

A wide-angle photograph of a night sky. The upper half is filled with dark, textured clouds. In the upper right quadrant, a bright, star-like light source with a distinct cross-shaped lens flare dominates the scene. Below it, a smaller, less intense star is visible. The horizon line is composed of dark, silhouetted mountain peaks against a warm, orange-yellow glow from a rising or setting sun. The overall atmosphere is one of celestial beauty and divine presence.

Staff Advent Liturgy 2021

Jim Doust:

A reading from the Book of Isaiah:

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who bears good news and proclaims glad tidings,
announcing salvation and saying to Zion,
“Your God is king.”

Listen! Your watchmen raise a cry
and together they shout for joy,
for with their own eyes they clearly behold
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Burst forth together with songs of joy,
you ruins of Jerusalem.
For the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations.
All the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.





Christ comes to right any injustice.

How lucky are we to celebrate Christmas this year? What about those that aren't as fortunate as us?

A traditional Christmas nativity scene painting by Georges de la Tour. It depicts the Holy Family in a stable. The Virgin Mary, wearing a pink dress and blue shawl, sits on a straw-covered bed, holding the Christ Child. Joseph, with a beard and a red robe, stands behind her, looking down. An ox and a donkey are visible on the right. A small figure of an angel is on the left. The scene is lit from above, creating a dramatic effect.

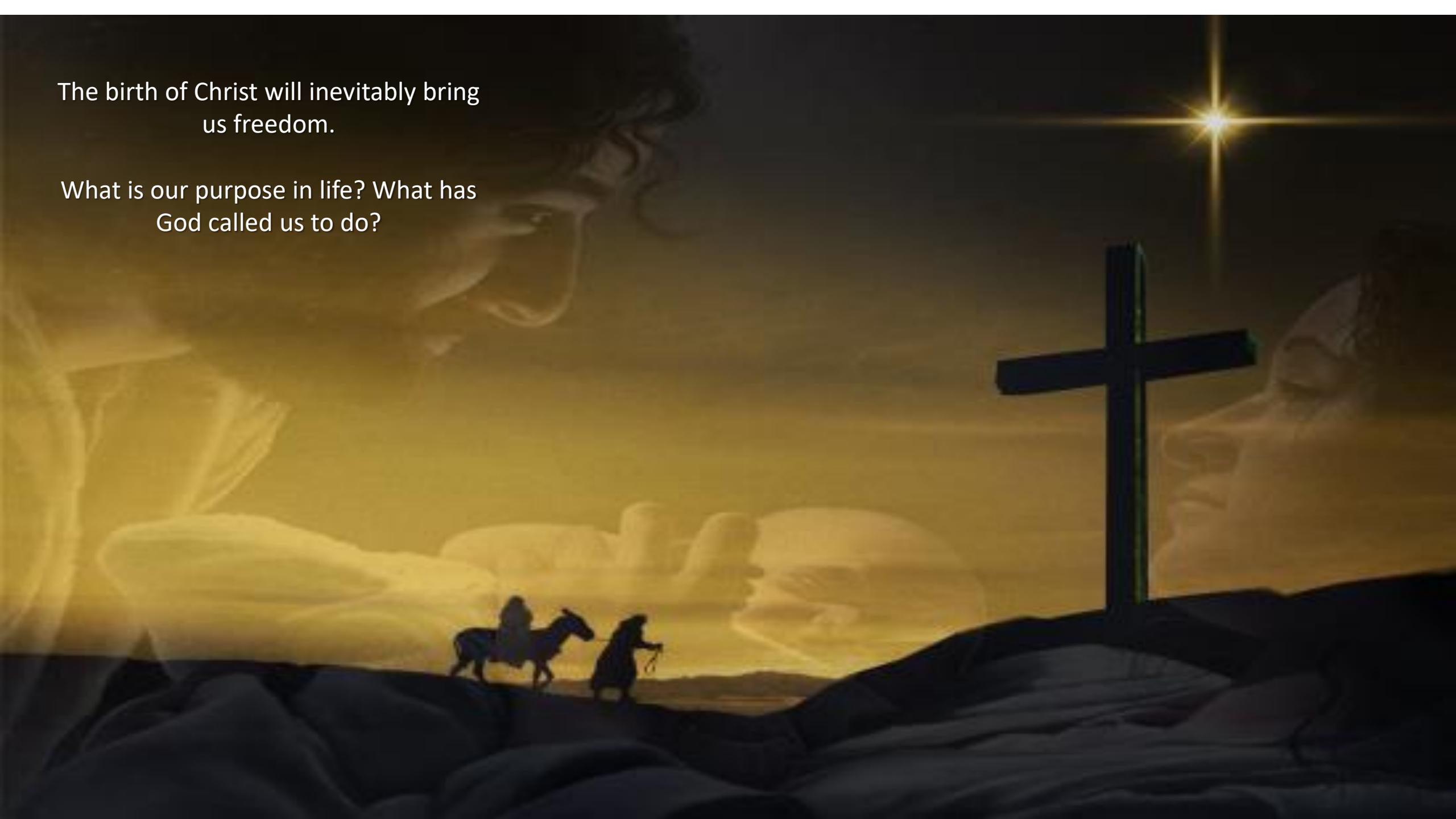
Christ brings us mercy.

How can we reflect Christ's mercy to us
to one another this Christmas season?

*God desires to
fill us with ***His*** Light,
His Power — to fill us
with ***Himself***.*

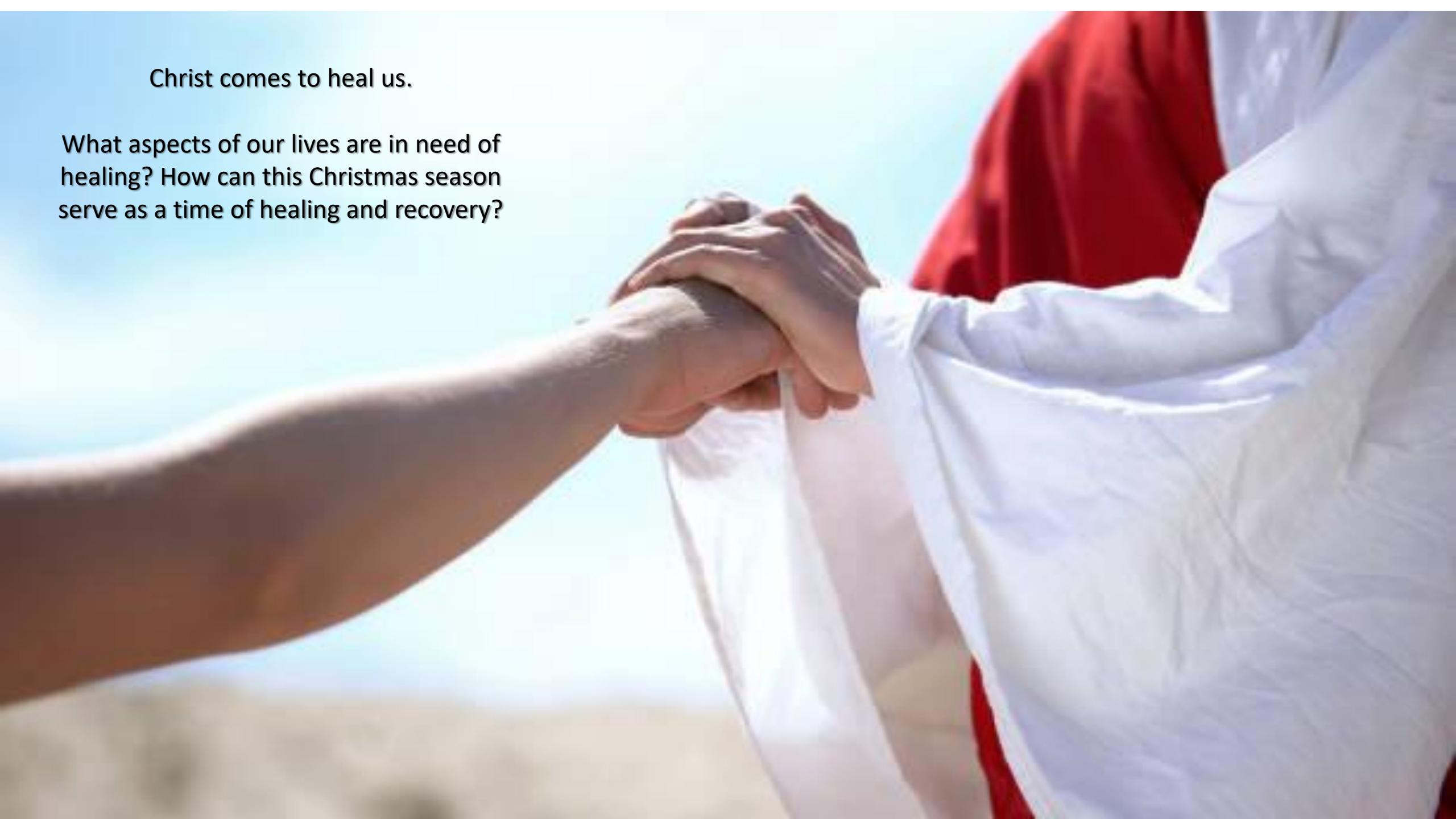
- Shadia Hrichi





The birth of Christ will inevitably bring
us freedom.

What is our purpose in life? What has
God called us to do?



Christ comes to heal us.

What aspects of our lives are in need of healing? How can this Christmas season serve as a time of healing and recovery?



God is our
merciful Father
and the source
of all comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:3b

Regardless of all the preparations and jobs to be done
leading up to Christmas ... don't forget to enjoy
Christmas ... and not just try and get through it!

Christmas
JOY!



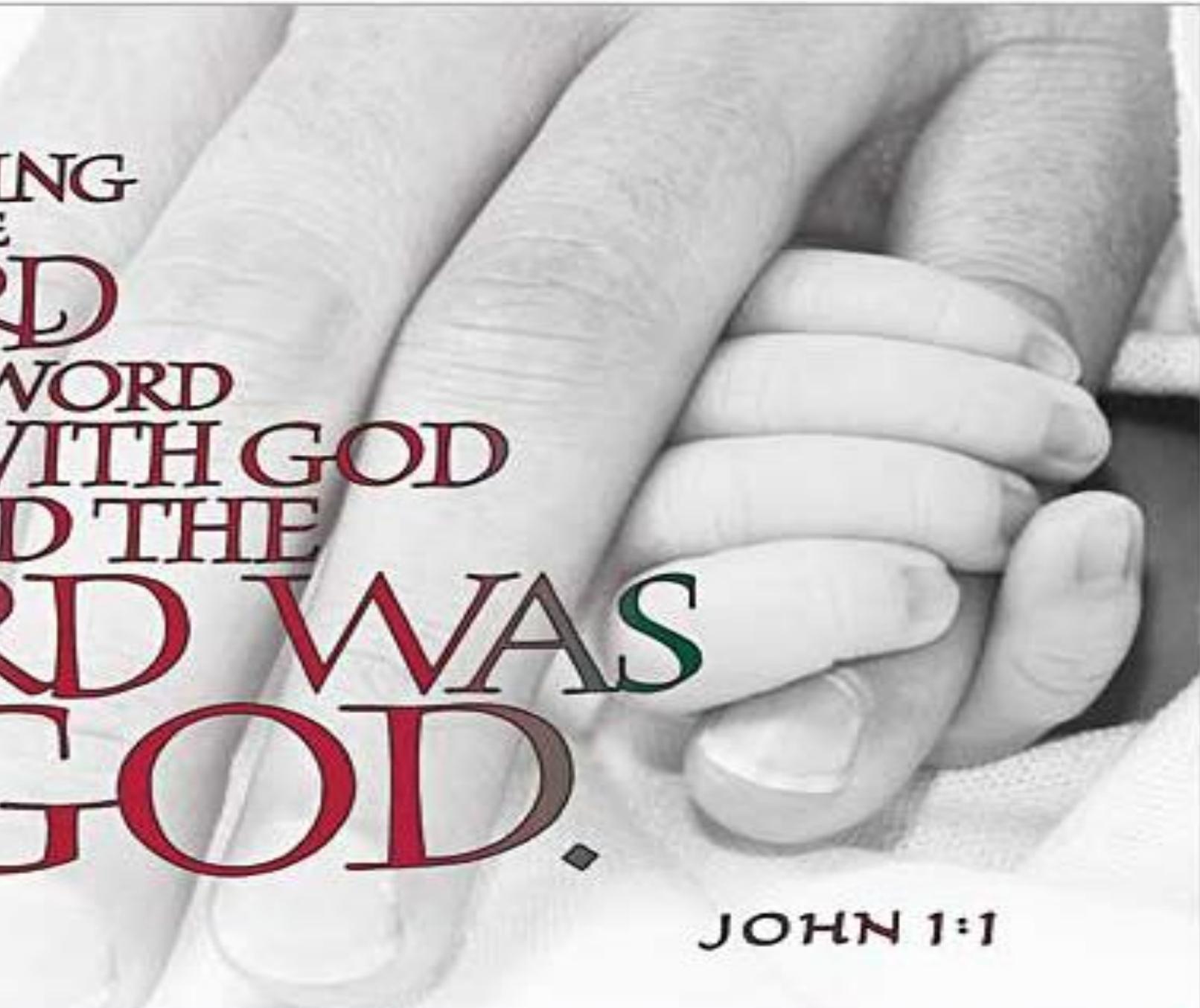
LUKE 2

“BLESS US LORD, THIS CHRISTMAS,
WITH QUIETNESS OF MIND;
TEACH US TO BE PATIENT
AND ALWAYS TO BE KIND.”

- Helen Steiner Rice

CHRIST





**IN THE
BEGINNING
WAS THE
WORD
AND THE WORD
WAS WITH GOD
AND THE
WORD WAS
GOD.**

JOHN 1:1



Christ is the Son of David.

God has promised us something
special ... the gift of His Son ... from
the line of King David. ?

JESUS CHRIST

is the reason for
the season...

Matthew 1:21-23

Christ is our hope.

What are you hoping for this Christmas? Given our experience last year ... perhaps just a 'normal' Christmas?



Hope



CHRISTMAS SINGERS



JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

Christmas is as much about the 2nd coming of Christ as it is the 1st arrival. How can we welcome Christ into our homes this year?

The background of the image features a landscape with rolling green hills under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The lighting suggests a bright, possibly morning or afternoon, outdoor setting.

LONGING FOR
Christ's return



Fr Michael:

A Reading from the Gospel according to
Luke

After the angels had departed from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Come, let us go to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” And so they set off in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

When they saw the child, they recounted the message that had been told them about him. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. As for Mary, she treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

Gospel Reflections:

'We won't have a Christmas this year.' [Angus Neal]

Pope Francis on the Christmas crib [Jim Doust]

Reflection by Fr Michael

The Lord's Prayer:

All: 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. Amen.

Final Blessing [Fr Michael]

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women."

POPE FRANCIS



Merry
Christmas

