A stylized night landscape. The sky is dark blue with a large, detailed moon in the upper right corner and several small yellow stars. The mountains are rendered in a golden, low-poly style. In the foreground, there are dark blue hills and a few trees on the left side.

Walking With Jesus Through...

THE WEEK THAT **CHANGED** THE WORLD

A Holy Week Devotional



Walking With Jesus Through...

THE WEEK THAT **CHANGED** THE WORLD

Jesus and His disciples made their way to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover in the same way thousands of other Jewish pilgrims did: by walking. Devout Jews visited the Holy City three times a year for feasts; Passover was observed in the Spring. The crowds gathering in Jerusalem had no doubt heard reports of this miracle-working rabbi from Galilee...how He fed multitudes, healed the sick, and even raised a man from Bethany from the dead!

What would He do in Jerusalem? Was He the anointed one the prophets foretold, come to deliver the Jews from the grip of Roman rule? The religious elite were suspicious of Him and ready to collude with Rome to eliminate Him. His followers were hopeful and eager to see Him come into his own as Israel's deliverer. The stage was set for something noteworthy...but no one expected the events that would unfold between one Sabbath and the next. The Gospel of Mark gives a vivid account of the Son of God as He walked through the week that changed the world. You're invited to walk this week with Him.

Palm Sunday

Jesus' Triumphant Entry

After observing the Sabbath before Passover just east of the city in Bethany, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a Sunday. And He drew a crowd. The people shouted “Hosanna” and celebrated wildly as He rode a donkey into Jerusalem. We know this day as Palm Sunday: it was the first day of the last week of Jesus’ earthly life.

Mark 11: 1-11

¹ As Jesus and His disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. ² “Go into that village over there,” He told them. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks, ‘What are you doing?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it and will return it soon.’” ⁴ The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside the front door. ⁵ As they were untying it, some bystanders demanded,

“What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶ They said what Jesus had told them to say, and they were permitted to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and He sat on it. ⁸ Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of Him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around Him were shouting, “Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”

¹⁰ Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David!

Praise God in highest heaven!”

¹¹ So Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into the Temple. After looking around carefully at everything, He left because it was late in the afternoon. Then He returned to Bethany with the twelve disciples.



Open up, ancient gates!
Open up, ancient doors,
and let the King of glory enter.
Who is the King of glory?
The Lord of Heaven's Armies—
He is the King of glory.

—Psalm 24: 9-10

LISTEN



*Blessed Is He (Who Comes
in the Name of the Lord)*
—Kingdom

It is right to praise You, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which You have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day He entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of Kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along His way. Let these branches be for us signs of His victory, and grant that we who bear them in His name may ever hail Him as our King, and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; Who lives and reigns in glory with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

—*The Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday: The Book of Common Prayer*

Monday

The Fig Tree and The Temple

Jesus' actions on Sunday set in motion a series of events that would lead not to glorious political victory for Him, but to His death. Walking again to Jerusalem on Monday He cursed a barren fig tree, then entered the temple as if He owned it, driving out merchants and insisting it was to be a house of prayer not just for some, but for all.

Mark 11: 12-19

¹² The next morning as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³ He noticed a fig tree in full leaf a little way off, so He went over to see if He could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. ¹⁴ Then Jesus said to the tree, "May no one ever eat your fruit again!" And the disciples heard Him say it.

¹⁵ When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, ¹⁶ and He stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. ¹⁷ He said to them, "The

Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."

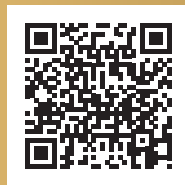
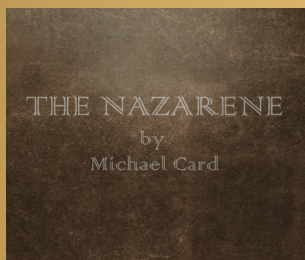
¹⁸ When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill Him. But they were afraid of Him because the people were so amazed at His teaching.

¹⁹ That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city.

In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit. -Isaiah 27:6



LISTEN



The Nazarene
-Michael Card

A Prayer for Faithfulness

Sing through me, O Spirit of God.

Call forth songs of praise.

Let my lips, my tongue, my life proclaim the glories of the Living One
Who died and conquered death;
the Risen One who leads me into life.

from "A Liturgy of Praise for Christ Who Conquered Death," *Every Moment Holy*
by Douglas McKelvey

Tuesday

Questions for the Rabbi

On Tuesday Jesus returned again to Jerusalem and to the temple, where the chief priests, scribes and elders confronted Him. Every question they posed was designed to challenge His authority or trap Him in some legal or theological quandary. Scripture tells us He answered every challenge well, so well that in spite of their wicked intent they marvelled at Him.

Mark 11: 27-33; Mark 12:13-17-19

²⁷ Again they entered Jerusalem. As Jesus was walking through the Temple area, the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders came up to Him.

²⁸ They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right to do them?"

²⁹ "I'll tell you by what authority I do these things if you answer one question," Jesus replied. ³⁰ "Did John's authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human? Answer Me!"

³¹ They talked it over among themselves. "If we say it was from heaven, He will ask why we didn't believe John. ³² But do we dare say it was merely human?" For they were afraid of what the people would do, because everyone believed that John was a prophet. ³³ So they finally replied, "We don't know."

¹² And Jesus responded, "Then I

won't tell you by what authority I do these things."

¹³ Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. ¹⁴ "Teacher," they said, "we know how honest You are. You are impartial and don't play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? ¹⁵ Should we pay them, or shouldn't we?" Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, "Why are you trying to trap Me? Show Me a Roman coin, and I'll tell you." ¹⁶ When they handed it to Him, he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" "Caesar's," they replied.

¹⁷ "Well, then," Jesus said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God."

His reply completely amazed them.

LISTEN



Man of Sorrows
-Nathan Tasker, *The Hymn Collective*



May the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart be pleasing to
You, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

-Psalm 19:14

Wednesday

An Anointing of Love
A Betrayal of Love

On Wednesday Jesus continued His daily teaching in the temple complex. That evening in Bethany, at the home of a man whom He had healed, Jesus was honored by a woman who poured out valuable perfume upon His head. Some criticized her for this act, but Jesus praised her. While her lavish expression of love prepared His body for burial, Judas' dealings with the Sanhedrin paved the way for His betrayal.

Mark 14: 3-9

³ Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over his head.

⁴ Some of those at the table were indignant. "Why waste such expensive perfume?" they asked.

⁵ "It could have been sold for a year's wages and the money given to the poor!" So they scolded

her harshly.

⁶ But Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to Me?"

⁷ You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to. But you will not always have Me.

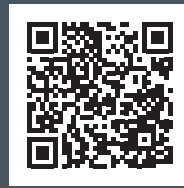
⁸ She has done what she could and has anointed My body for burial ahead of time. ⁹ I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed."

LISTEN



Alabaster Box, CeCe Winans
-Alabaster Box

LISTEN



Alabaster, Rend Collective
–Campfire

Mark 14: 10-11

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests to arrange to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹ They were delighted when they heard why

he had come, and they promised to give him money. So he began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.



Thursday

The Last Supper, Betrayal, & Arrest

On Thursday Jesus and His disciples returned to Jerusalem in anticipation of the Passover meal. In the evening, He shared that meal with the 12 men closest to Him. He predicted His betrayal, Peter's immanent denial, and His coming death and resurrection. Then they departed for Gethsemane, where the Son of God prayed, was betrayed, arrested, and led to a late night hearing in the home of the high priest.

Mark 14: 12-31

¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Where do You want us to go to prepare the Passover meal for You?"

¹³ So Jesus sent two of them into Jerusalem with these instructions: "As you go into the city, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ At the house he enters, say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with My disciples?'" ¹⁵ He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal." ¹⁶ So the two disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.

¹⁷ In the evening Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ As they were at the table eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you eating with Me here will betray Me."

¹⁹ Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, "Am I the one?"

²⁰ He replied, "It is one of you twelve who is eating from this bowl with Me. ²¹ For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays Him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!"

²² As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then He broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it, for this is My body."

²³ And He took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ And He said to them, "This is My blood, which confirms the covenant between God and His people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many. ²⁵ I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God."

²⁶ Then they sang a hymn and went

out to the Mount of Olives.

²⁷ On the way, Jesus told them, “All of you will desert Me. For the Scriptures say, ‘God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’

²⁸ But after I am raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.”

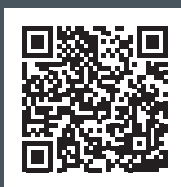
²⁹ Peter said to Him, “Even if everyone else deserts You, I never

will.”

³⁰ Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know Me.”

³¹ “No!” Peter declared emphatically. “Even if I have to die with You, I will never deny You!” And all the others vowed the same.

LISTEN



Come to the Table

—Michael Card, *Joy in the Journey*

Mark 14: 32-72

³² They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, “Sit here while I go and pray.” ³³ He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He became deeply troubled and distressed. ³⁴ He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.”

³⁵ He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting Him might pass Him by. ³⁶ “Abba, Father,” He cried out, “everything is possible for You. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want Your will to be done, not Mine.”

³⁷ Then He returned and found the

disciples asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Couldn’t you watch with Me even one hour?”

³⁸ Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

³⁹ Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before.

⁴⁰ When He returned to them again, He found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. And they didn’t know what to say.

⁴¹ When He returned to them the third time, he said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

⁴² Up, let's be going. Look, My betrayer is here!"

⁴³ And immediately, even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders.

⁴⁴ The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet Him with a kiss. Then you can take Him away under guard." ⁴⁵ As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus. "Rabbi!" he exclaimed, and gave Him the kiss.

⁴⁶ Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. ⁴⁷ But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear.

⁴⁸ Jesus asked them, "Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest Me? ⁴⁹ Why didn't you arrest Me in the Temple? I was there among you teaching every day. But these things are happening to fulfill what the Scriptures say about Me."

⁵⁰ Then all His disciples deserted Him and ran away. ⁵¹ One young man following behind was clothed only in a long linen shirt. When the mob tried to grab him, ⁵² he slipped out of his shirt and ran away naked.

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest's home where the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law had

gathered. ⁵⁴ Meanwhile, Peter followed Him at a distance and went right into the high priest's courtyard. There he sat with the guards, warming himself by the fire.

⁵⁵ Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could put Him to death. But they couldn't find any. ⁵⁶ Many false witnesses spoke against Him, but they contradicted each other. ⁵⁷ Finally, some men stood up and gave this false testimony: ⁵⁸ "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.'" ⁵⁹ But even then they didn't get their stories straight!

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus, "Well, aren't You going to answer these charges? What do You have to say for Yourself?" ⁶¹ But Jesus was silent and made no reply. Then the high priest asked Him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

⁶² Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Why do we need other witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have all heard His blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

"Guilty!" they all cried. "He

deserves to die!”

⁶⁵ Then some of them began to spit at Him, and they blindfolded Him and beat Him with their fists. “Prophecy to us,” they jeered. And the guards slapped Him as they took Him away.

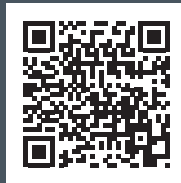
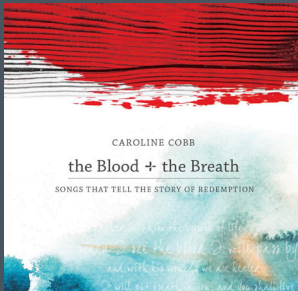
⁶⁶ Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by ⁶⁷ and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, “You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁶⁸ But Peter denied it. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a rooster crowed.

⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others, “This man is definitely one of them!” ⁷⁰ But Peter denied it again. A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, “You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean.”

⁷¹ Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know this man you’re talking about!” ⁷² And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know Me.” And he broke down and wept.

LISTEN



Gethsemane –Caroline Cobb
The Blood and the Breath

A Prayer for Mercy and Compassion

Lord God, of might inconceivable, of glory incomprehensible, of mercy immeasurable, of goodness ineffable; O Master, look down upon us in Your tender love, and show forth, toward us and those who pray with us, Your rich mercies and compassions. Amen

-John Chrysostom

Friday

Jesus Is Crucified

After sunrise on Friday, Jesus is taken before the full Sanhedrin, condemned to death and sent to Pontius Pilate (since the Jews were unable to carry out a death sentence). Pilate questioned Him briefly and sent Him to Herod, who then returned Him to Pilate in a mockery of justice. Condemned to die, He was tortured, mocked, and crucified like a common criminal. He died hours later, His body hurriedly buried in a borrowed tomb.

Mark 15: 16-41

- ¹⁶ The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment. ¹⁷ They dressed Him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on His head. ¹⁸ Then they saluted Him and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they struck Him on the head with a reed stick, spit on Him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. ²⁰ When they were finally tired of mocking Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him again. Then they led Him away to be crucified.
- ²¹ A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.)
- ²² And they brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull").
- ²³ They offered Him wine drugged with myrrh, but He refused it.
- ²⁴ Then the soldiers nailed Him to the cross. They divided His clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece. ²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified Him.
- ²⁶ A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ Two revolutionaries were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left.
- ²⁹ The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Ha! Look at You now!" they yelled at Him. "You said You were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days.
- ³⁰ Well then, save Yourself and come down from the cross!"
- ³¹ The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but He can't save Himself!" ³² Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe Him!" Even the men who were crucified with

Jesus ridiculed Him.

³³ At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock.

³⁴ Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, My God, why have you abandoned Me?"

³⁵ Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought He was calling for the prophet Elijah.

³⁶ One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to Him on a reed stick so He could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take Him down!"

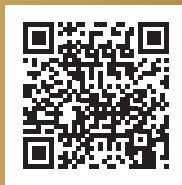
³⁷ Then Jesus uttered another loud

cry and breathed His last. ³⁸ And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

³⁹ When the Roman officer who stood facing Him saw how He had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ Some women were there, watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph), and Salome. ⁴¹ They had been followers of Jesus and had cared for Him while he was in Galilee. Many other women who had come with Him to Jerusalem were also there.

LISTEN



J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion*
Scene 5, The Crucifixion

See from His head, His hands,
His feet, sorrow and love flow
mingled down! Did e'er such love
and sorrow meet, or thorns
compose so rich a crown?

-When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Isaac Watts, 1707

Sunday

He Is Risen!

Jesus' death by crucifixion devastated His followers, crushing their messianic expectations. But on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came alone to Jesus' tomb and found it open...and empty. What appeared to be the end of the story was instead a new beginning. Jesus defeated death, ushering in a new kingdom. Because of His life, death, and resurrection, nothing would ever be the same.

Mark 16: 1-8

¹ Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³ On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

⁵ When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a

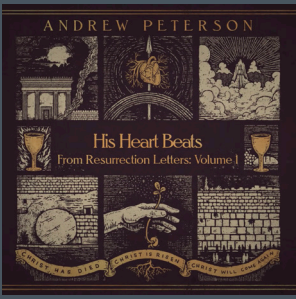
white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, ⁶ but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid His body. ⁷ Now go and tell His disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there, just as He told you before He died."

⁸ The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

Later manuscripts add:

Then they briefly reported all this to Peter and his companions. Afterward Jesus Himself sent them out from east to west with the sacred and unending message of salvation that gives eternal life. Amen.

LISTEN



His Heart Beats
—Andrew Peterson
from Resurrection Letters Vol I

XV Easter Dawn

He blesses every love that weeps and grieves
And now He blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognize the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears His gentle question, "Why,
Why are you weeping?" or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
"They took my love away, my day is night."
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The word that turns her night, and ours, to day.

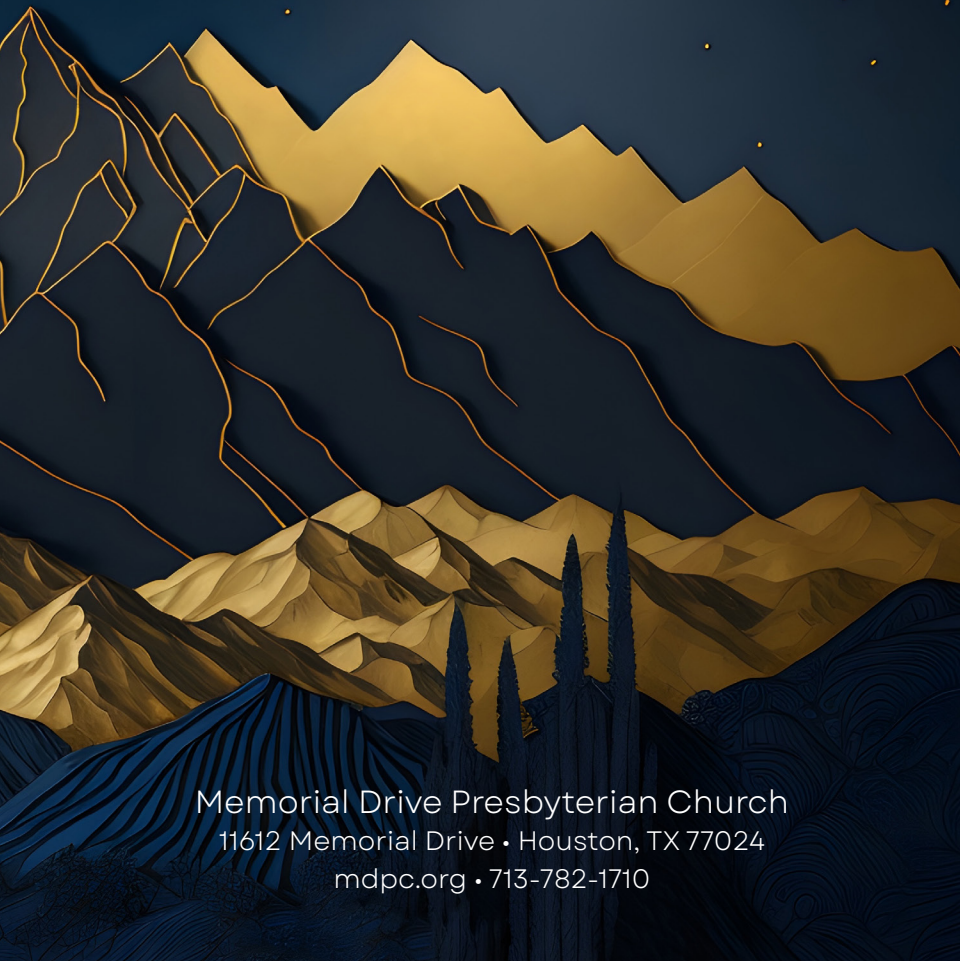
—Malcolm Guite, *Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year*

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

—Christ the Lord if Risen Today, Charles Wesley, 1739



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