



JOHN 15 ABICE

Yellowstone



Tetons



Glacier





Collection of Solos

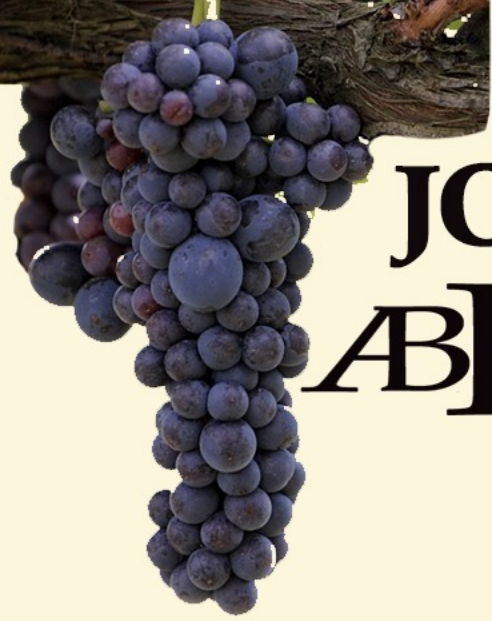


Desperate For & Terrified Of Deep Connection





JOHN 15 ABICE



JOHN 15 ABIDING

- **The Life of Abiding**
- **Barriers to Abiding**
 - **Mutual Abiding**
- **The Result of Abiding**

Jesus and his disciples just left the Last Supper (SW part of Jerusalem)
and were walking to Gethsemane (East of Jerusalem).
He would be hanging on a cross in less than 9 hours.

John 15:1-11

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

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⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

The Life of Abiding



⁴ Abide in me, and I in you.





VINE

BRANCH

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you.



Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father
and his mother and **HOLD FAST** to his
wife, and they shall become one flesh.



VINE

BRANCH

Joshua 23:8
but you shall **CLING** to the LORD your God
just as you have done to this day.



BRANCH

VINE

Joshua 23:8
but you shall **CLING** to the LORD your God
just as you have done to this day.

Dependent

Perpetual

Intimate

Barriers to Abiding

Attachment Disorder

Fear of Rejection

Barriers to Abiding

Stressed “Needy”

I have a fear of rejection
and need (and ask for) a lot
of affirmation in my
relationships.

My love languages are
“words of affirmation” and
“physical touch”...

and “time”...
and “acts of service”...
and “gifts”

Barriers to Abiding

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Shame “Earned”

Love is shown through behavior. If we stop doing nice things for one another, then it feels like we are “falling out of love”.

My love language is “acts of service”

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Shutdown “Needless”

I’m not a very emotional person and am uncomfortable with too much “intimacy”

Love languages are for the insecure and weak

Barriers to Abiding

Stressed “Needy”

I’m pretty sure God loves me, but I often don’t think that he likes me. I pursue more experiences that affirm his presence and affection. When I don’t get the “spiritual high” it feels like God is distant.

God’s face is either a happy laugh or distant rejection.

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Shame “Earned”

I am close to God in my obedience. When I’m not doing the right things it feels like God can’t be near me because I’m too dirty. It seems like my behavior determines God’s view and acceptance of me.

God’s face is either approving or disappointed.

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Shutdown “Needless”

I am suspicious of (and uncomfortable with) emotions, so I focus on theology, which is easier, safer and controllable. I know biblically that God is with me, so I don’t need to “feel” his affection.

God’s face is glorious and kingly...and stoic.

Barriers to Abiding

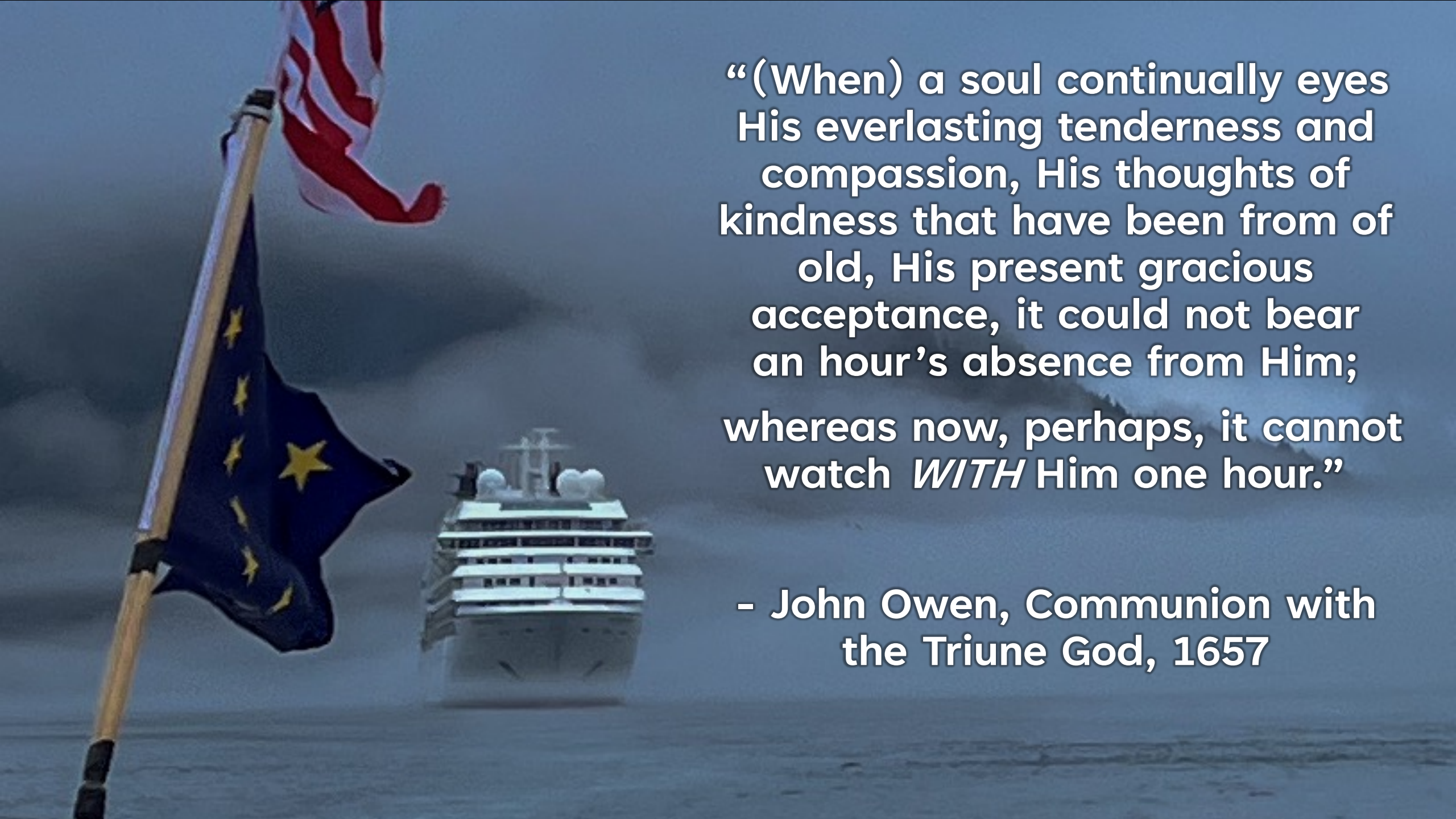
This is way too uncomfortable and vulnerable. It's not worth the risk.

Being (controllably) "transactional" is a lot easier.

There's not way God wants to be close with me. Nobody else does.

This is your Captain speaking...
This is your Cruise Director speaking...





“(When) a soul continually eyes
His everlasting tenderness and
compassion, His thoughts of
kindness that have been from of
old, His present gracious
acceptance, it could not bear
an hour’s absence from Him;
whereas now, perhaps, it cannot
watch *WITH* Him one hour.”

- John Owen, Communion with
the Triune God, 1657

Genesis

3:23 ...therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Matthew 1:23

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, **God with us**).

Matthew 27:46

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice...“My God, my God, why have you **forsaken** me?”

Matthew 28:20b

(Jesus' last words recorded by Matthew)
And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age.”

Mutual Abiding

John 14

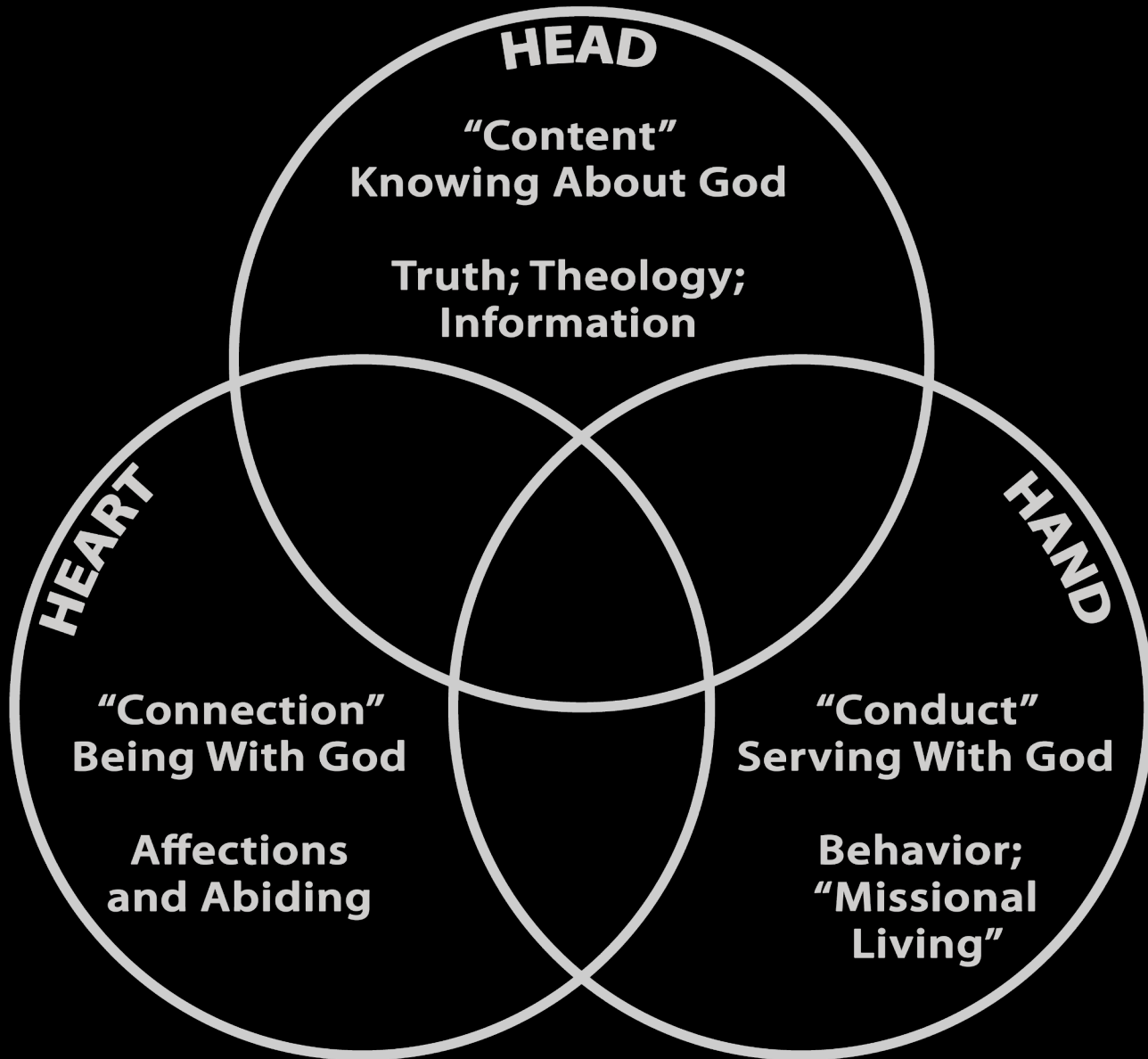
¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, *for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

**Jesus knows that
in just a few hours
they will 100%
FEEL abandoned.**

All Believers already have God Himself ABIDING IN YOU!
You already have ALL OF HIM!

He IS abiding in me.

How can I abide in Him?



⁷ If you abide in me,
and ***my words abide in you***,
ask whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you.

- Time
- Conversation
- Meditate
- Practice

The Results of Abiding

Full of Fruit

⁸ By this my Father is glorified,
that you *bear much fruit* and so
prove to be my disciples.

Full of Joy

¹¹ These things I have spoken to
you, that my joy may be in you,
and that your *joy may be full*.

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Galatians 5:22-23a

But the fruit of the Spirit is

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness,
Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control...

Over the
long haul,
are these
fruits
blooming?

I need help.

“Abiding” is not the word that describes my relationship with Jesus.



² Every branch **in me**
that **does not bear fruit**
he *takes away*...

“Lifts Up”

To ABIDE is to live out our mutual connection.

Are you grafted into the Vine?

Prayer of Abiding (Scotty Smith)

Lord Jesus, how can it be? How is it possible you love us just as much as the Father loves you? We believe, help our unbelief...

Abiding in your love is a command we'll gladly seek to keep, Jesus. Because you perfectly fulfilled the law for us, obedience is no longer a burden to us (1 John 5:3). We've been set free from performance-based living, for a life of whole-heart loving. Hallelujah!

Take us farther up and farther into the ways and means of grace. Not by quickly dipping one toe in sheepishly, but by getting saturated, lingering, and marinating in your endless, unwavering affection for us—that's our goal and joy.

May your Word increasingly become more precious to us than fine gold, and sweeter than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb (Ps. 19:10). For it warns us of the insanity of sin, and woos us unto a life of true freedom and joy (Ps. 19:7-13). May the pleasure we find in obeying you be only second to the pleasure we have in being loved by you.

Jesus, knowing you are praying for the fullness of our joy makes all the difference in the world, as we lean into the demands, surprises, and pains of this day. Thank you. So very Amen we pray, in your magnificent and merciful name.

Benediction

A 4000 years old tradition of giving a corporate blessing over God's people.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Please join us up front after worship
if you'd like for us to pray with you