
and have mercy on those who fear you
from generation to generation.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

You put down the mighty from their thrones
and exalt those of low degree.

You fill the hungry with good things,
and the rich you send empty away.



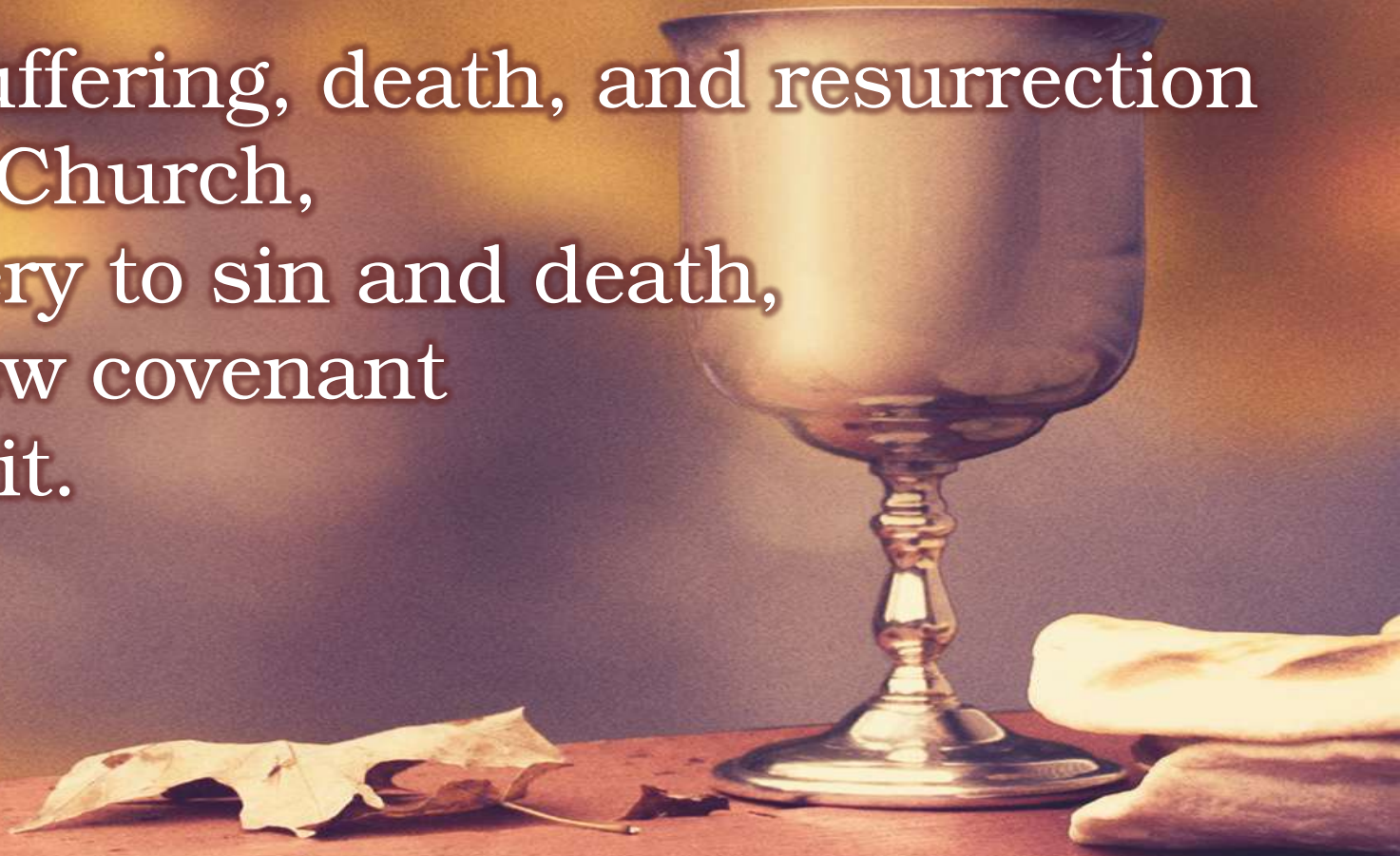
CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

Your own Son came among us as a servant
to be Emmanuel, your presence with us.
He humbled himself in obedience to your will
and freely accepted death on a cross.



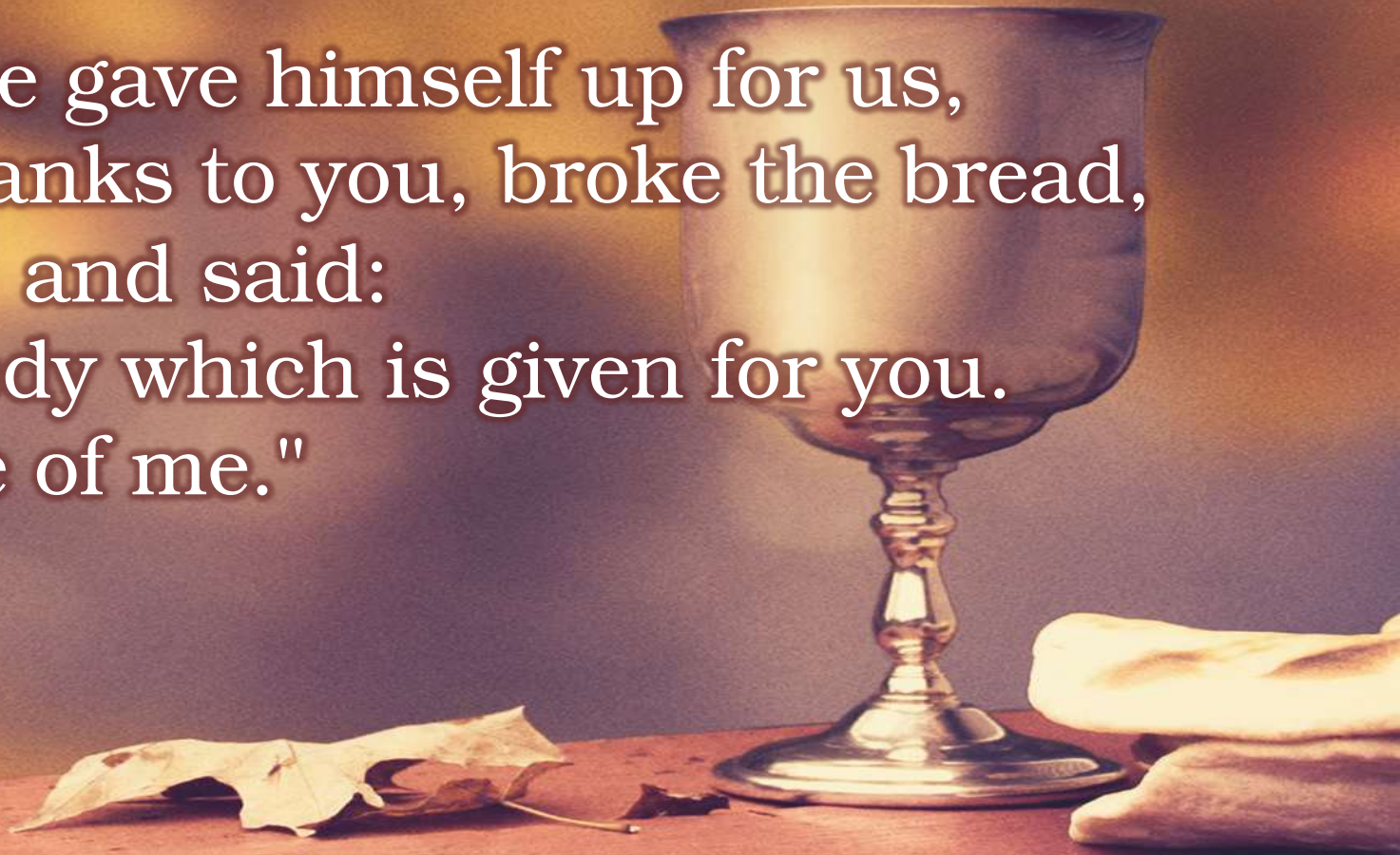
CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.



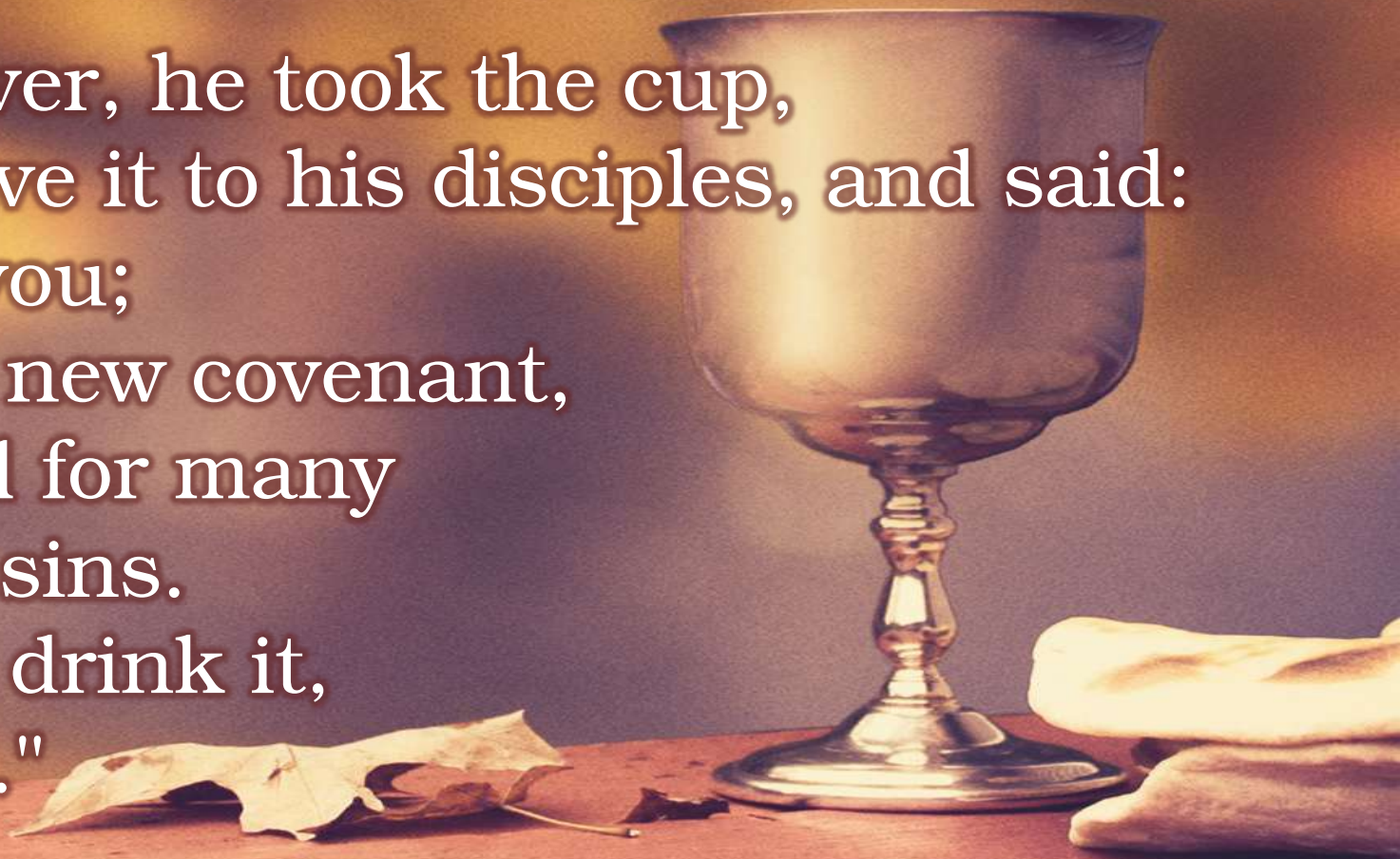
CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."



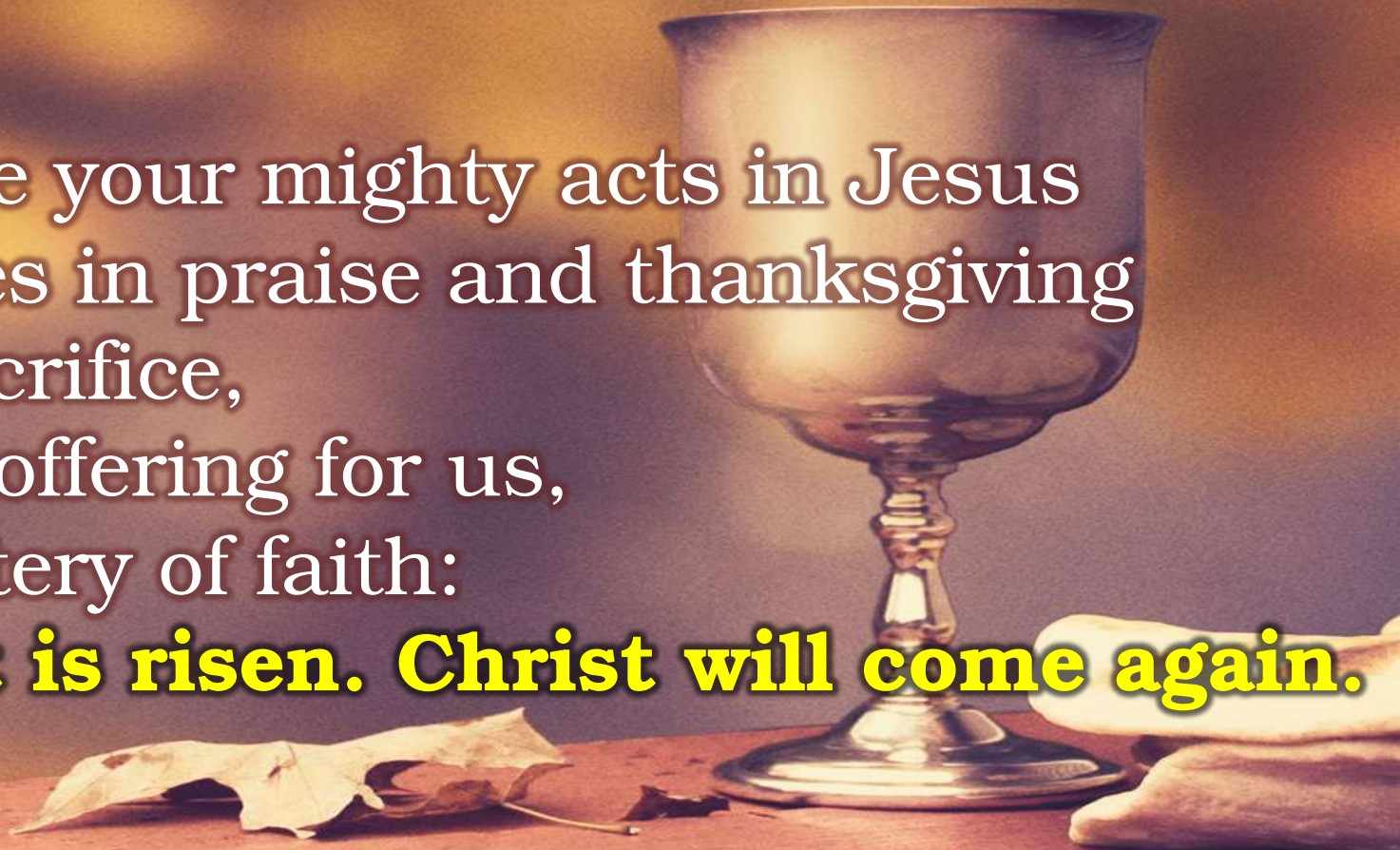
CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."



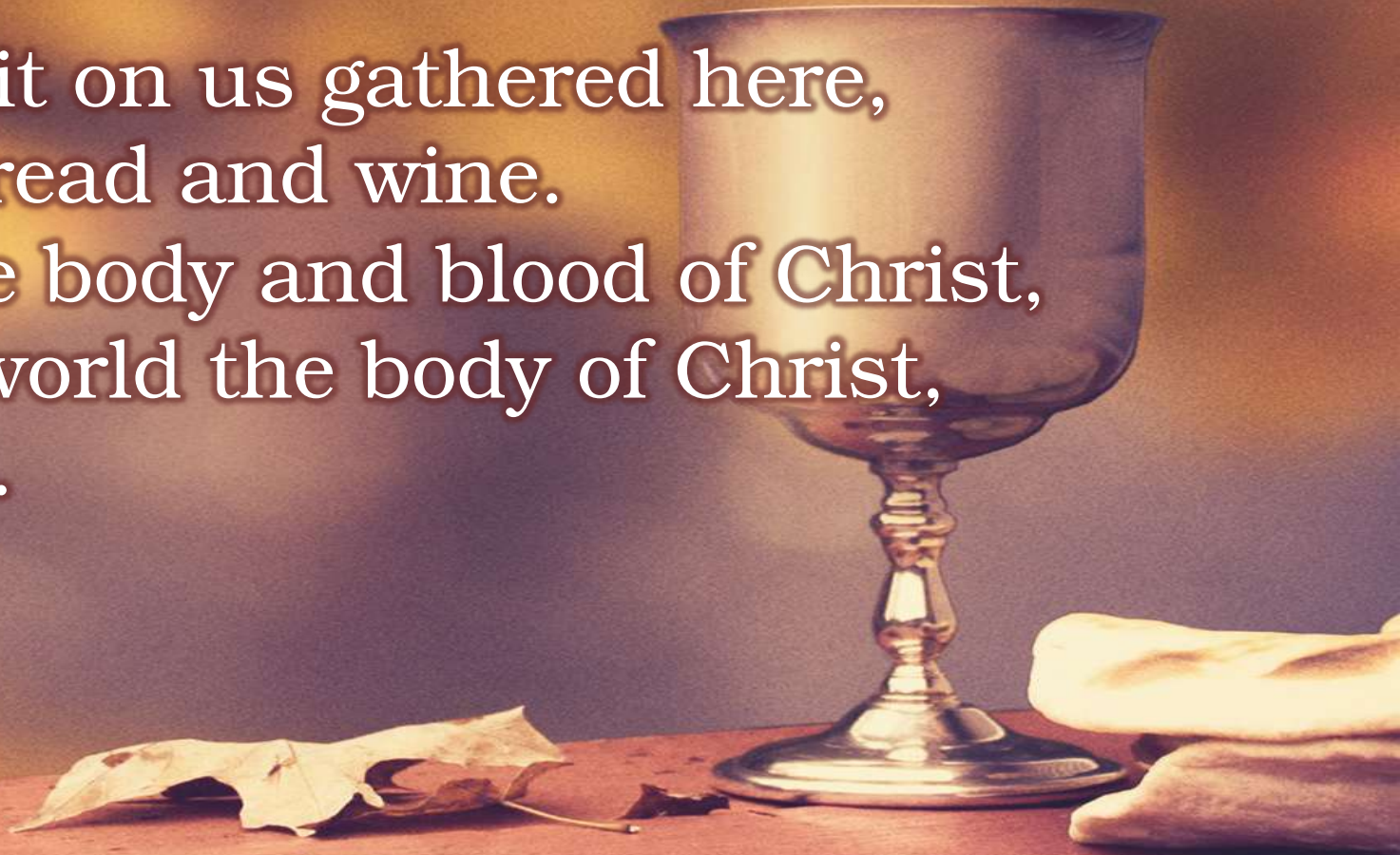
CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus
Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

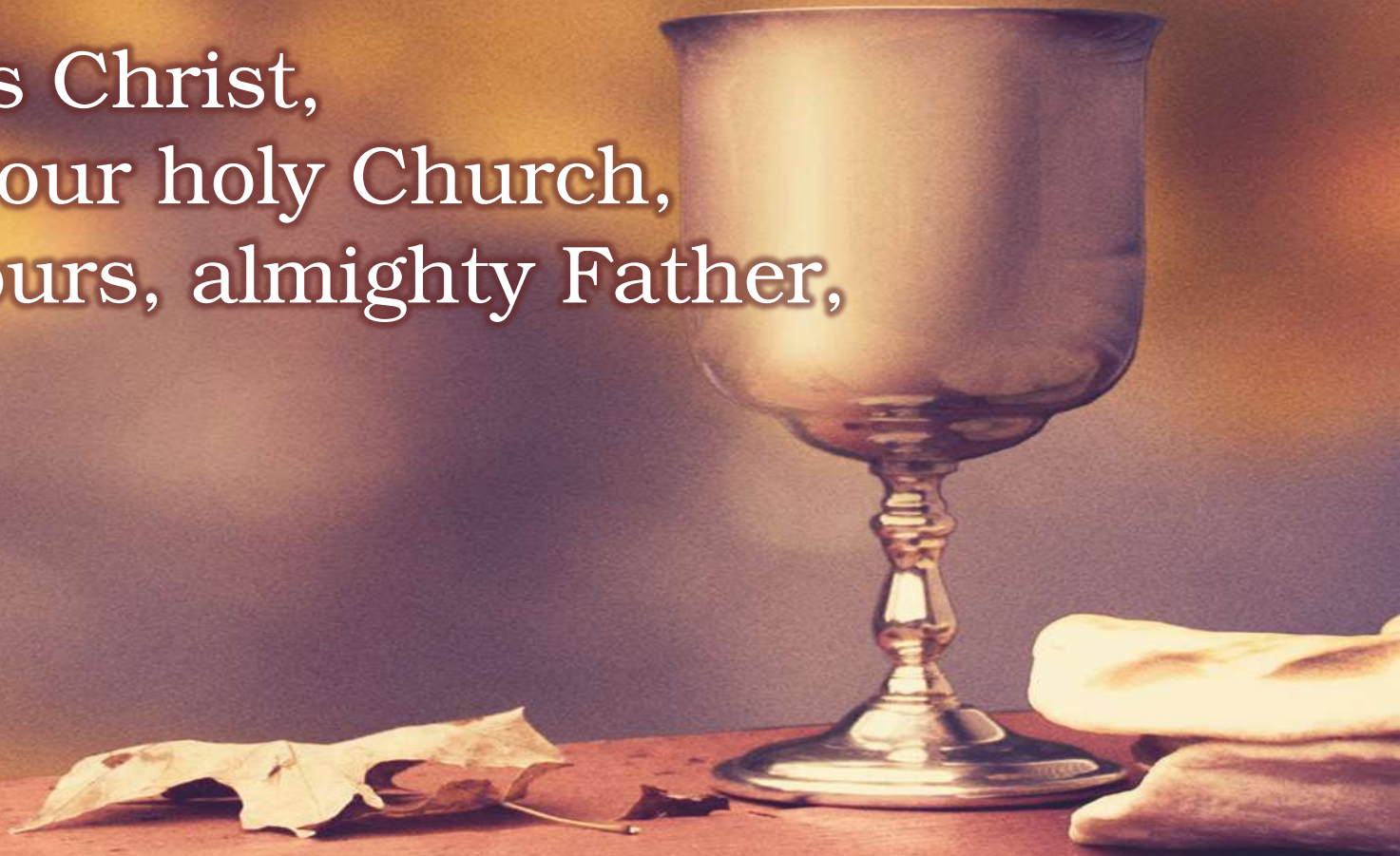
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.



CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER



THE BODY. THE BLOOD.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218




Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 (Lk. 2:8-14) Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

Tune: CAROL


© Public Domain. CCLI License Account #3551380

Played by Chiara Griffith



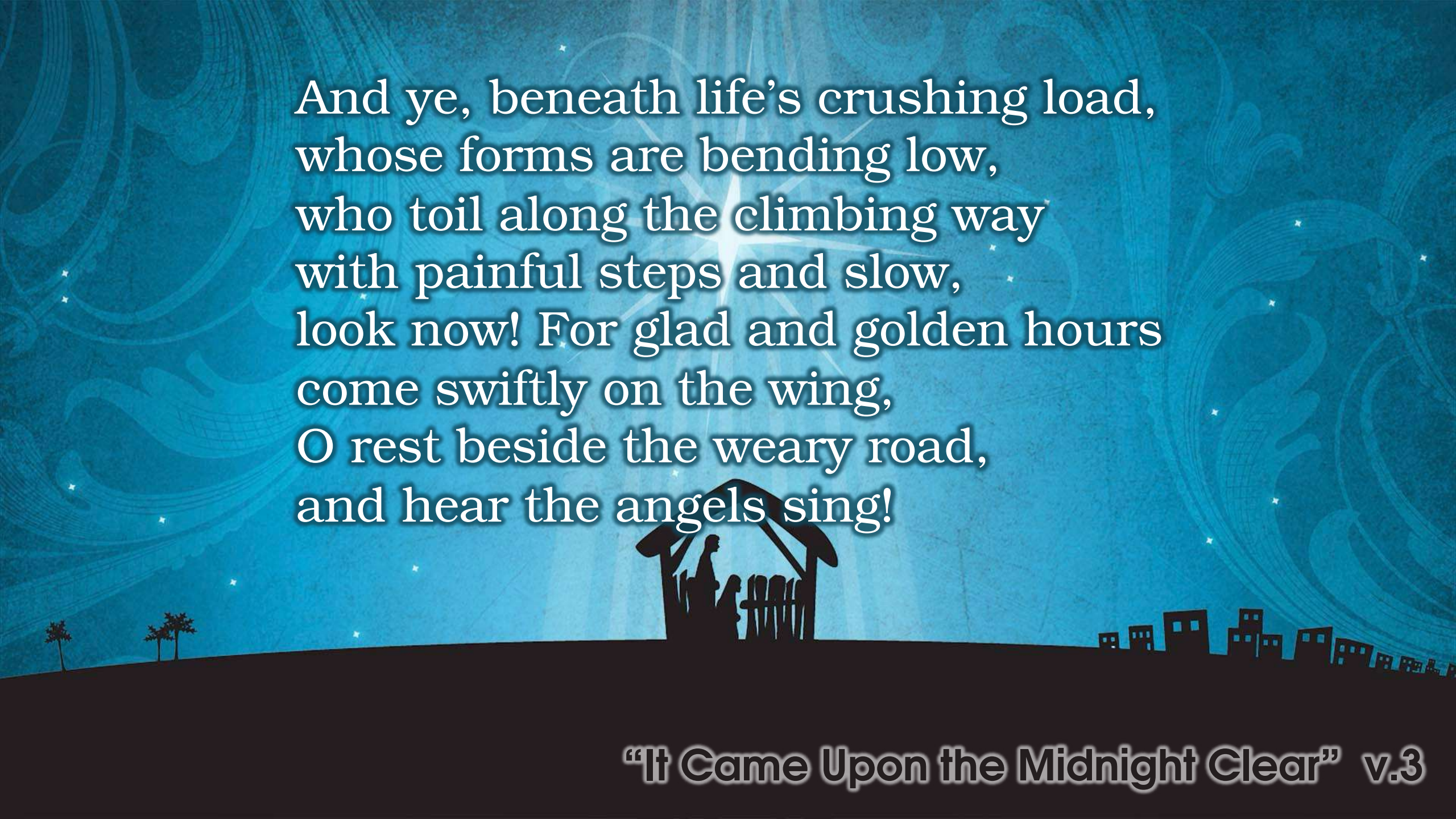
It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” v.1



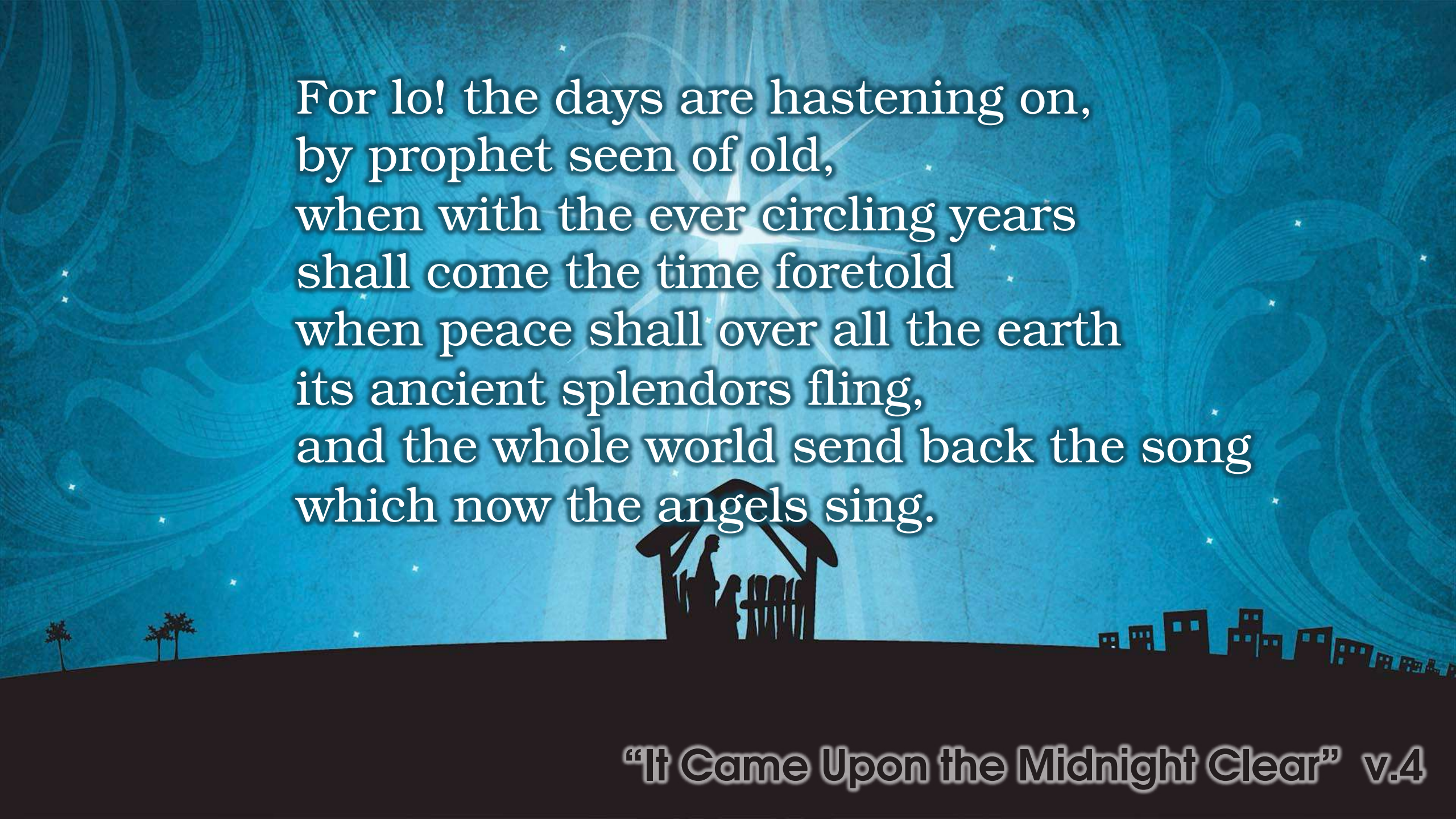
Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” v.2



And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! For glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing,
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” v.3



For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” v.4

+BENEDICTION

GOODBYE

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK

**To stay connected via e-mail, subscribe to the Weekly E-pistle:
<https://www.cheltenhamumc.com/weekly-e-pistle/>**