



# WELCOME!

## Asbury United Methodist Church

*Open Doors with Loving Hearts*

***November 30, 2025***





## **CENTERING SONG**

**“Surely the Presence of the Lord”  
UMH 328**





Surely the presence of the Lord  
is in this place, I can feel His  
mighty power and His grace. I  
can hear the brush of angel's  
wings I see glory on each face;  
Surely the presence of the Lord  
is in this place.





Surely the presence of the Lord  
is in this place, I can feel His  
mighty power and His grace. I  
can hear the brush of angel's  
wings I see glory on each face;  
Surely the presence of the Lord  
is in this place.





## GATHERING SONG

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”



# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

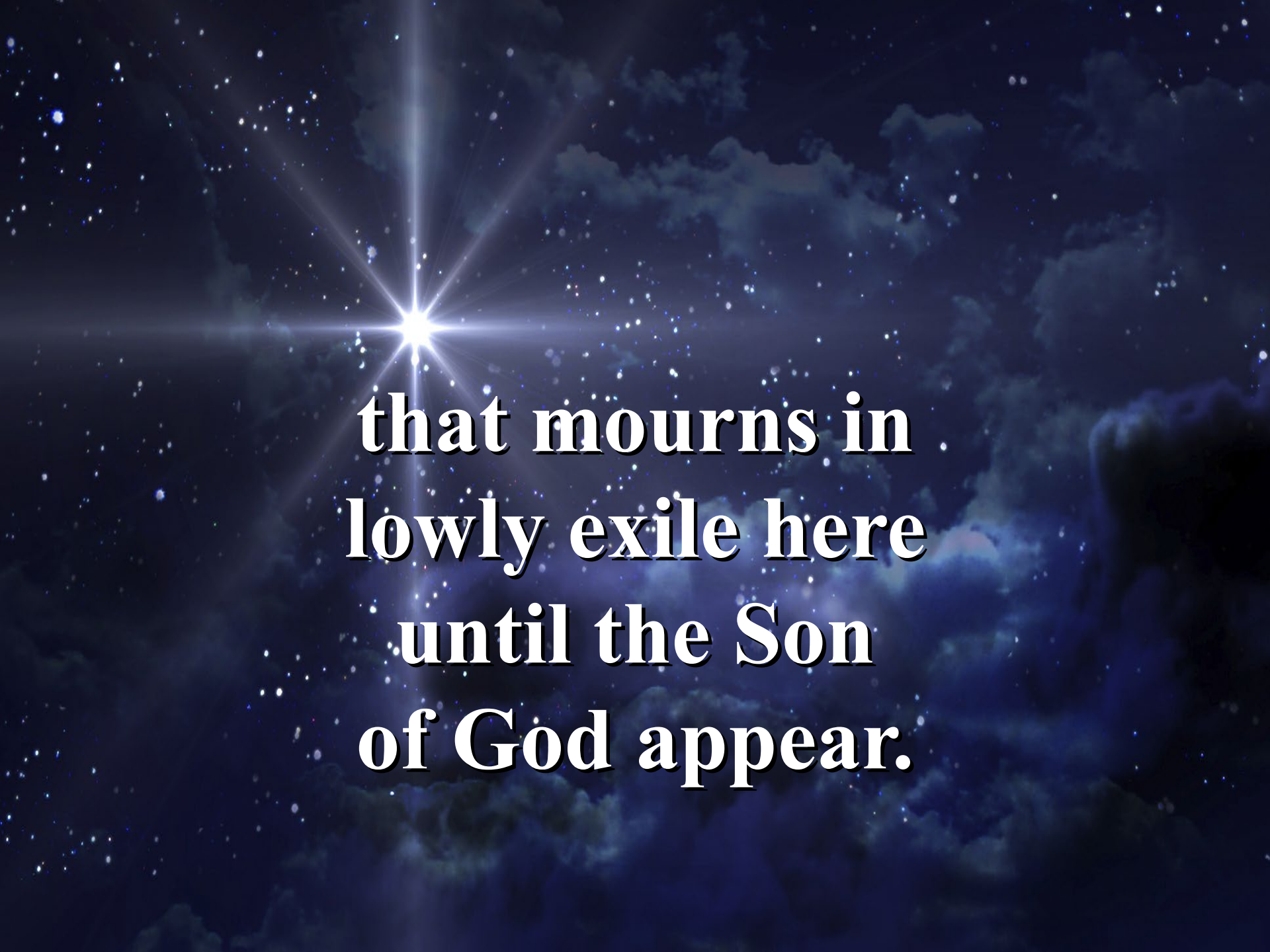
211

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab, *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986

1. O come, O come,  
Emmanuel,  
and ransom  
captive Israel,

Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict





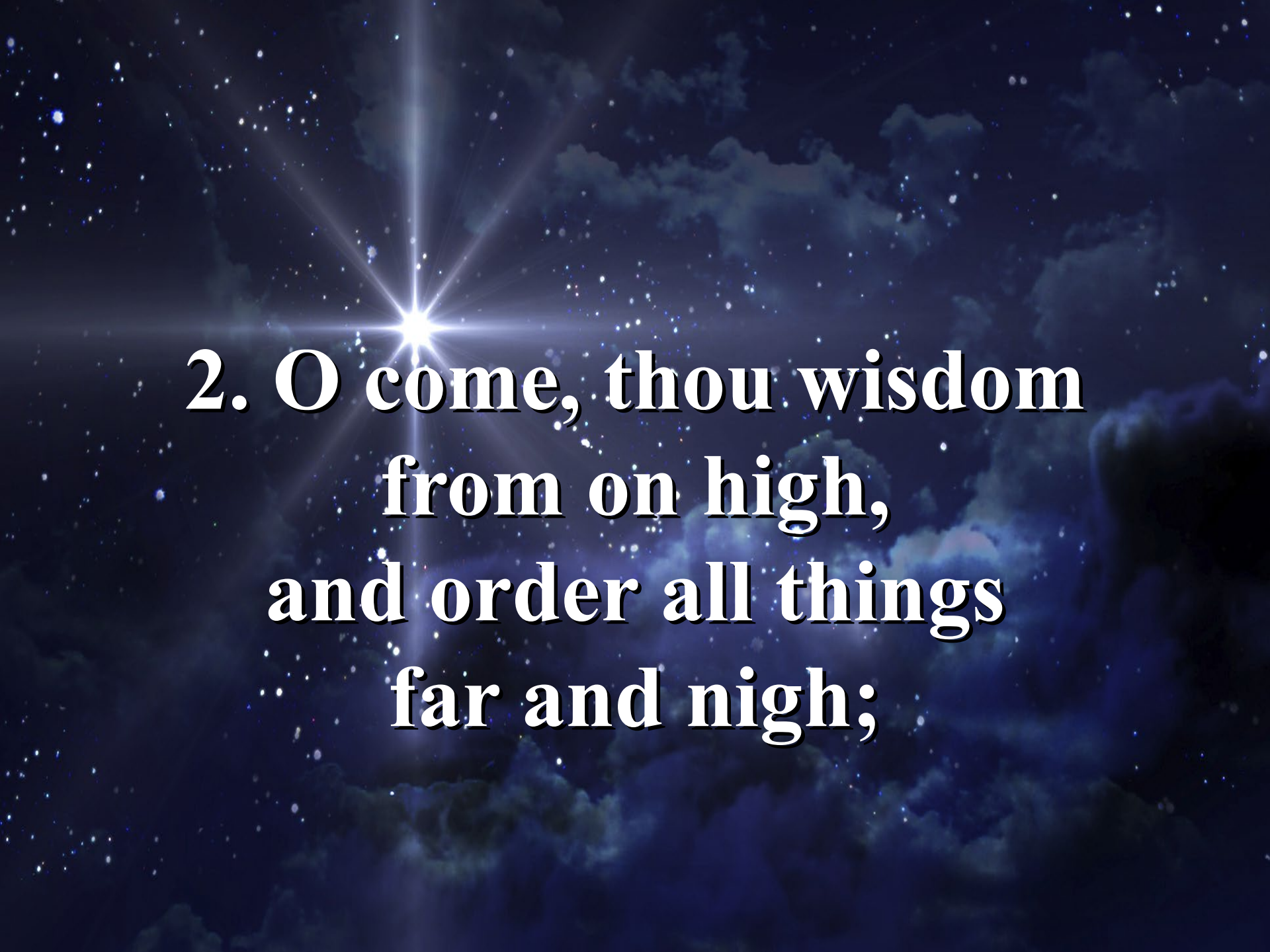
**that mourns in  
lowly exile here  
until the Son  
of God appear.**



***Refrain***

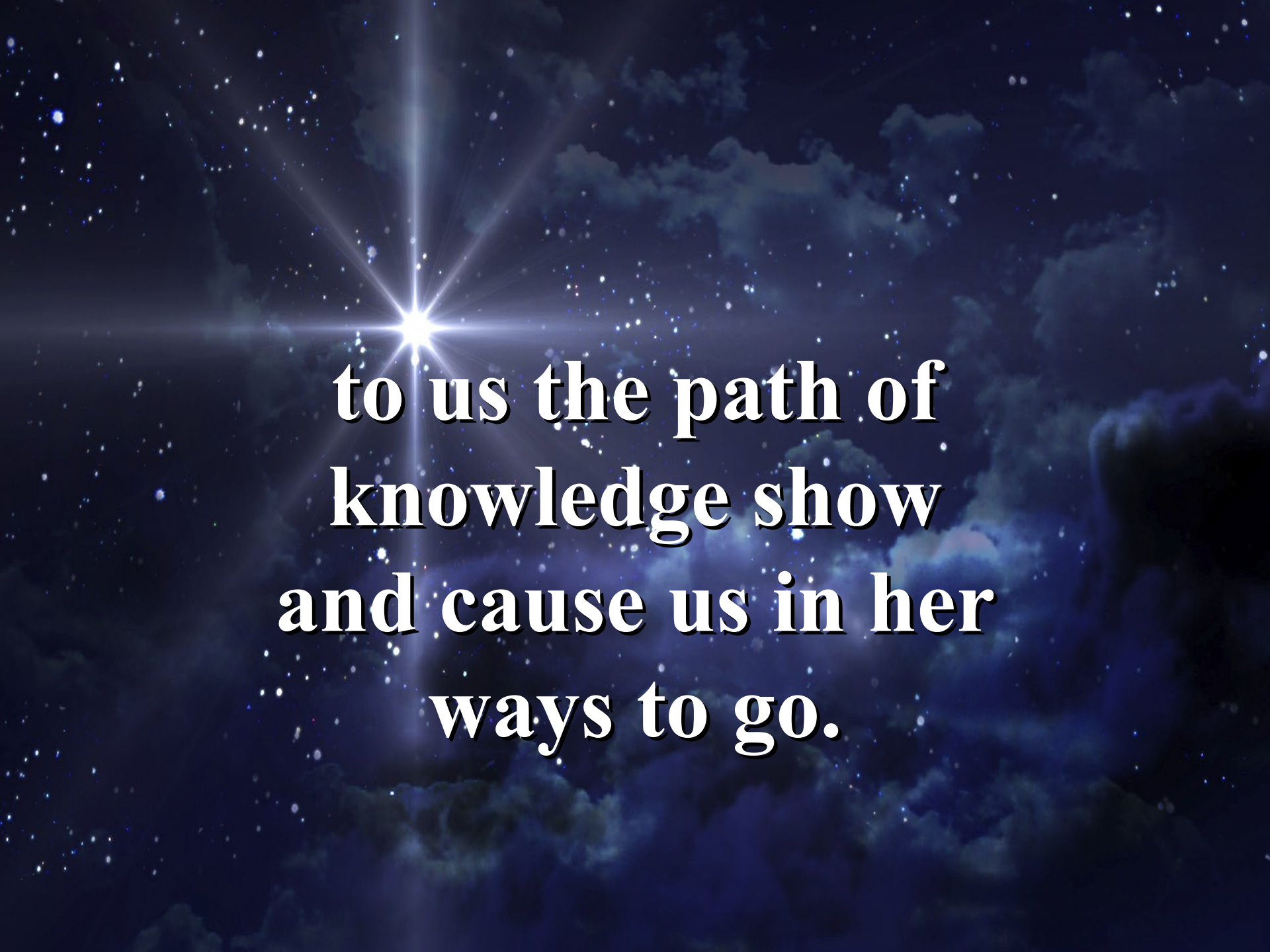
**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
shall come to thee,  
O Israel.**





**2. O come, thou wisdom  
from on high,  
and order all things  
far and nigh;**






**to us the path of  
knowledge show  
and cause us in her  
ways to go.**



***Refrain***


**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
shall come to thee,  
O Israel.**





**3. O come, O come,  
great Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes  
on Sinai's height**





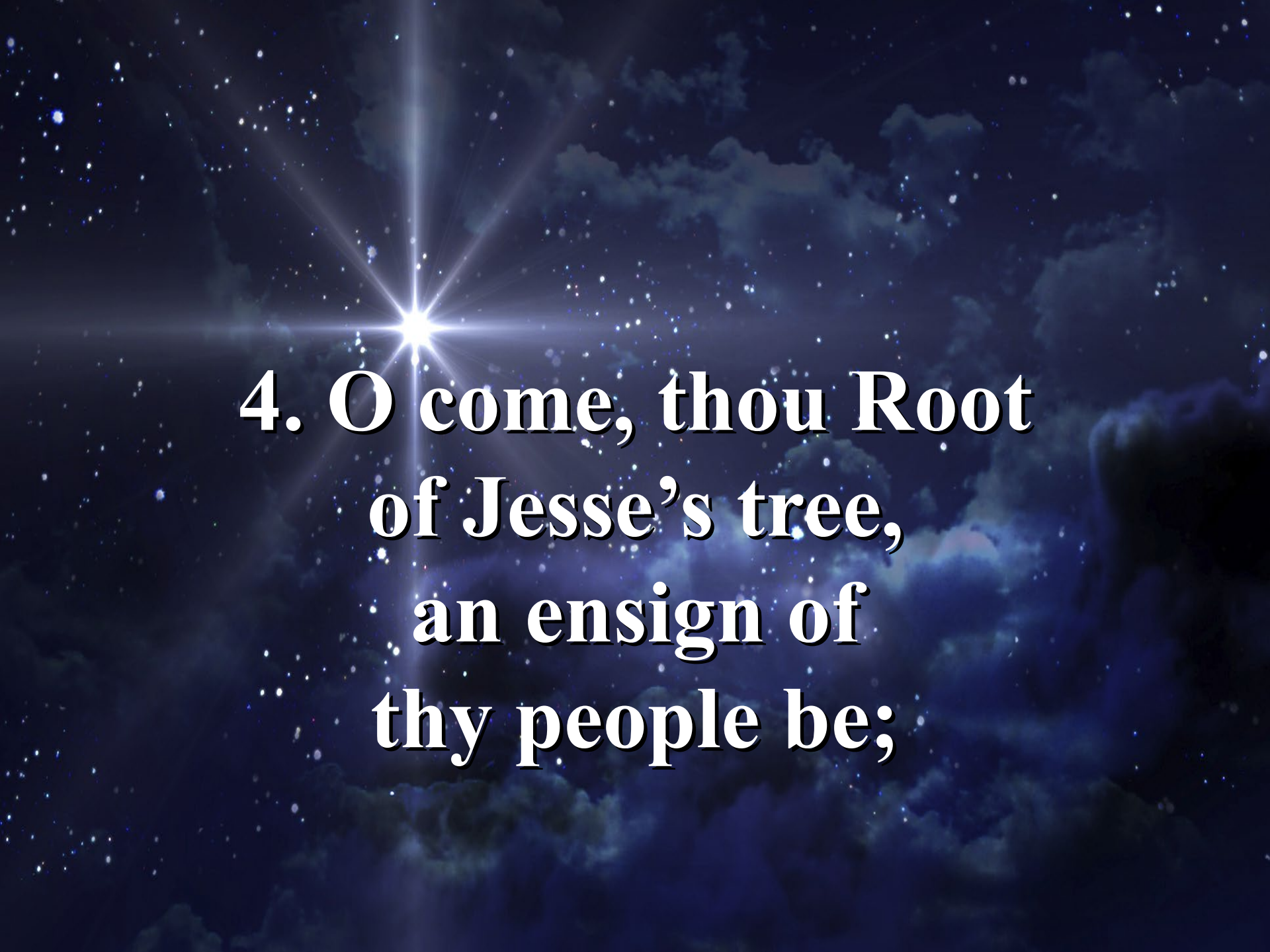
**in ancient times once  
gave the law  
in cloud and majesty  
and awe.**



***Refrain***


**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
shall come to thee,  
O Israel.**





**4. O come, thou Root  
of Jesse's tree,  
an ensign of  
thy people be;**





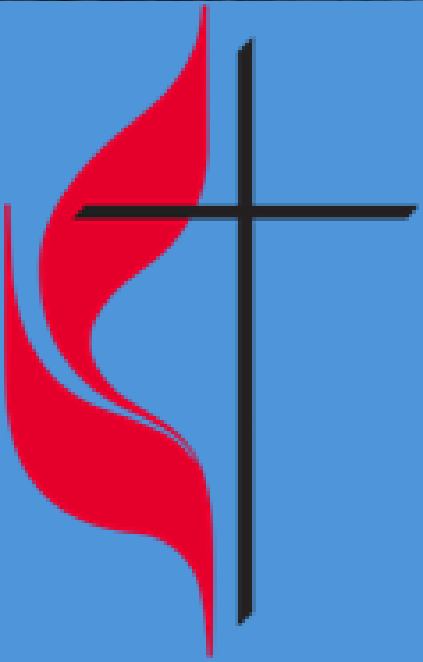
**before thee rulers  
silent fall;  
all peoples on thy  
mercy call.**



***Refrain***

**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
shall come to thee,  
O Israel.**





# PRELUDE





# **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**







# ADVENT READING



**Reader 1:** The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)





**Congregation:** 

**Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.**





**Reader 2:** We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.







**CALL TO WORSHIP**



**Leader: Wake up!**

**People: Why?**

**Leader: It's time!**

**People: What time is it anyway?**

**Leader: It's time to get ready for  
Jesus.**

**All: Let's go and get ready!**





# OPENING SONG

**“There’s Something About That Name”**





# **There's Something About That Name**

**171**

**WORDS: Gloria Gaither and William J. Gaither, 1970**

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!  
There's just something  
about that name!**



**Master, Savior, Jesus!**

**Like the fragrance  
after the rain.**

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!**

**Let all heaven  
and earth proclaim:**



**Kings and kingdoms  
will all pass away,  
but there's something  
about that name!**





# Opening Prayer

**Everlasting God, we begin our journey toward Christmas with hope stirring within. Teach us how to get ready. Show how to prepare our hearts for Jesus. Help us walk in your ways, as we put on your Son, Jesus**





**Christ. Guide us on your paths  
of peace and understanding, as  
we prepare our hearts anew for  
the road ahead. Amen.**



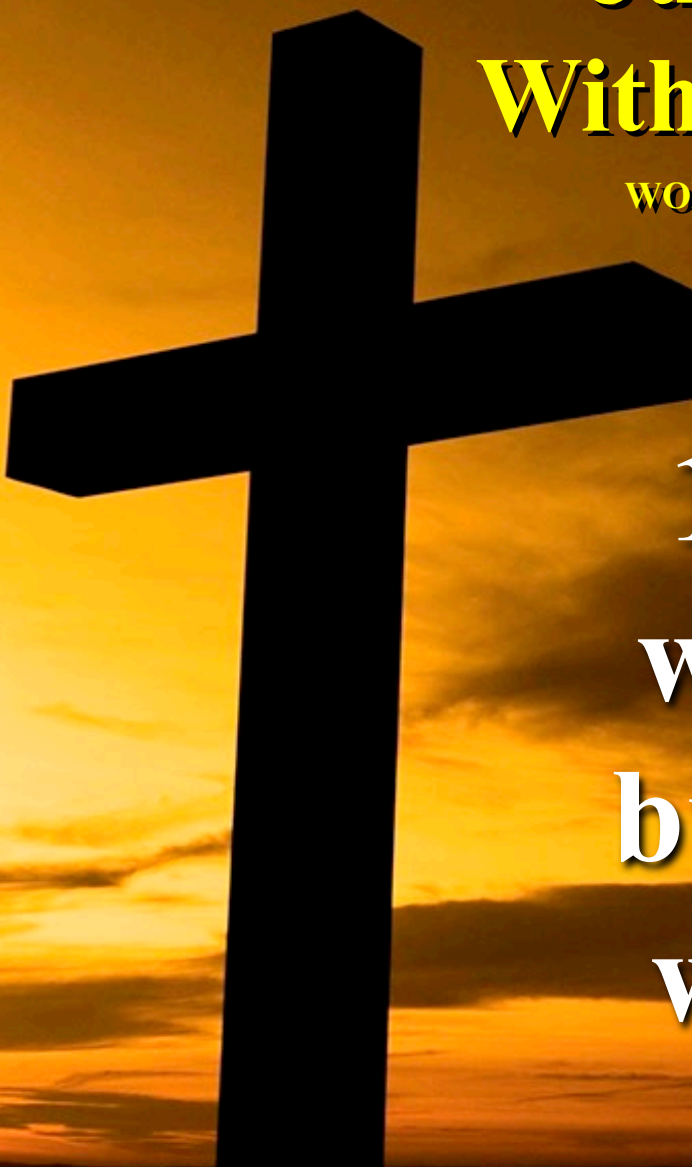


# ANTHEM

**“Just As I Am”**








# Just as I Am, Without One Plea

357

WORDS: Charlotte Elliott, 1835

1. Just as I am,  
without one plea,  
but that thy blood  
was shed for me,



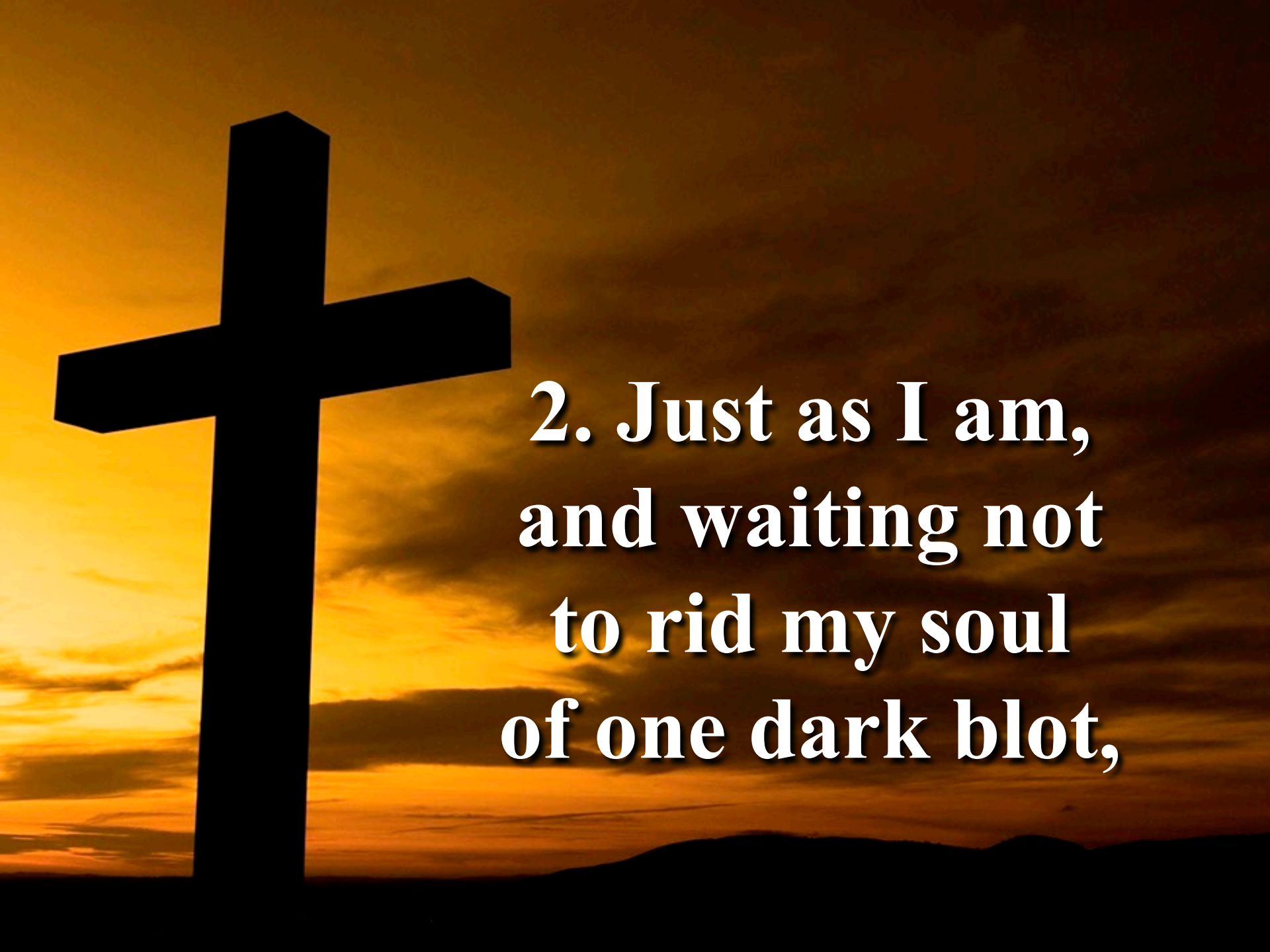
A large, solid black cross is positioned on the left side of the image, extending from the bottom to the top. The background is a dramatic sunset or sunrise scene with a sky filled with orange and yellow clouds. The horizon line is visible at the bottom, showing dark silhouettes of land or hills.

and that thou bidst me  
come to thee,

*Refrain*


O Lamb of God,  
I come, I come.





**2. Just as I am,  
and waiting not  
to rid my soul  
of one dark blot,**




A large, solid black cross is positioned on the left side of the image, extending from the bottom to the top. The background is a dramatic sunset or sunrise sky with warm orange and yellow tones and dark, silhouetted clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the cross.

to thee whose blood  
can cleanse  
each spot,

*Refrain*

O Lamb of God,  
I come, I come.



A large, solid black cross is positioned on the left side of the image. It stands against a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow light. The horizon is visible at the bottom, showing dark silhouettes of land or water. The text is overlaid on the right side of the cross.

**3. Just as I am,  
though tossed about  
with many a conflict,  
many a doubt,**



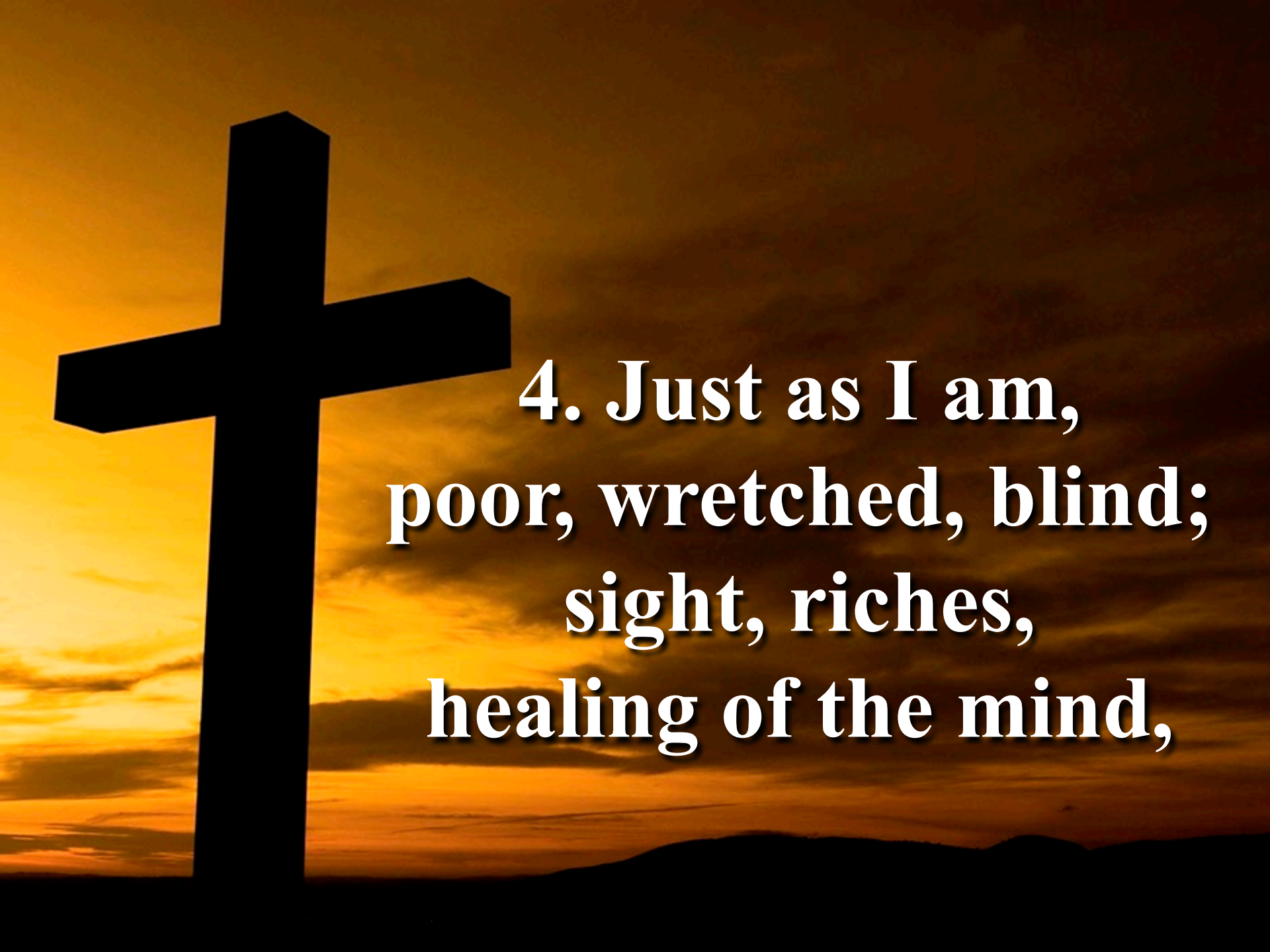


fightings and fears  
within, without,

*Refrain*


O Lamb of God,  
I come, I come.





**4. Just as I am,  
poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches,  
healing of the mind,**






yea, all I need  
in thee to find,

*Refrain*


O Lamb of God,  
I come, I come.



A large, solid black cross is positioned on the left side of the image. It stands against a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow light. The cross is simple in design, with a vertical beam and a horizontal beam. The background features soft, wispy clouds and a dark silhouette of a horizon line at the bottom.

**5. Just as I am,  
thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon,  
cleanse, relieve;**




A large, solid black cross is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a dramatic sunset or sunrise sky, with warm orange and yellow hues near the horizon and darker, more muted tones towards the top. The cross is a simple Latin cross shape, with a slightly flared top and a horizontal arm that is also flared at its ends.

because thy promise  
I believe,

*Refrain*


O Lamb of God,  
I come, I come.



A large, solid black cross is positioned on the left side of the image, extending from the bottom to the top. The background is a dramatic sunset or sunrise sky with warm orange and yellow tones and some darker clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the cross.

**6. Just as I am,  
thy love unknown  
hath broken  
every barrier down;**





now, to be thine,  
yea, thine alone,

*Refrain*

O Lamb of God,  
I come, I come.






# PRAISING GOD WITH OUR GIFTS

*OPEN DOORS WITH LOVING HEARTS*





# **“DOXOLOGY”**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**







**“CHILDREN’S MESSAGE”**





# **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**





# SCRIPTURE

**“Matthew 24:36 - 44”**





36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew

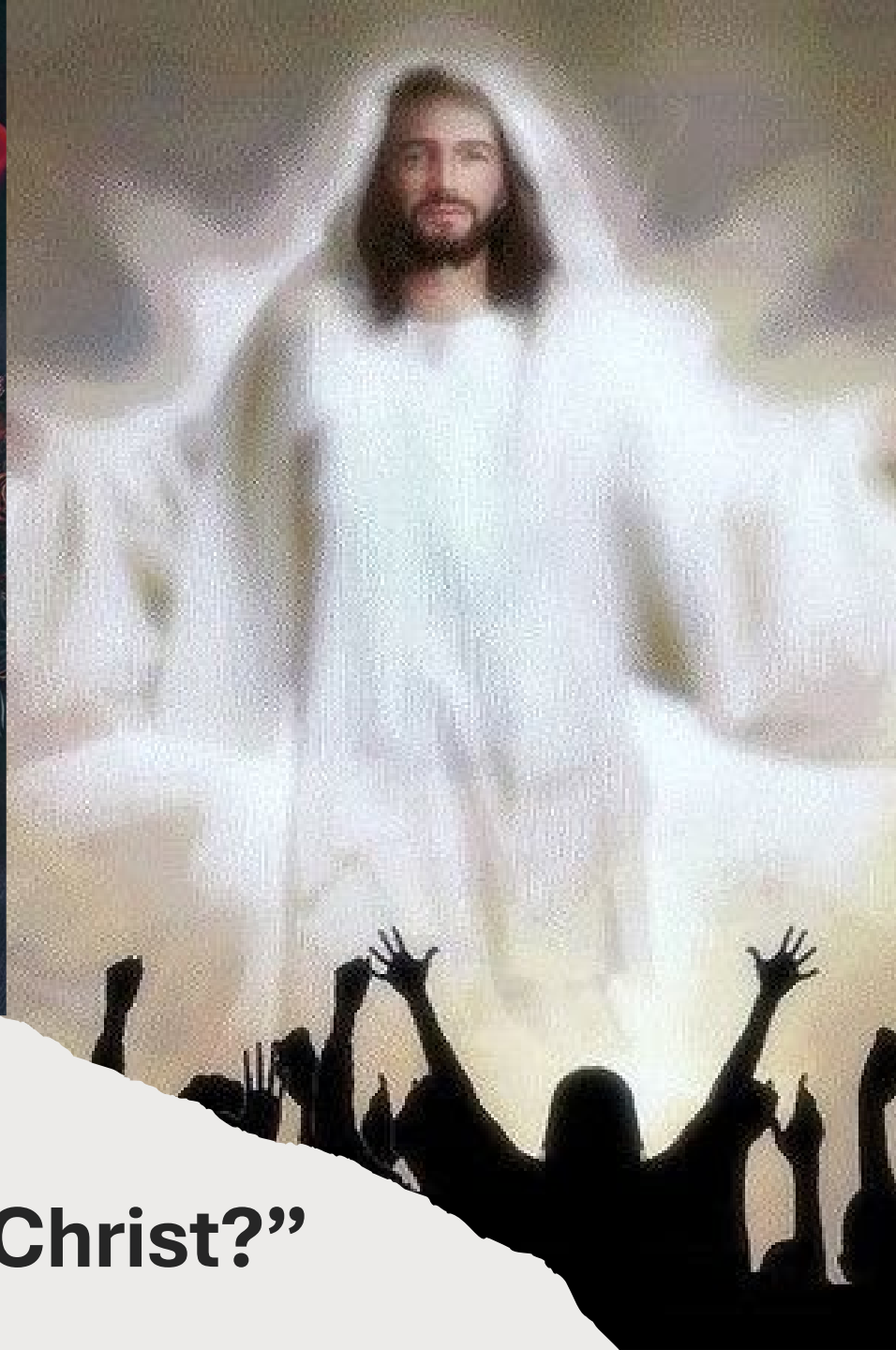


nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. 42 “Therefore; keep watch, because you do not know on what



day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.





# SERMON

**“The First Coming of Christ?”**





# **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy One, we want to know your plan. We want to know when and how things will happen. You have shown us your ways and taught us to walk in the paths of peace. Teach us to trust your never-ending care, for our future is in your hands. Help us cast aside our holiday worries and live with Advent joy! Amen.**





# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God offers us peace and security. God goes with us on our journey. Amen.







# **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**



# **The 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”**

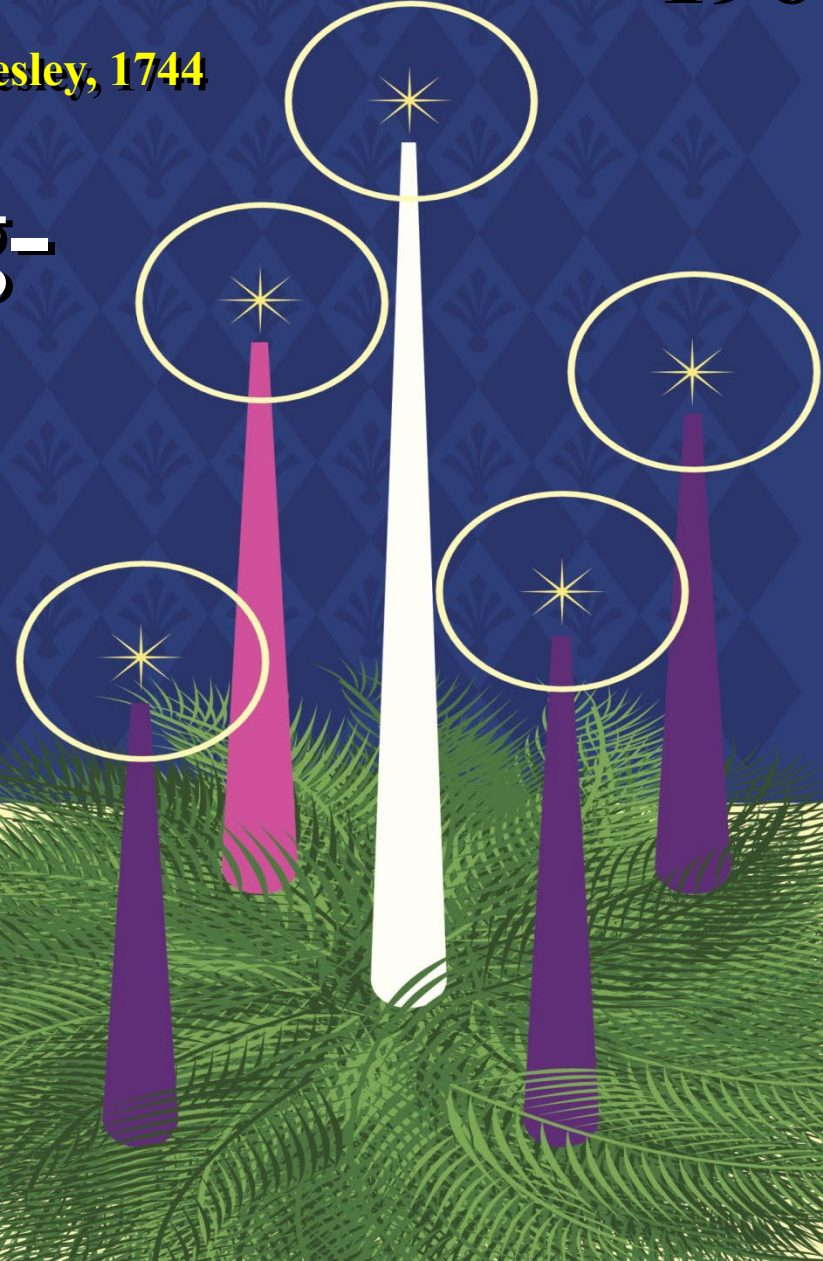


# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

1. 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.





**2. Born thy people  
to deliver,  
born a child and  
yet a King,**





born to reign  
in us forever,  
now thy gracious  
kingdom bring.



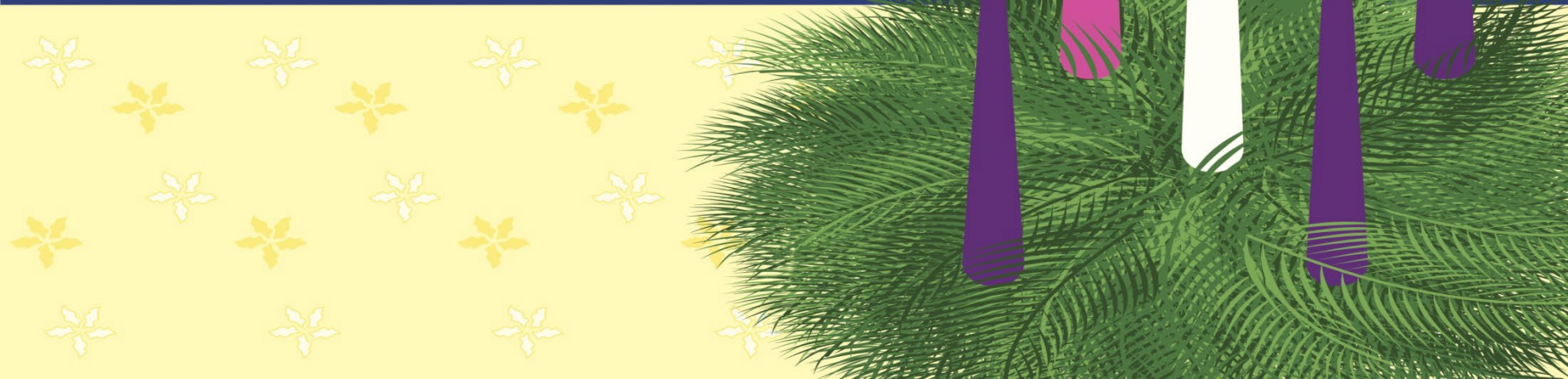


**By thine own  
eternal spirit  
rule in all our  
hearts alone;**





by thine all  
sufficient merit,  
raise us to  
thy glorious throne.







# BENEDICTION





May peace be within your walls. May security bless your homes. And may serenity reside in your hearts. Go to walk in the light of the Lord!







# 564 Threefold Amen

Walter Henry Hall (1862-1935)

A-men, A-men, A - - - men.





# **CARRYING OUR LIGHT INTO THE WORLD!**

