

“ADVENT JOY”

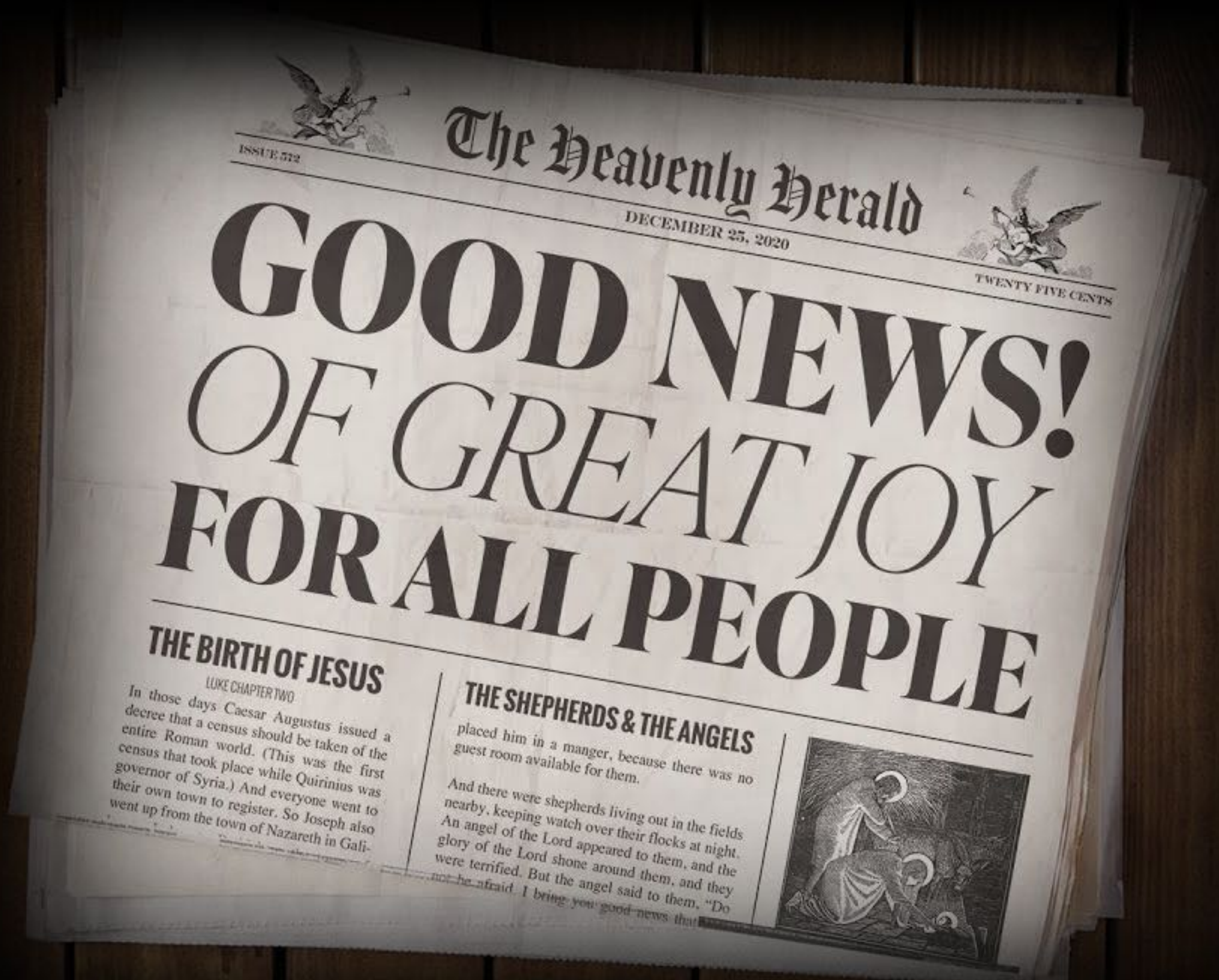
Experiencing Jesus’ Joy in the Darkness

- December 17th 2023 -



The Candle of
JOY

*The shepherds received a
message of joy!*



(to play Lauren Daigle's "Noel" lyric music video, click link below)

<https://vimeopro.com/user2890445/worship-music-videos/video/895534855>

CHRIS TOMLIN - NOEL (FT. LAUREN DAIGLE)

CHRISTOMLIN.COM • LAURENDAIGLE.COM

Henri Nouwen (BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY)

“At first sight, joy seems to be connected with being different. When you receive a compliment or win an award, you experience the joy of not being the same as others.

You are faster, smarter, or more beautiful, and it is that difference that brings you joy. But such joy is very temporary. True joy is hidden where we are the same as other people: fragile and mortal. It is the joy of belonging to the human race.

It is the joy of being with others as a friend, a companion, a fellow-traveller. This is the joy of Jesus, who is Emmanuel: God-with-us.”



The Candle of
JOY

*The shepherds received a
message of joy!*

AS ~~IF~~ YOU KEEP

MY COMMANDMENTS,

(i.e. Experience)
YOU WILL ABIDE IN MY LOVE,

**JUST AS I HAVE KEPT MY FATHER'S
COMMANDMENTS AND ABIDE IN HIS**

**LOVE. THESE THINGS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU,
THAT MY JOY MAY BE IN YOU,**

**AND THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL.
THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT, THAT YOU**

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

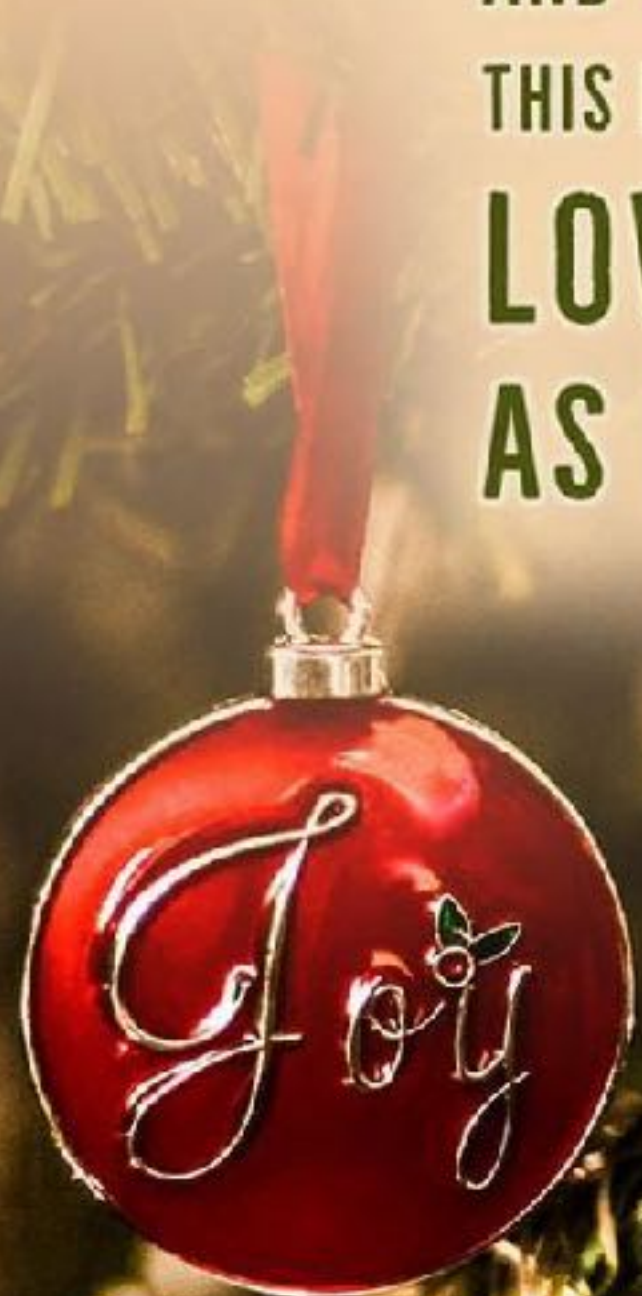
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

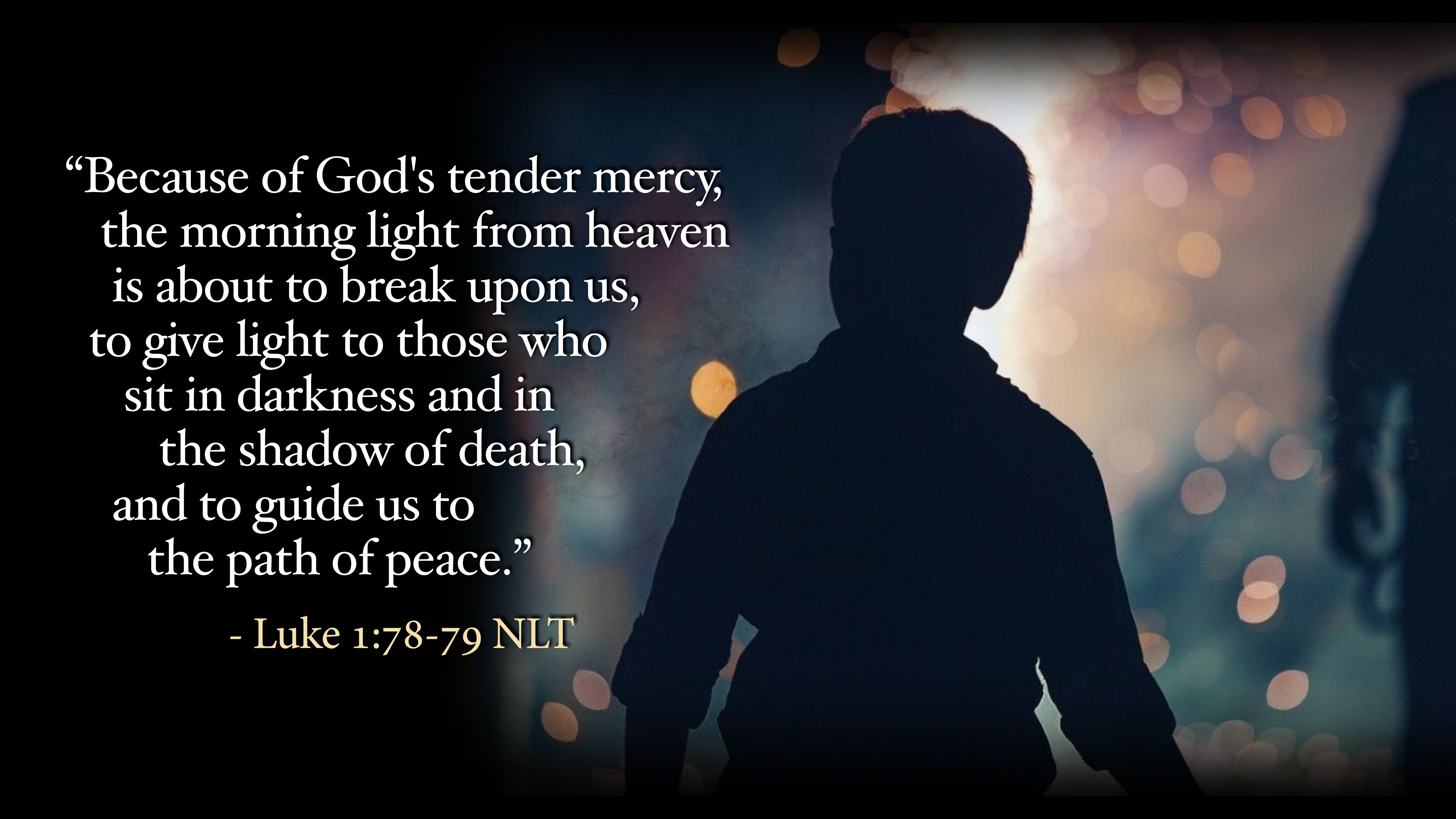
—JOHN 15:10-12

John 15:9-11 (THE MESSAGE)

“I’ve loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you’ll remain intimately at home in my love. That’s what I’ve done—kept my Father’s commands and made myself at home in his love.


“I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you.





“Because of God's tender mercy,
the morning light from heaven
is about to break upon us,
to give light to those who
sit in darkness and in
the shadow of death,
and to guide us to
the path of peace.”

- Luke 1:78-79 NLT

A lit candle in a holder with Hebrew text on the holder, set against a dark background with bokeh lights.

THE PEOPLE
WALKING
IN
DARKNESS
HAVE
SEEN
A GREAT
LIGHT

-ISAIAH 9:2

ANNE BANCROFT PATTY DUKE

THE *MIRACLE*
WORKER





(to play this trailer from "The Miracle Worker", click link below)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ffvfxvcSFc>



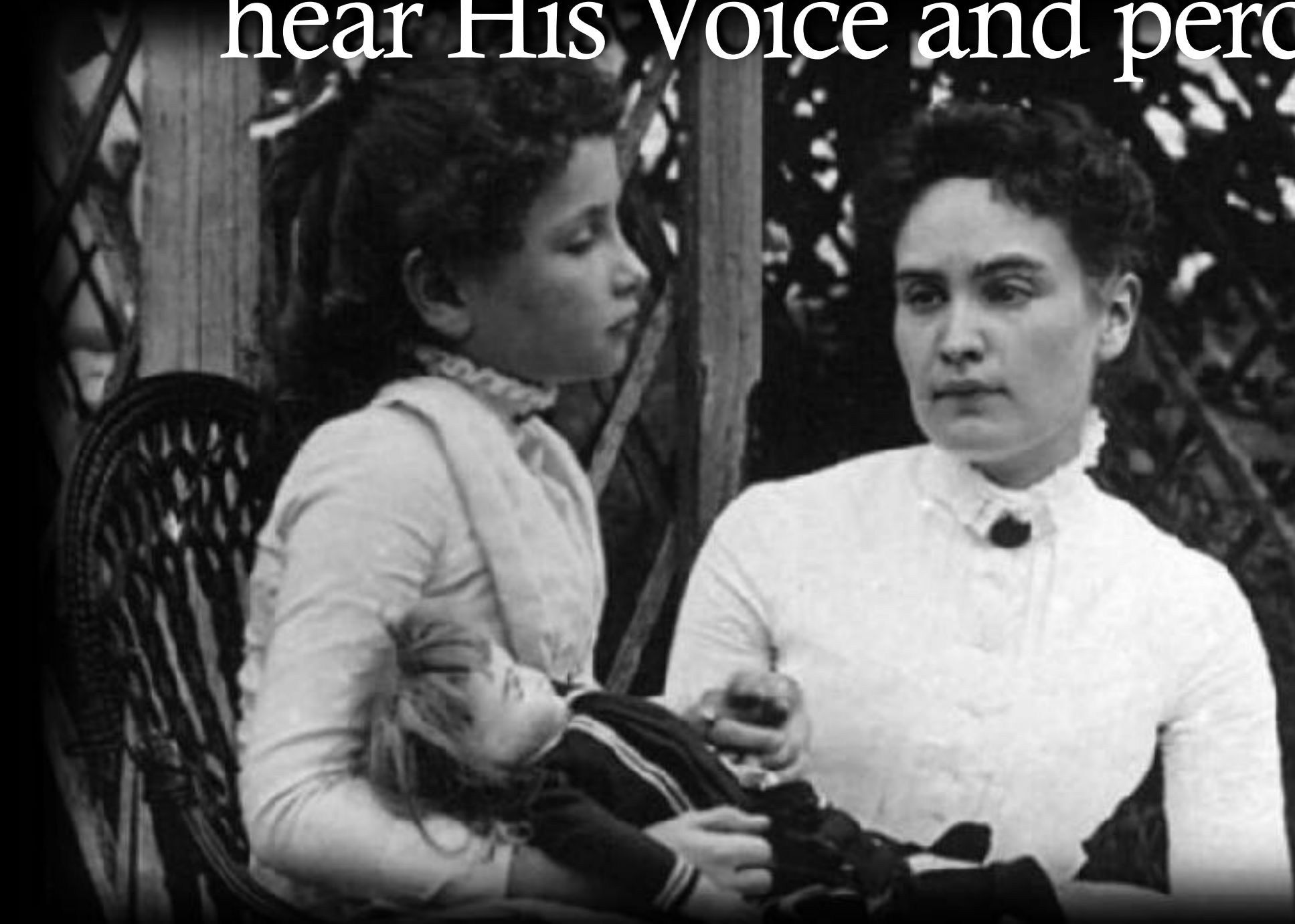


God's 'Tough' Healing Love Illustrated in Annie Sullivan's Example and Helen Keller's Story

Annie Sullivan embodies the consuming fire and tough love of God that won't leave us unhealed and unable to thrive but will cross all worlds to reach us. Helen's physical limitations illustrate the diminished existence of fearful, fallen humanity in our profound blindness and deafness, unable to see the true face of the Father, hear His Voice and perceive His loving intentions for our thriving.

“... And so the Word became flesh”

The Incarnation expresses the Trinity's redemptive determination to penetrate our fallen imaginations and get inside our blindness so that we can be healed and restored completely from the inside out.



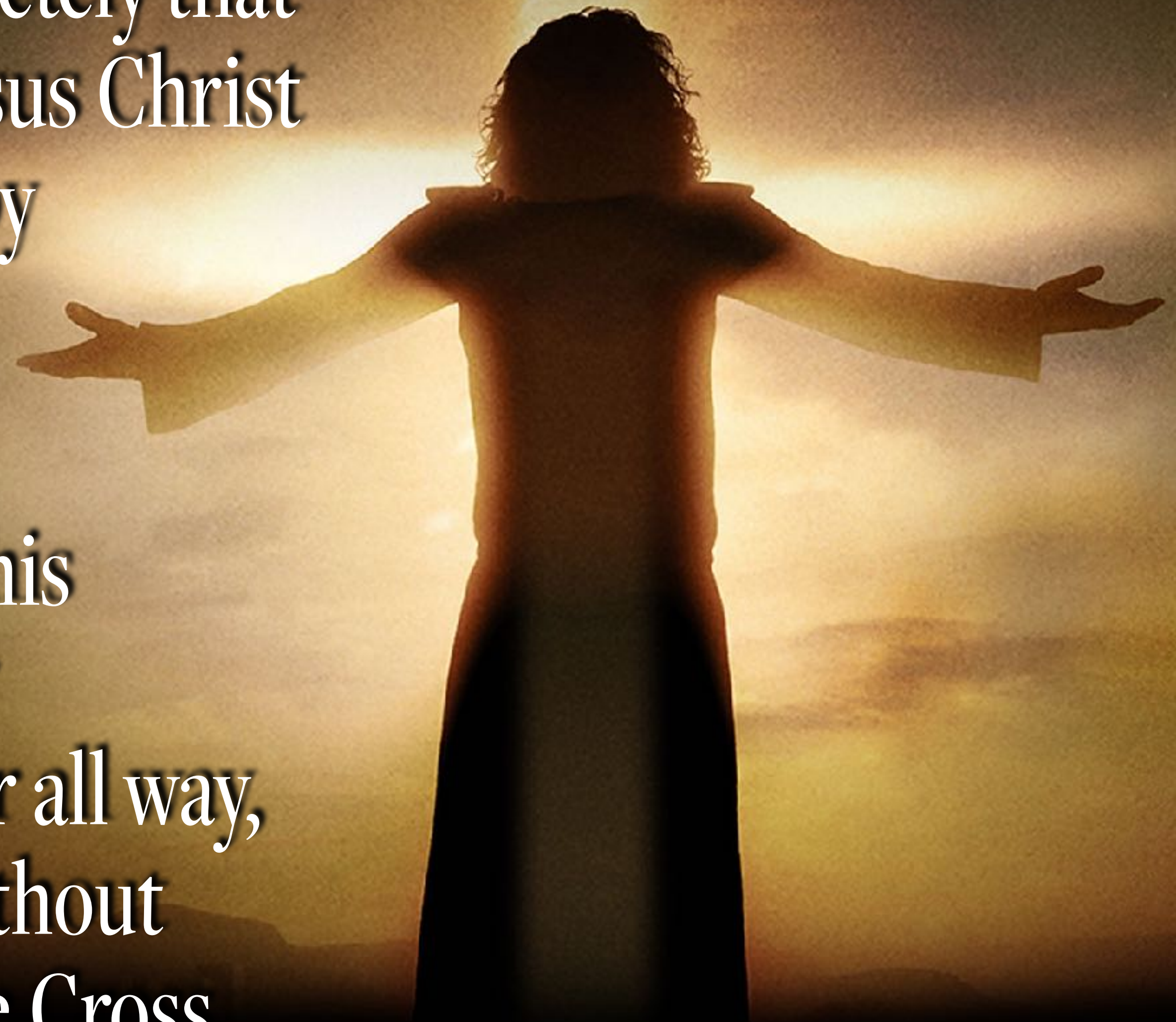


Jesus came to reveal the true face of the Father and heal our blindness so we can see with His eyes and experience the love he continually enjoys in His Father's embrace.

“God loves you so utterly and completely that he has given himself for you in Jesus Christ his beloved Son, and has thereby pledged his very being as God for your salvation.

In Jesus Christ God has actualized his unconditional love for you in your human nature in such a once for all way, that he cannot go back upon it without undoing the Incarnation and the Cross and thereby denying himself..”

- Thomas F. Torrance
(THE MEDIATION OF CHRIST)



Jesus Christ died for you precisely because you are sinful and utterly unworthy of him, and has thereby already made you his own before and apart from your ever believing in him.

He has bound you to himself by his love in a way that he will never let you go, for even if you refuse him and damn yourself in hell, his love will never cease.

Therefore, repent and believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

- Thomas F. Torrance
(THE MEDIATION OF CHRIST)



METANOIA

Greek: The journey of changing one's mind, heart, self or way of life



METANOIA



*God's
Unconditional Love*

“God never changes his mind about you.

He is simply in love with you.

What he does again and again

is change your mind about him.”

— Herbert McCabe on Twitter

“God never changes his mind about you. He is simply in love with you.
What he does again and again is **change your mind about him.**”

Time for Reflection:


— Herbert McCabe on Twitter

We’ve been on a remarkable journey of reimagining and rediscovering who Trinity is and always has been and who we are as God’s beloved children.

1. What ‘new thing’ has Trinity helped you perceive and change your mind about in recent years — about God, yourself, or others?

What is He still working on changing?

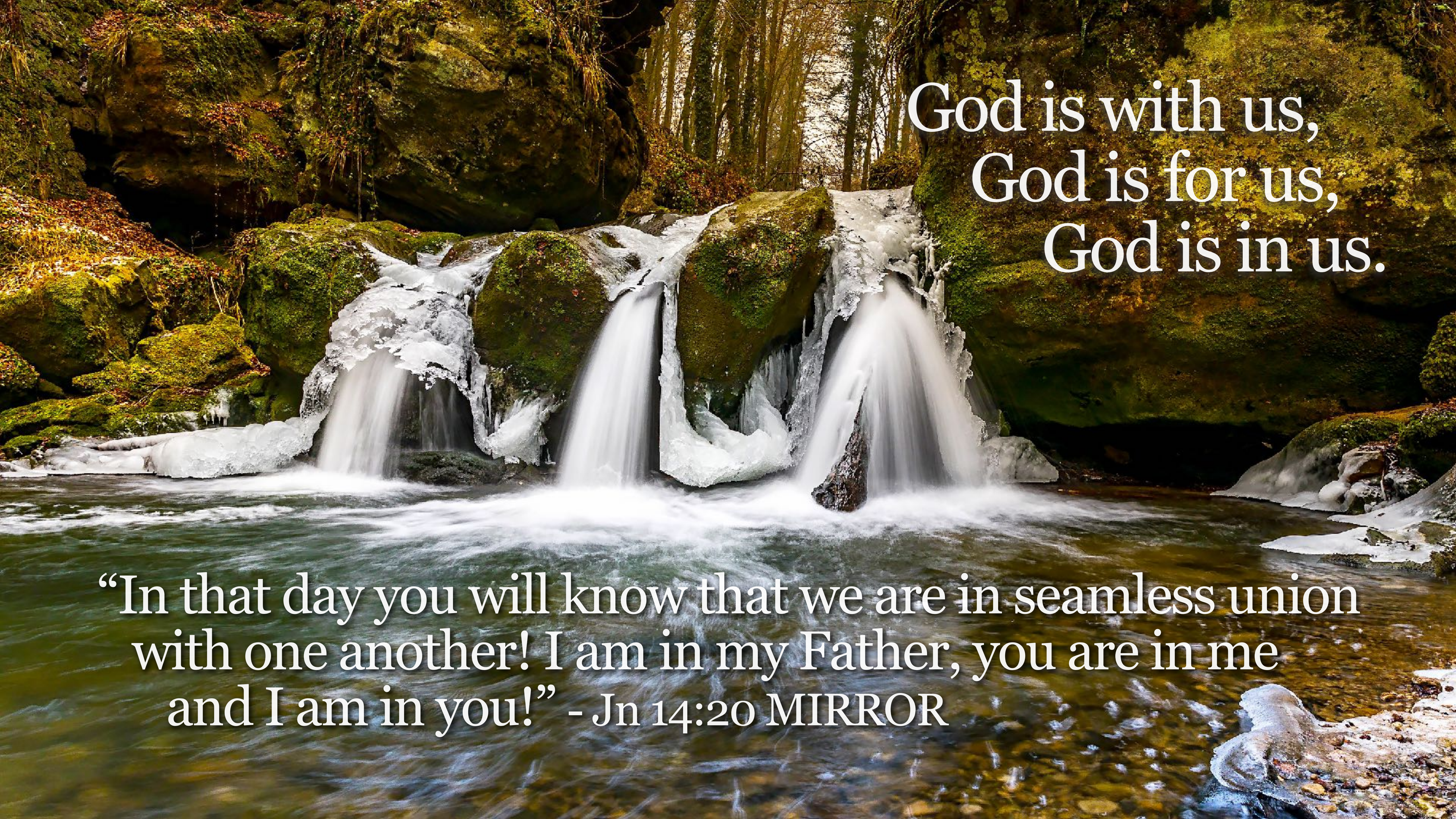
2. Is there a specific, deep mind-set shift (“*metanoia*”) and practical response you/we might make, empowered by the Spirit, to effect ongoing change of mind and not defaulting to old ways of seeing and being?



Here I Am to Worship

(to play "*Here I Am to Worship*" lyric music video, click link below)

<https://vimeopro.com/user2890445/worship-music-videos/video/509548384>

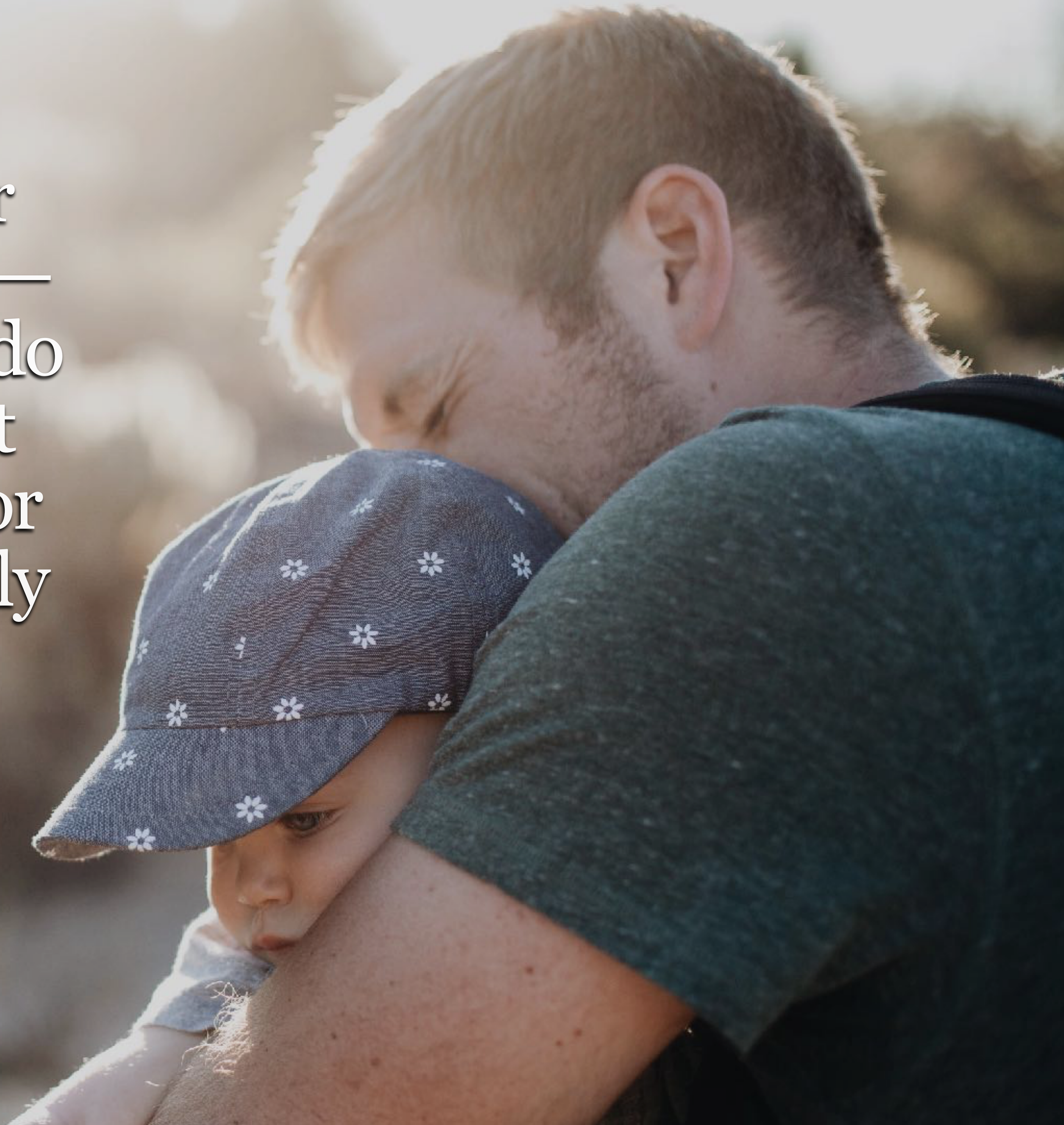
A long-exposure photograph of a waterfall cascading over mossy rocks in a lush forest. The water is blurred, creating a sense of movement and tranquility. The surrounding environment is filled with green moss and dense foliage, with sunlight filtering through the trees.

God is with us,
God is for us,
God is in us.

“In that day you will know that we are in seamless union with one another! I am in my Father, you are in me and I am in you!” - Jn 14:20 MIRROR

“Father, I have made your
very being known to them —
who you are and what you do
— and continue to make it
known, so that your love for
me might be in them exactly
as I am in them.”

- Jn 17:26 MSG



**THE PEOPLE WALKING IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT.**

The Holy Spirit is committed to overcoming your blindness and brokenness, your fears and faithlessness, and enabling you to thrive and participate fully in Jesus' loving, intimate relationship with His Father.

ISAIAH 9:2

GOD IS
(in us)



Excerpt from “The Trinitarian Vision”
by Baxter Kruger

“The Spirit’s passion is to bring his anointing of Jesus to full and personal and abiding expression in us as unique persons, and not only in us personally, but in our relationship with the Father in Jesus, and in our relationships with one another, and indeed with all creation, until the whole cosmos is a living sacrament of the great dance of the Triune God.”

(to play Lauren Daigle's "*Light of the World*" lyric music video, click link below)

<https://vimeopro.com/user2890445/worship-music-videos/video/895258960>

AND CAN YOU HEAR THE ANGELS SINGING

Glory **TO THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**