

*grace*







welcome

**everybody has  
a value to god**





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# Genesis 1 verses 27 and 31

God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God saw everything that he had made,  
and indeed, it was very good.

The reverence I owe to every human person is connected with the reverence I owe to God, who brings them into being. I stand before holy ground when I encounter another person – not because they are born with a set of legal rights which can be demanded and enforced, but because there is a dimension of their life I shall never fully see; the dimension where they come forth from the purpose of God into the world, with a unique set of capacities and possibilities.

*Being Disciples p64*



This means that whenever I face another human being, I face a mystery. There is a level of their life, their existence where I cannot go and which I cannot control, because it exists in relation to God along – a secret word he speaks to each one, whether they hear or refuse to hear.

*Being Disciples p64*







Take a piece of paper

Write three unusual things you like

Write three unusual things you don't like

Hang the paper on the line

Take some red and green stickers

Stick them on the sheets of paper

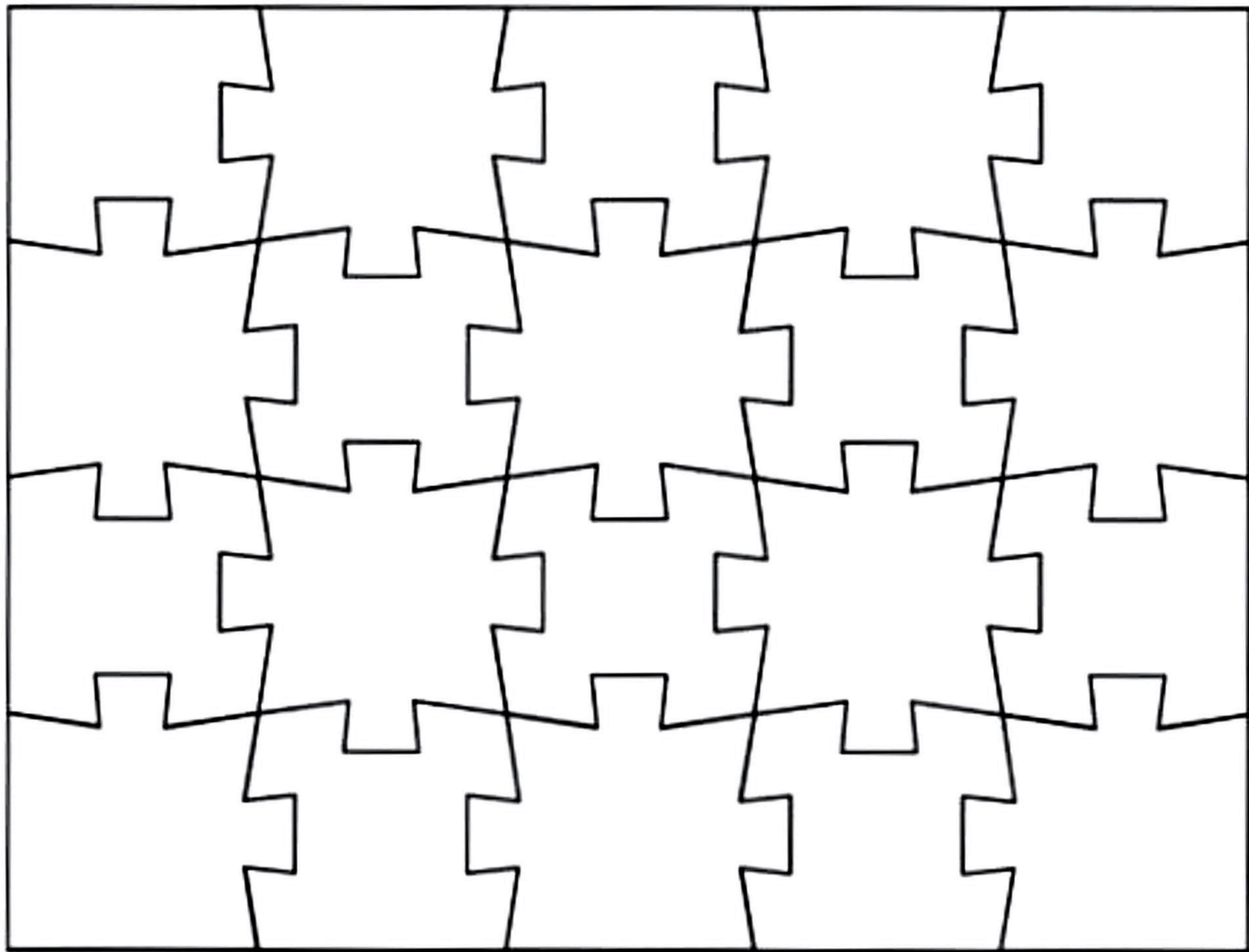
Green next to the things you agree with

Red next to the things you disagree with



**the gifts we are  
given are not  
just for  
ourselves**

communities of  
difference





# ROOTED, FLOURISHING & FRUITFUL IN CHRIST

When Jesus says,  
**'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.'**  
He sends us to go and make disciples,  
giving,  
serving,  
and joyfully blessing  
the world in his name.

When Jesus says,  
**'Love one another as I have loved you.'**  
He calls us to a joyful life of  
belonging,  
forgiving,  
and celebrating with one another.

When Jesus says,  
**'Abide in me as I abide in you.'**  
He invites us to come back home,  
stay,  
rest,  
obey, and be with him in his joy.



## FRUITFUL LIFE BRANCHES

Missional practices for growing in

- Justice
- Work
- Blessing

## FLOURISHING LIFE TRUNK

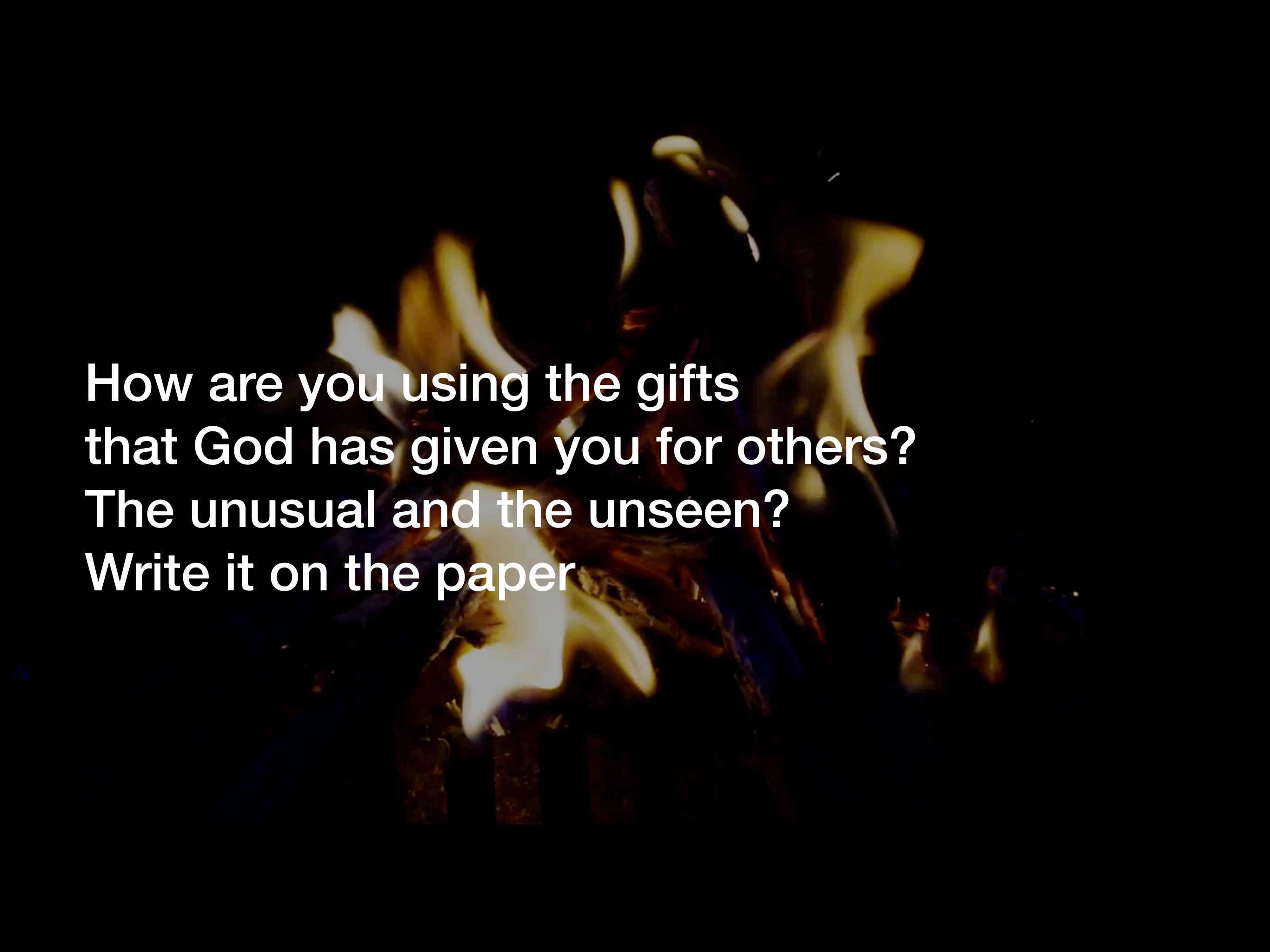
Communal practices for growing in

- Worship
- Reconciliation
- Sabbath

## ROOTED LIFE ROOTS

Centring practices for growing in

- Prayer
- Scripture
- Solitude



How are you using the gifts  
that God has given you for others?  
The unusual and the unseen?  
Write it on the paper



Light candles  
and place them on the words  
as a prayer of support

In Ephesians 1: 18 Paul describes:

*'having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints'*

And in 1 Corinthians he describes a community of Christians:

*'If one member suffers, all suffer together with it, if one member is honoured all rejoice together with it'*



a confession  
in a time of  
overwhelm

Forgive us when in the face of all that is happening in the world  
and in our lives  
we find hope hard to cling to

**Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**

Forgive us when we shy away from the losses we need to mourn,  
and when the inadequacy of our words of comfort  
stop us from standing alongside those who grieve

**Blessed are those who mourn for, they shall be comforted**

Forgive us when we've felt unequal to the task,  
or insufficiently informed to respond to a prompting from you

**Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth**



Forgive us when we've felt burnt out, apathetic, ambivalent  
or when we've mistaken irritation for righteous anger

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness  
for they shall be satisfied**

Forgive us when we have spent too long re-affirming the rightness of  
our opinions, or the wrongness of others'

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy**

Forgive us when our hearts and heads feel too full to process another  
event, to acknowledge another suffering, to continue to love

**Blessed are the poor in heart, for they shall see God**

Forgive us when peacebuilding seems like something for the professionals and we don't seize opportunities to demonstrate your love to others in our everyday interactions

**Blessed are the peacemakers  
for they shall be called children of God**

Forgive us when we virtue-signal our self-denial or adopt a cause that you haven't called us to

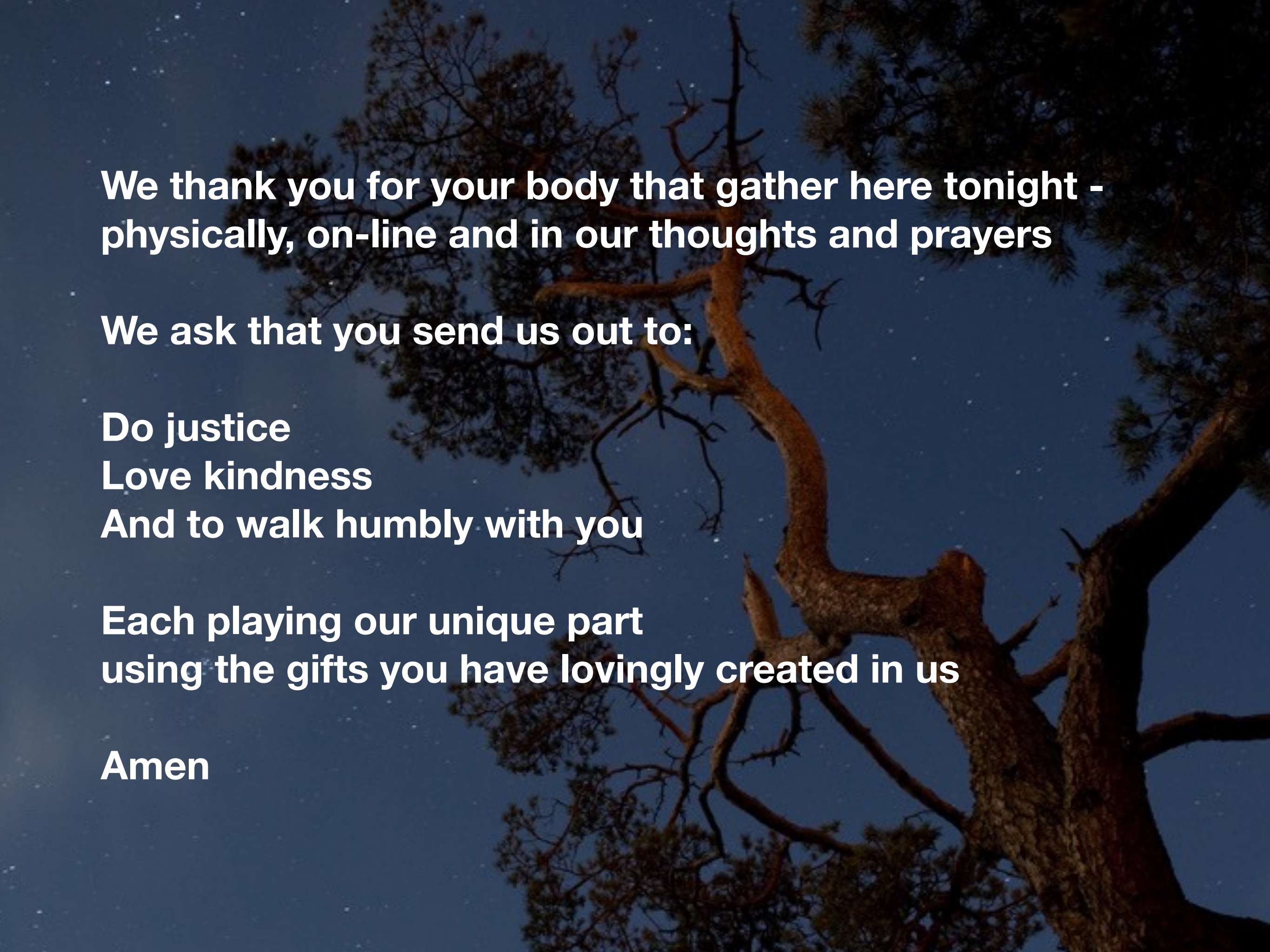
**Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**



A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a large, ancient tree. The tree's thick, textured trunk and its sprawling, dark branches dominate the right and bottom portions of the frame. The background is a deep, dark blue night sky, densely populated with numerous small, bright white stars. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

sending out





**We thank you for your body that gather here tonight -  
physically, on-line and in our thoughts and prayers**

**We ask that you send us out to:**

**Do justice**

**Love kindness**

**And to walk humbly with you**

**Each playing our unique part  
using the gifts you have lovingly created in us**

**Amen**







*grace*