

# Church Together

The People Of God And Spiritual Gifts

9th March 2025



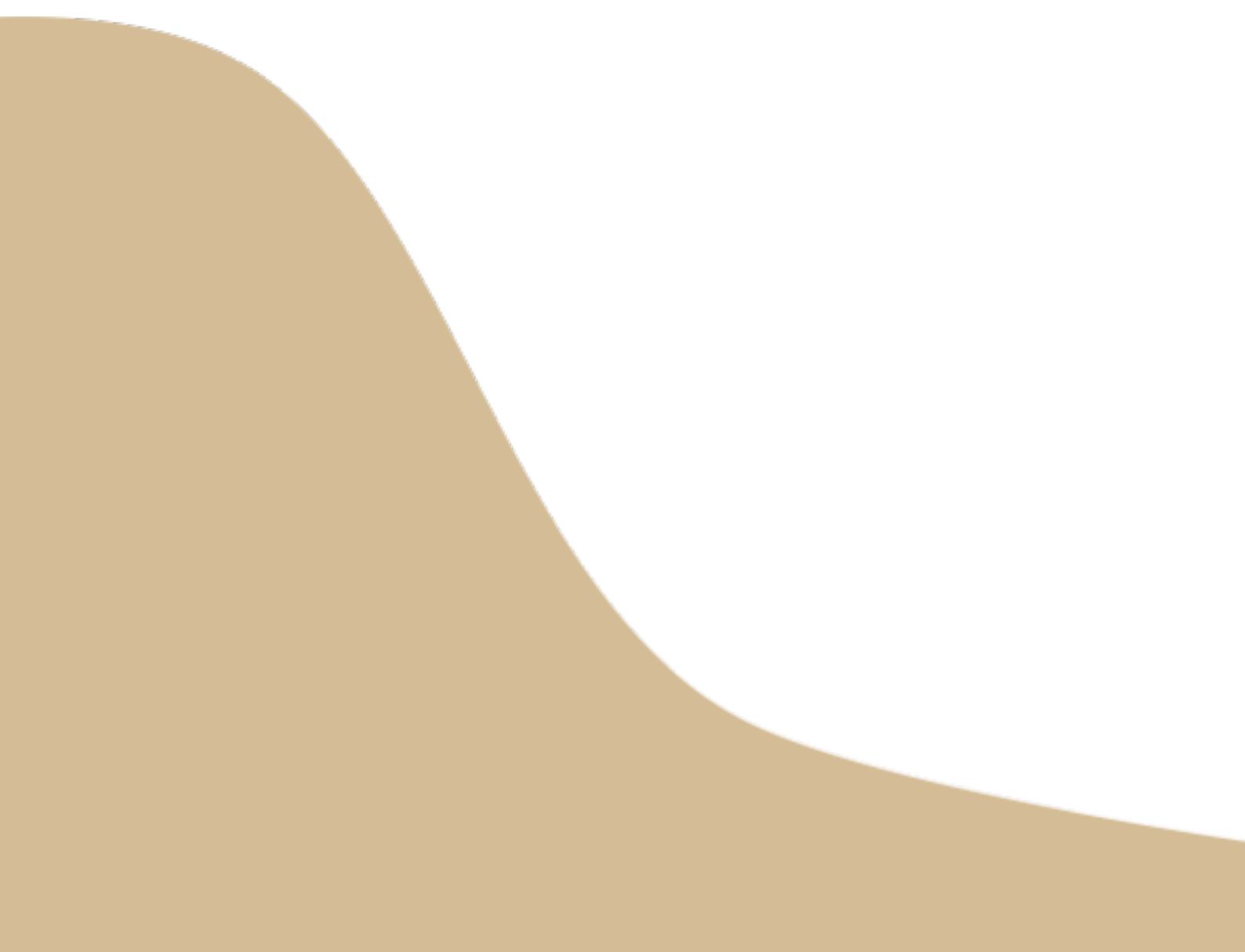
# Welcome

In today's Service we will be looking at: **Ephesians 4 v. 7 - 16**

The theme for our service today is: **The People Of God And Spiritual Gifts**

Today our service also includes: **Communion**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Identify The Spiritual Gift That God Has Give To You!**



# Call To Worship

## Isaiah 40 v. 28 - 31 NLT

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,  
The Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
His understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,  
And strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,  
And the young will fall exhausted;

But those who wait for the Lord  
Shall renew their strength,

They shall mount up with wings  
Like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint.

# Opening Prayer

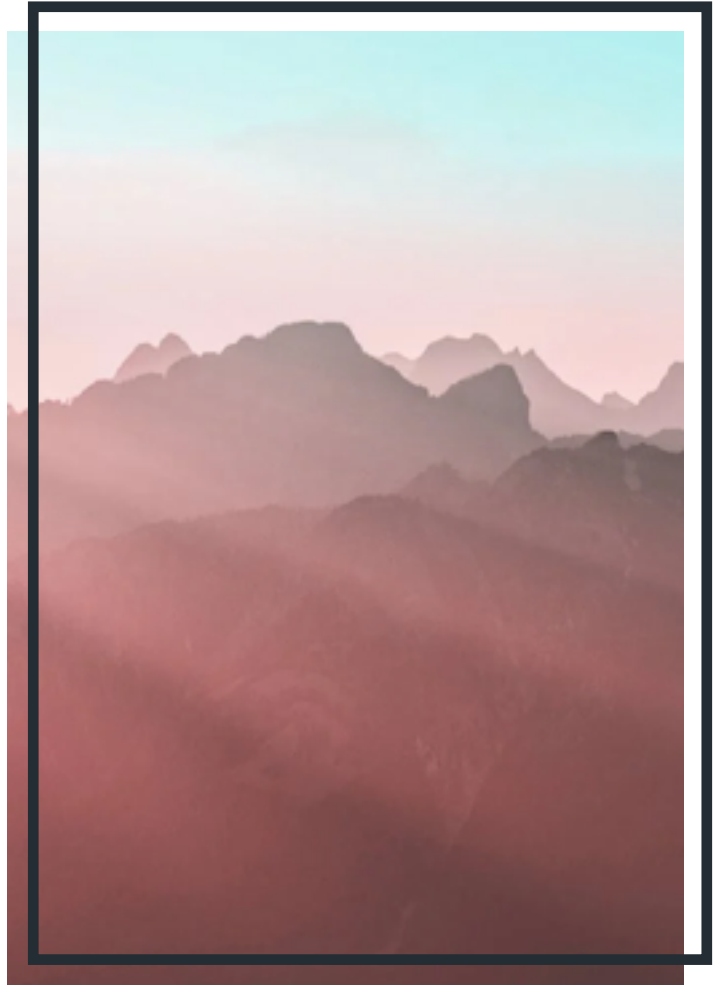
We invite you Holy Spirit to move freely amongst us today. Come dwell in each of our hearts. Equip us, challenge us, comfort us and teach us. As we read your word today, inspire us as we learn more about your majestic ways and the many gifts that you bring to us. Father, as we meet now may we behold Your beauty and encounter your grace and love. Thank you that today we dwell in your kingdom and live in your presence and love. Thank you that as we gather together we join with all Christians across the world to glorify your Holy name.

**Amen**

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# Song Suggestion

Amazing Grace, How Sweet The  
Sound



# Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

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If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



# Listing of Spiritual Gifts

## Romans 12

Encouragement  
Giving  
Leadership  
Mercy  
Prophecy  
Service  
Teaching

## 1 Corinthians 12

Administration	Apostle
Discernment	Faith
Healing	Helps
Interpretation of Languages	Knowledge
Languages	Miracles
Prophecy	Teaching
Wisdom	

## Ephesians 4

Apostle	Evangelism
Pastor	Prophecy
Teaching	

## 1 Peter 4

Serving  
Teaching

# Bible Reading

## **Ephesians 4 v. 7 – 16 NIV**

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

9 (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? 10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



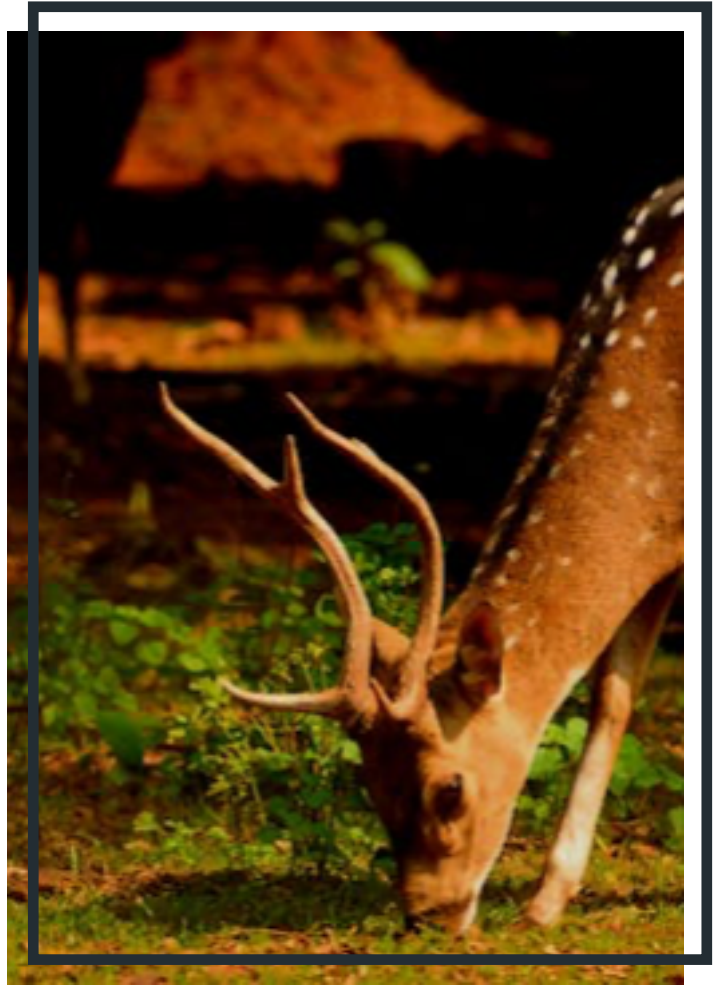
God has given each of you  
a gift from his great variety  
of spiritual gifts. Use them  
well to serve one another.

A hand holding a glowing lightbulb against a sunset background. The lightbulb is illuminated, casting a warm glow. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The hand is positioned in the lower right, holding the base of the lightbulb.

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# Song Suggestion

What A Friend We Have In Jesus



# Communion

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty'. **Romans 5 v. 8** also tells us: 'God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us'.

## **An Invitation to the Table:**

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body, his People.

## **A prayer of Approach:**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret is hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

## **As we prepare to receive the bread and the cup, we hear the words of The Institution:**

The Apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper, when he says: 'For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body

that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me'. In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **1 Corinthians 11 v. 23 - 26**

**A Prayer of Thanksgiving before we eat the bread and drink the cup:**

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life and ministry, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power in the lifting of the downtrodden, and the healing of the sick, and the loving of the loveless. We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross, for the redemption of the world, and for your raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall share. We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world and signs of your transforming love. Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we might be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his body. This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

**WE NOW SHARE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND SHARE AND DRINK OF THE CUP**

**A Final Prayer of Acclamation:**

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we confess. Your final coming we await. Glory be to you, O Christ. Amen.

# Church Together

## Thought

The giving and receiving of gifts are a lovely part of human life.

Paul tells the elders of the church at Ephesus that Jesus said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' as recorded in **Acts 20 v. 35**. I wonder if you agree with that?! I'm sure that people whose gifts are merely what they, themselves, like and enjoy, don't have nearly as much pleasure as those who take trouble and thought to find a gift that is just right for the recipient. A truly loving gift brings joy to both the giver and the receiver.

In **Ephesians 4 v. 7 - 16**, the church is in view, and it is made clear that when God gives through Christ, no - one is left out, as we can see from **Ephesians 4 v. 7**.

We also read that the gifts are not for individuals, but for the Church as a whole. Some are gifted to be apostles, others to be prophets, etc, but they are all gifted for one purpose, and we find that in **Ephesians 4 v. 12**, which says: 'to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ is built up'. That one purpose has several strands.

It is in God's heart that his people should find 'unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God'. He desires that these people as one church become mature Christians, fully adequate to fulfil the purpose of God, as recorded in **Ephesians 4 v. 13**. There is still something more! God is not satisfied, it seems, until his people, the

church, attain 'to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ'.

What exactly that means may be open to debate, but its impact upon us must surely be challenging and full of inspiration. We know only too well that we are still far from being anything that matches Christ in all his fulness. But we are not called to become what God wants us to be by any human strength or wisdom.

God has given his gifts some are listed in **Ephesians 4 v. 11** and he has distributed them as he sees best. We must accept these gifts as he has allocated them. We must also pray and work together patiently and persistently, keeping our eyes on Jesus, always longing that his will, not ours, is done.

The sermon is based on **Ephesians 4 v. 7 – 16**. God's gifts are for building up the church, as we have said, and which is found in **Ephesians 4 v. 12**.

Churches can look strong, when they are really overweight, and over-developed rather than mature. Each point about building the body of Christ is based on a pair of visual aids – a good gift and a fake gift. So, let's look at what that really means for us today.

## **WEIGHTS, NOT STEROIDS**

Show a weight-lifter's dumbbell and a packet of pills. Using an exercise plan, fitness comes slowly, but if we get good advice, it is successful and lasting. Steroids are a shortcut, making us seem strong in the short term but doing long term damage.

**Ephesians 4 v. 13b** tells us that Christian maturity comes slowly. We can see from **Ephesians 4 v. 11** that as churches we need good preachers and Bible teachers.



We must not be afraid of handling 'weighty' issues, even if they are very hard to grapple with.

Similarly, **Ephesians 4 v. 14** tells us that we must not be always chasing after the latest fad in church life. We cannot neatly package the truth about being a Christian and get everyone to swallow it!

### **GOOD FOOD, NOT DIET DRINKS**

Show a plate of nutritious food and a magazine advertisement for weight control products. Variety is important. We eat food with different textures as well as nutritional content. In the long term a liquid diet is not good for us because it does not help us face the real issues about healthy eating, and it is very boring.

Because the church 'body' needs variety, God gives many different gifts to many different people, as we read in **Ephesians 4 v. 7, 11**. Ideally, each contributes to church life in a different way.

### **ILLUSTRATION**

Someone once wrote the following thought: Gifts must be used. Knowing how much I enjoy collecting earrings, my teenage son gave me some in the form of red pencil sharpeners. Several months later I had not worn them, and he bought me a second identical pair in yellow. Was he trying to tell me something? I did like them, but when could I wear them? The suitable occasion arose during a children's summer club, when a different pair of wacky earrings each day was totally appropriate. Other strange gifts appeared that week as well, as people discovered they could act and sing and tell jokes. God's gifts are like that. Some are not what we would have asked for. Some



are embarrassing to bring out in public. Some, like new skills, are just waiting for the right moment to be practised. We need courage and a sense of timing to get it right. But never disappoint him who gave you such riches.

When this does not happen when one person or group does everything, the church is weak, perhaps boring, and those who are doing the work burn out! Some churches embrace a lot that is good, but there are all sorts of things left undiscovered because people are not encouraged to use their talents.

Even when they cause difficulties, our differences need not damage our unity, as we read in **Ephesians 4 v. 13a**. God's way of dealing with them is total honesty, as we are told in **Ephesians 4 v. 15**, and if we do that we grow in Christ!

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# Song Suggestion

Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning



# Prayers Of Intercession

Lord accept our lives just as we are, with all our faults and failings, but also with our talents and our strengths and use us for your service to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. Heavenly Father, give us gifts that are from you Holy Spirit that we might be a blessing to you and others that we meet in our spiritual journey. We thank you Lord for all the many varied gifts and talents that we have received from you. Help us we pray in the mission of your church here at Salendine Nook, that we may not be afraid to share the wonderful message of your salvation with all those we meet throughout this coming week.

Loving Lord, we also pray for the many varied churches here in Huddersfield and the surrounding areas. We pray that during this period of Lent we may work together more closely to use the different skills that each church has in order that your Kingdom may grow here in this part of Yorkshire. Guide us Lord and help us to see your vision. Help us to build on all that you have given us down through many years and past generations and guide us so that we may move forward in your name. Allow us to connect with the wider community of Salendine Nook and may we be positive in all that we seek to do in your name. Encourage us when the going seem to be hard and tough and let us be positive in the mission that you have called us too.

Heavenly Father, we are mindful that there are many places and situations within our world that need our prayers at this time, we especially remember the ongoing tension that surrounds the Ukraine and United States of America and Russia. Bring them peace and wisdom and help us through our prayers to pray for them and to offer our support in any way that we can.

We also pray this day for all those who work in the community to keep us safe. We remember in prayer, the emergency services, doctors and nurses. For voluntary services and for all who work in whatever way to bring relief, support, care and comfort to those who need it. Help us dear Lord, to be a people who are outward looking. Encourage us to see your plan for our future, both here in this church and in our own lives. Allow us to grow in love for you and for each other as we strive to worship you in new ways; help us to see ourselves as the family of God in this place. May our enthusiasm never wain, but give us a deep sense of your presence among us, we pray.

Finally Lord, we give thanks for our families and our friends. We thank you Lord for those times of relaxation and fun that we can have with those who love us and care for us. Help us dear Lord, to have those times when we can build up good solid relationships with those close to us, in order that we might be strengthened and that we may be a blessing to others as well.

All of these prayers we ask in your precious name.

**Amen**

# 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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
And the glory, forever and ever.

**Amen**

## FAITH

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### **What is a Spiritual Gift?**

A spiritual gift is a God-enhanced ability given to believers to serve God and his people. And if you're a Christian, you have one.

Unique

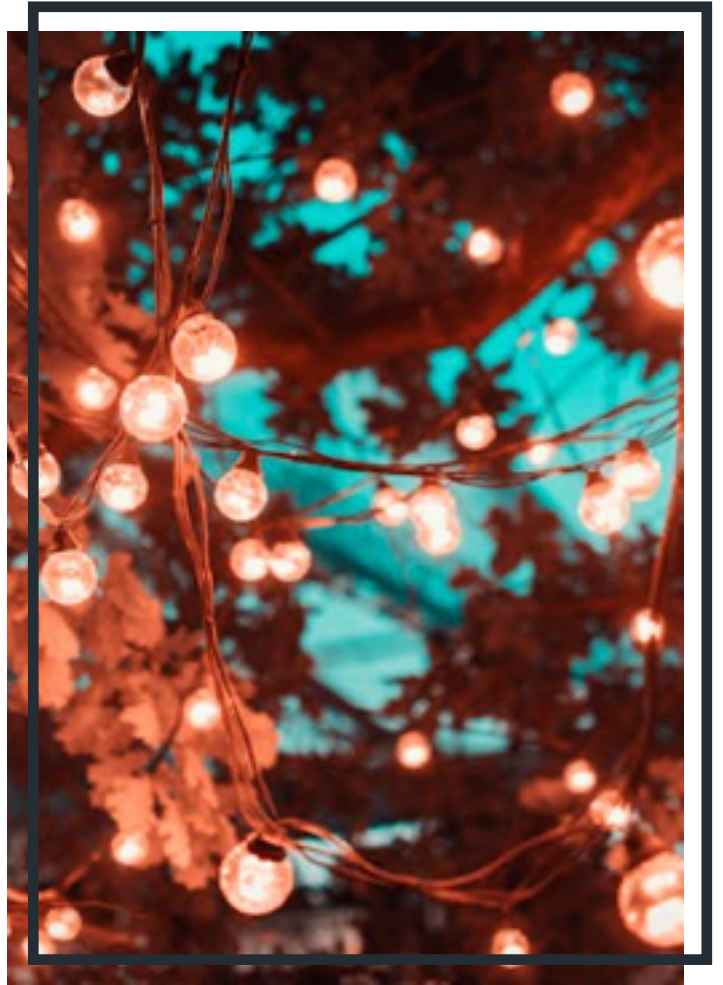
Purpose

Joy

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# Song Suggestion

Praise My Soul, The King Of  
Heaven





# Blessing

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May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

**Amen**