



Welcome to Holy Hermits Online Worship

The 3rd Sunday of Advent - A Rose Sunday

"Joy"

Service Prep: Paul 8/12/25

Music: Paul

Proof-reader: Chris 8/12/25

Broadcaster: Paul

Backup Broadcaster: Lauren

Zoom Buttons: *Call out*

Chat Host: Lauren

Priest: N/A

Deacon: Lauren

Welcomer: Julie

Leader: Julie

Cantor: Jeremy

First Reader: Helen

Second Reader: Liz


Preacher: Lauren

Fellowship: Leonie

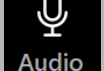
Safety Officer: Leonie




Attendance: *Call out*

Hospitality

Leader: Please mute  for the service unless invited to offer your voice as part of the service ministry




Have the video camera  on or off and turn the volume and brightness up or down on your device if things are too loud  or too bright  

Our Cantor acts as our voice,  offering the responses, in **Bold Text**, which we say together



Feel welcome to use the chat  and reaction emojis  

 Please take care of yourself in this space.  Come and go as you need 

 It is great to take rest in this space, so falling asleep is also OK 

 Remember, pastoral care is available to all in the community, if you'd like to speak to someone about anything spiritual.  Visit the [help page](#) at the website to reach out 

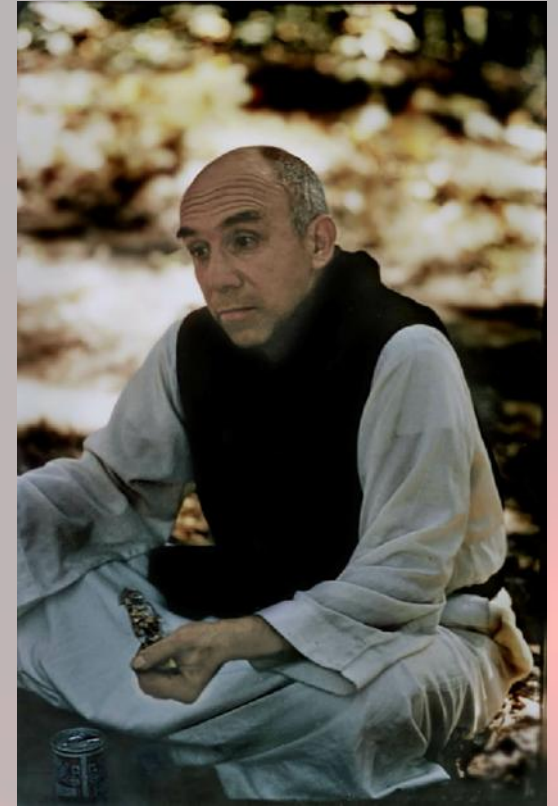
Our **Being Together ethos and safeguarding practices** can also be accessed on the website 

 Come as you are - we are all here together! 

Leader: Our Holy Hermit Highlights for today

Thomas Merton was born in Prades, in the French Pyrenees to a New Zealand-born father and an American-born mother who was a Quaker. Thomas' parents wanted him to be baptised in the Church of England. Unfortunately, both parents died when he was young. Thomas converted to Roman Catholicism in 1939 while at Columbia University, and in 1941 arrived at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky, USA run by strict Cistercian monks known as Trappists.

He spent 27 years at Gethsemani where he became the voice of social activism on issues regarding race, peace and civil rights, and in his later years, promoting East-West religious dialogue. He was a noted writer and then a hermit, after fame. He died during a trip to the Far East on December 10, 1968, on the 27th anniversary of his arrival at Gethsemani.



To read more about our Holy Hermits please click the link in the send out or go to our web site

Invitation

Leader: As we settle into worship let your breath be soft, your mind be still, and your heart be open to the presence of God.

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR9C93eYWE4>

Leader and Cantor unmute

The Greeting

Leader: The Lord is coming!
Prepare the way.

All: The Lord is coming!
We are making ready,

Gathering Prayer

Leader: In this joyful season of parties and celebrations,
we continue our Advent journey
and celebrate the joy that God gives to us
through the gifts of his creation,
his Son, the Lord Jesus, and his love.
Let us celebrate with joy and singing.

All: Lord Jesus, we pray that you would come to us by your
Spirit and fill us afresh with your joy. Take away our fear,
lift up our hearts, and grant us a fresh vision of your
glory. Come, Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.

The Trisagion

All: Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

Sentence

Leader: I invite our Cantor to proclaim the sentence for today.

Cantor:

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11.11

Prayer of Approach

All: Come Jesus, as the prophet promised,
come Jesus, fill us with joy.

Come, that the desert will rejoice
and flowers bloom in the wilderness.

Come Jesus, so that those who feel vulnerable
and sad can shout for joy, blossom and be glad in you.

Amen.



Leader unmutes

Our first song is
Fill Your Hearts with Joy and Gladness

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q71XKM_O9Ec



We stay on mute
Leader and Cantor mute

Preparing for confession

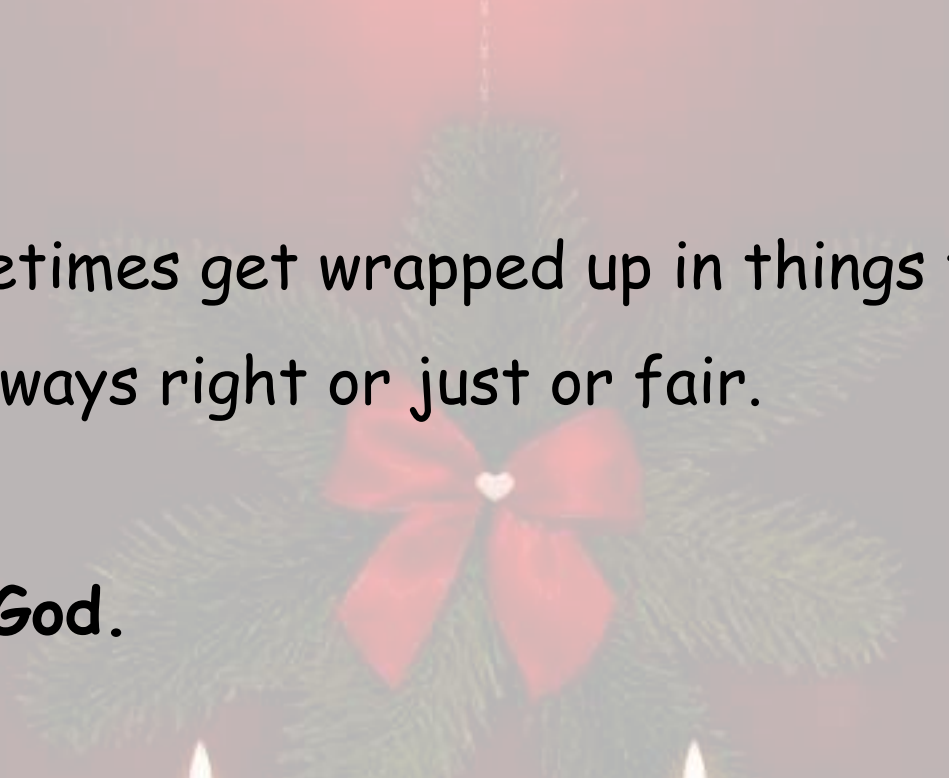
Leader: We sometimes want to rush to Christmas, not taking time to value the journey of Advent.

All: Forgive us, God.

Leader: We sometimes forget to prepare as we ought, to reflect and to seek, and to offer to help and support those who need it.

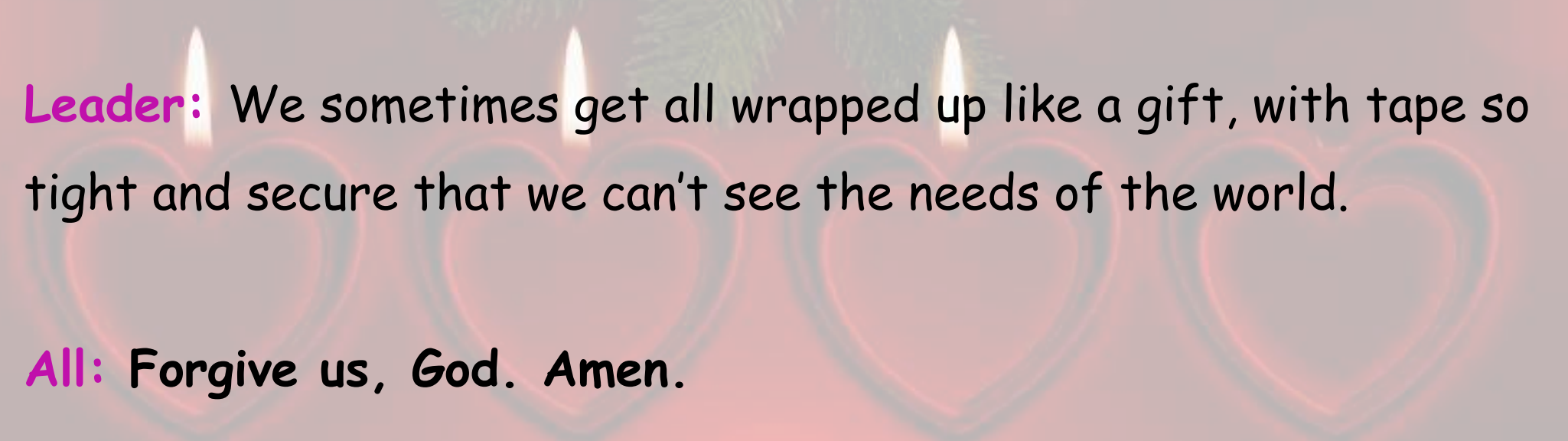
All: Forgive us, God.

Continue...



Leader: We sometimes get wrapped up in things that we want, but they aren't always right or just or fair.

All: Forgive us, God.



Leader: We sometimes get all wrapped up like a gift, with tape so tight and secure that we can't see the needs of the world.

All: Forgive us, God. Amen.

The Deacon Introduces Confession

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence may be kept...

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All: Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Words of Assurance offered by the Deacon

These words of assurance from the First Letter of John declare that:

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the perfect offering for our sin, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

(1 John 2: 1-2)

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the perfect offering for our sins.

(1 John 4:10)

Collect

Leader: Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love
on our journey to meet the One who is coming:
strengthen our weak hands,
make firm our feeble knees,
and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom,
so that our hearts may rejoice
as we behold the majesty of our God.

We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

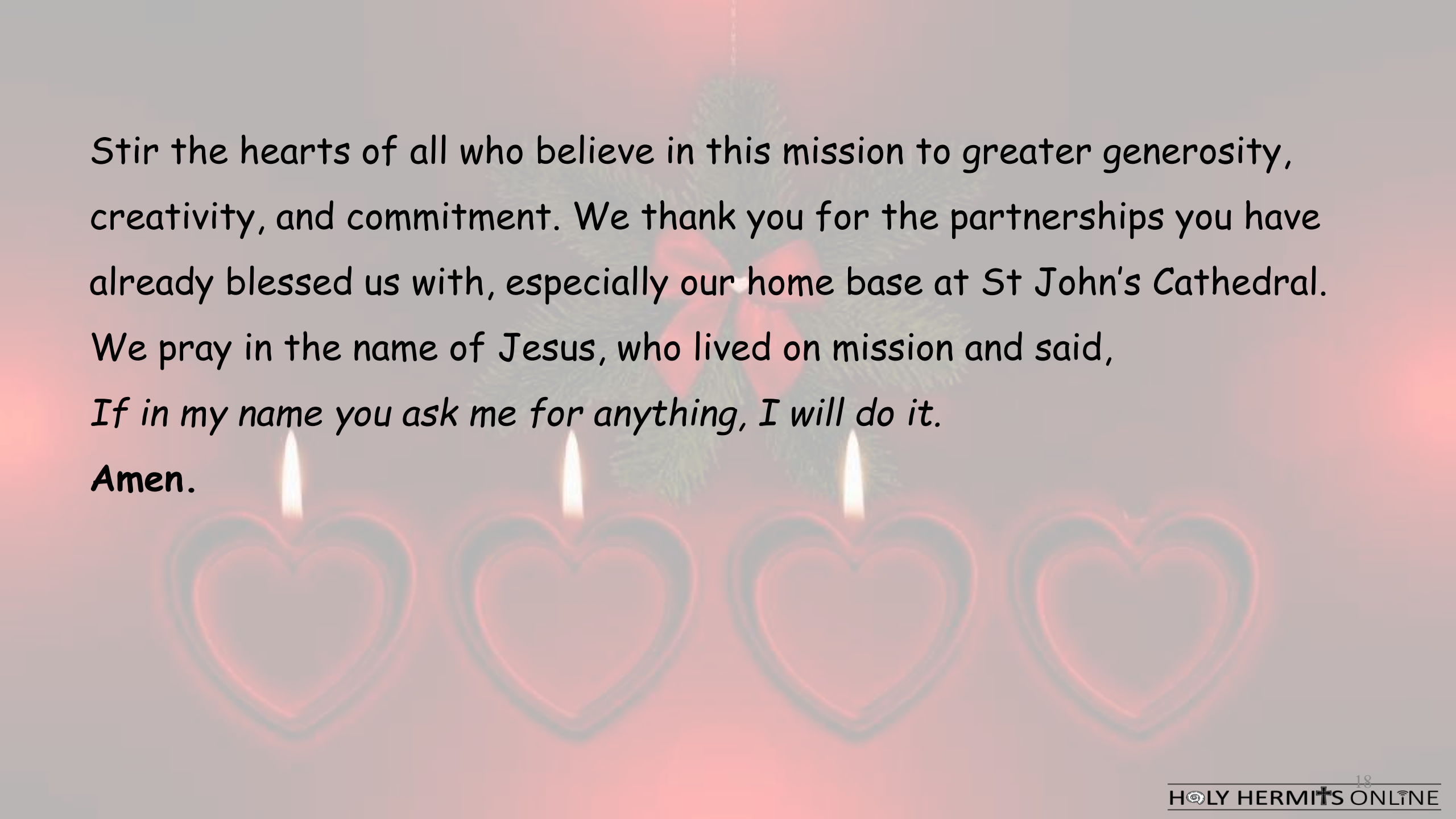
All: Amen.

Prayer for sustainability

Leader:

Generous God, We hold before you the financial stability and future sustainability of Holy Hermits Online. Guide us as we seek to grow our community's giving, so we may continue the work you have called us to—being together in this digital space. Show us where to place our energy as we explore new funding sources and fresh opportunities. Be present with us and those we meet as we reach out to charitable trusts and foundations, inviting their support for our outreach—especially to those unable to get to Church in person.

Continue...



Stir the hearts of all who believe in this mission to greater generosity, creativity, and commitment. We thank you for the partnerships you have already blessed us with, especially our home base at St John's Cathedral. We pray in the name of Jesus, who lived on mission and said,
If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Amen.

The 1st reader unmutes

Leader: I invite the 1st Reader to unmute and offer the 1st reading when ready.

Reader 1: The 1st Reading is from Isaiah 35.1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus

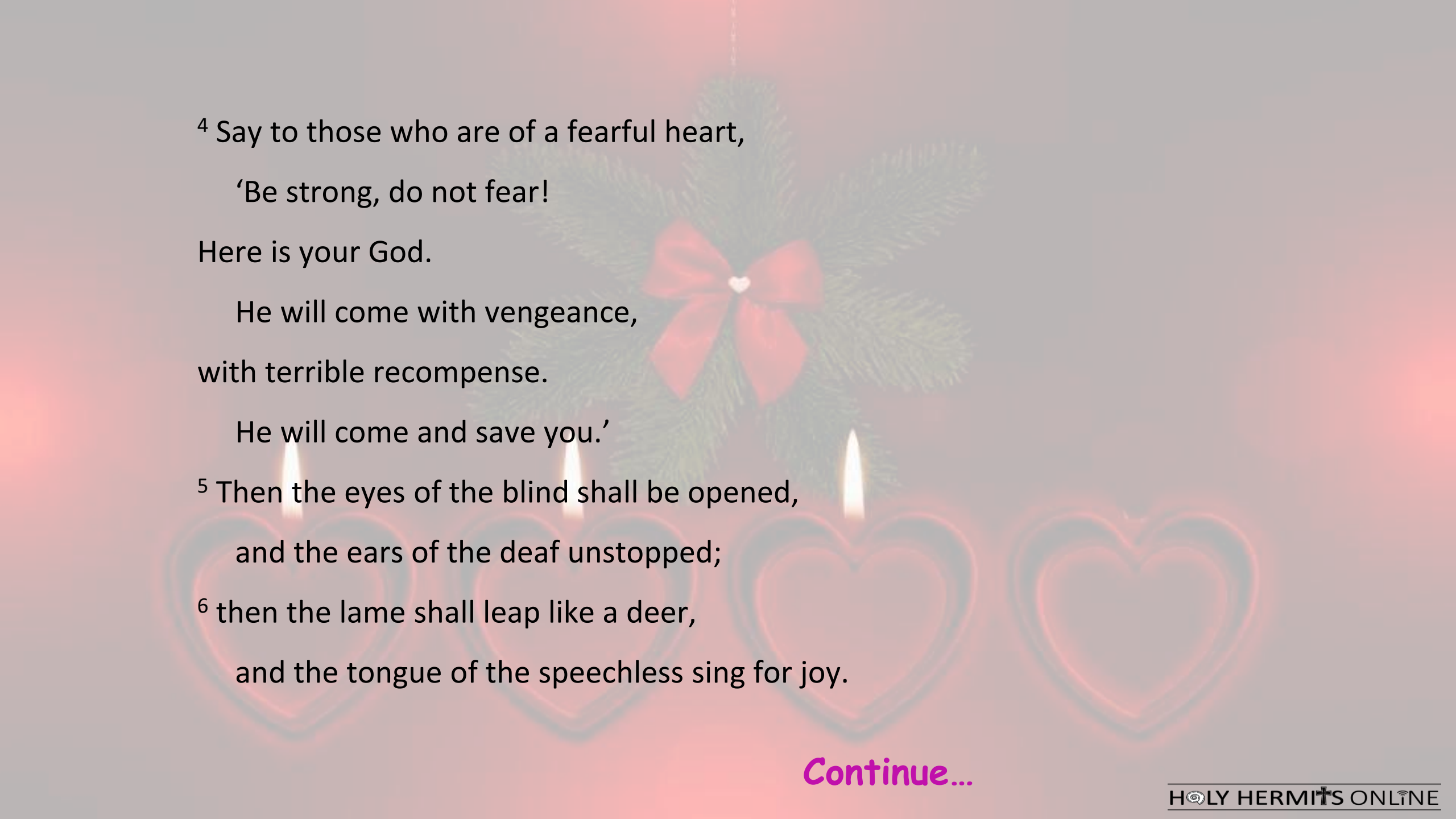
² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD ,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Continue...



⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

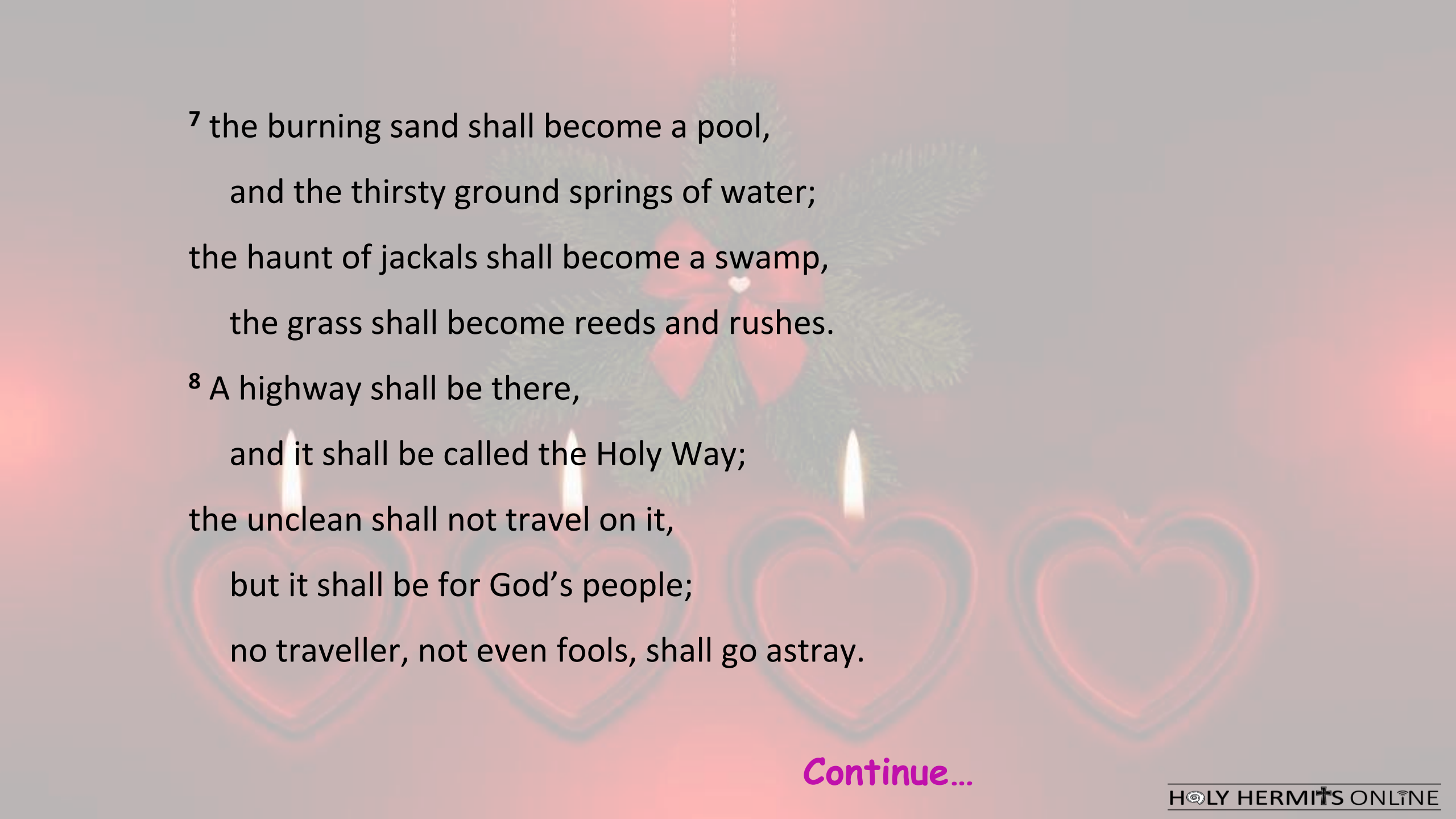
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

Continue...

The background features a soft, out-of-focus image of a green wreath with a red bow at the top center. Below the wreath, there are four heart-shaped candles with lit flames, arranged in a row. The overall color palette is warm, with soft pinks and reds.

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

Continue...

⁹ No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: We now say Mary's Song antiphonally, I invite the 1st Reader to lead, and we will all respond with the **Response in Bold** along with our cantor as our voice.

Song of Mary

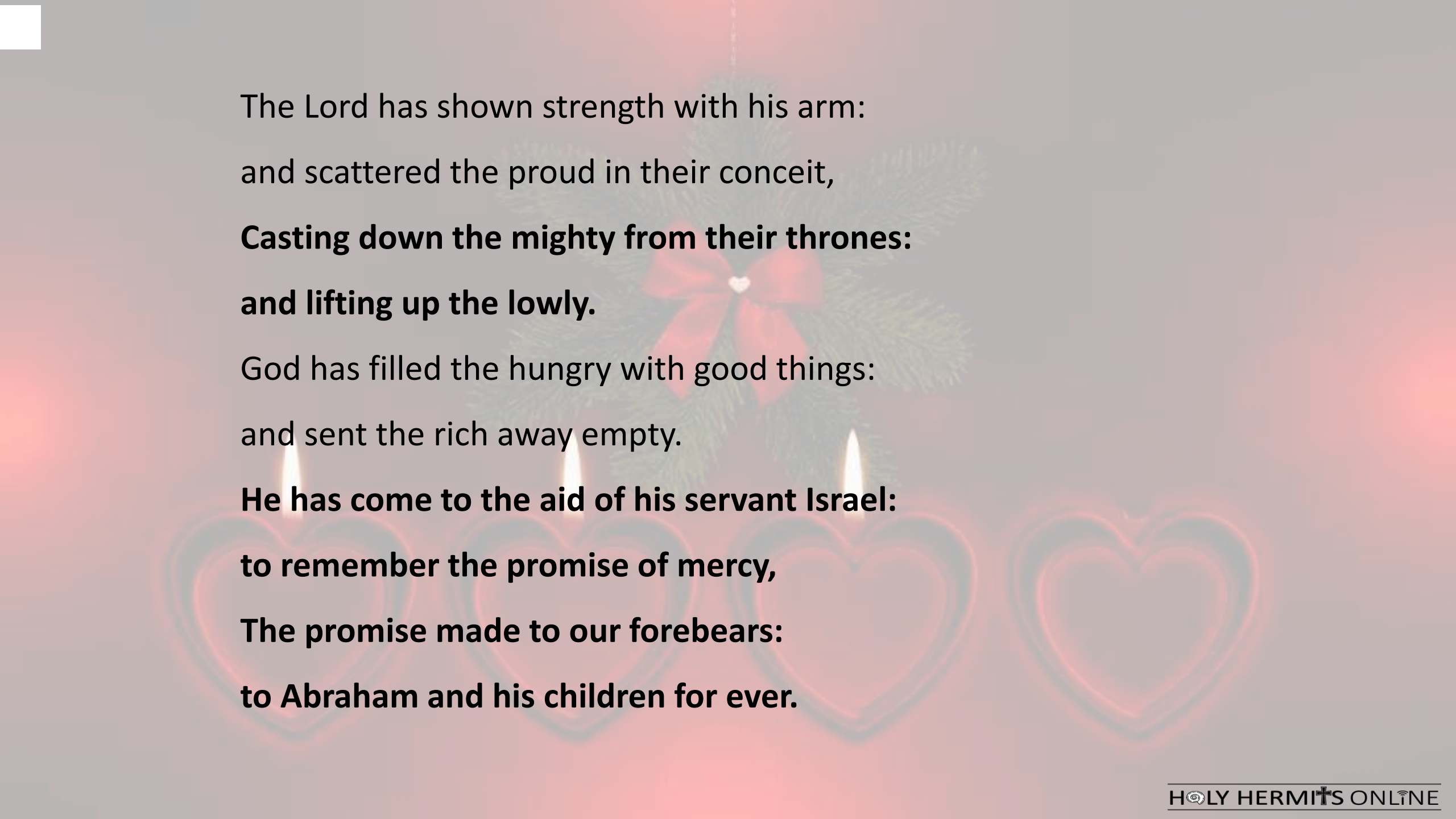
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

**Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed.**

The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.

**God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.**

Continue...

The background of the slide features a soft, out-of-focus image of a red bow tied around a green pine branch, with three lit candles visible below it. The overall color palette is warm, with reds, greens, and yellows.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
**Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.**

God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

The 2nd Reader unmutes

Leader: Thank you, 1st reader. I invite the 2nd Reader to unmute and offer the 2nd reading when ready.

Reader 2: The 2nd Reading is from James 5.7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



We pause before
the Gospel

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew
Chapter 11 beginning at the 2nd verse.

All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his
disciples

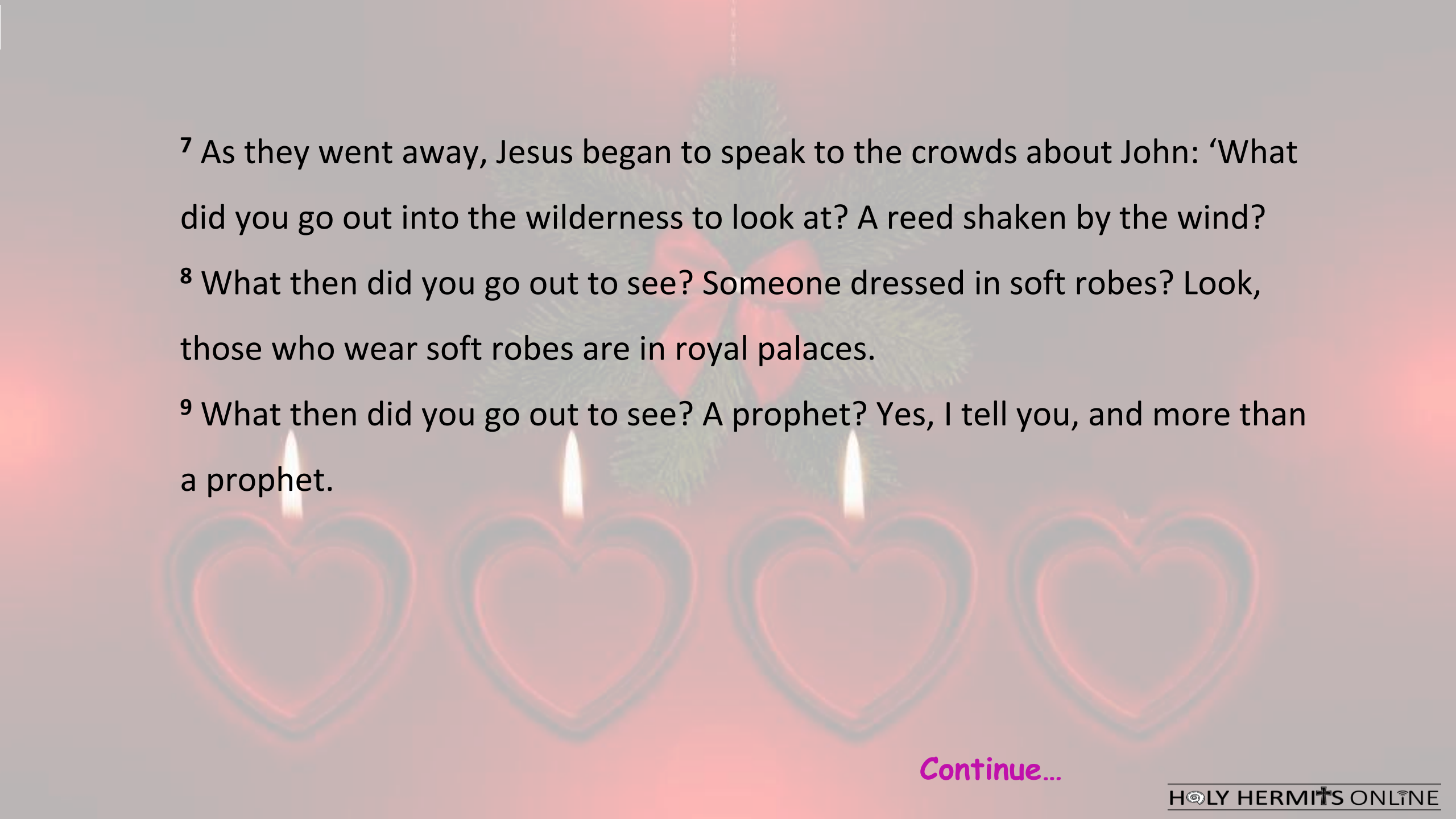
³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'

⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see:

⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf
hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

Continue...

The background features a soft-focus Christmas wreath with green pine needles and red bows at the top center. Below the wreath, four heart-shaped candles are arranged horizontally. The first three candles have lit flames, while the fourth is unlit. The overall color palette is warm, with pinks, reds, and greens.

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

Continue...




¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A still life scene featuring a vase of pink and orange flowers, an open book, and lit candles. The scene is set on a wooden surface, possibly a table, with a window in the background. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a peaceful atmosphere. The text "We pause after the Gospel" is overlaid in the center in a purple font.

We pause
after the Gospel

Leader: The Sermon is recorded to YouTube for sharing later.

Only the preacher's video and audio will be recorded.

The chat and other participants' feeds remain out of sight of the recording.

- *Leader and Cantor mute*
- *Broadcaster exits screenshare*
- *Preacher unmutes*
- *Zoom buttons "pins" preacher's screen + selects "record to the cloud"*

Sermon



Leader unmutes

Our next song is
All My Hope on God is Founded

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DohxO6ytsaU>

We stay on mute
Leader and Cantor mute



The Leader and Cantor unmute

The Greeting of Peace

Leader: We are the body of Christ

All: God's Spirit is with us

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: A sign of peace may be exchanged

You may like to type 'Peace' into the chat, use the 'raise hand' or other reaction buttons, or just simply wave via the screen with your video turned on

(Broadcaster exits shared screen for a few moments for the exchange of peace)

Reflection

Leader: We pause to reflect on Joy

How do we experience God's joy?

Are there areas of our lives into which we could
invite afresh your joy?

Pause...

Prayer of Thanksgiving before Intercessions

Leader: Thank you, God,

that in our differences and in our diversity, you are our God.

Thank you:

for the changes and chances and challenges that surround us;

for your constancy and the blessings we receive from those around us;

for the Gospel words that speak of hope and joy, light and life and love;

for the gifts you have given us in abundance;

that we can gather to celebrate your coming.

Thank you that in hope and expectation we can shout:

'Come Jesus, fill us with joy!' Amen.

Reader 2: We pray for creation and communities we share our lives with. We pause for a few moments to name either in our hearts, or out loud, or in the chat, those environments and communities we bring to the Lord in prayer.

PAUSE...

We entrust to you the community of Holy Hermits Online and our ministry partners:

St John's Cathedral Brisbane
The Anglican Diocese of Southern Queensland
St Gabriel's, Carindale
Benedictus Contemplative Church, Canberra
Anglican Focus and
Tithe.ly

Prosper the work of our hands and show us the way to your new creation.
Creator God, **Hear our prayer.**

Reader 2: Loving Creator, we entrust to you all animals, especially those who are sick, anxious, ageing, lost, at risk, lonely, sad, hungry, in pain, homeless, abused, living in fear, encountering violence of any kind, in need of comfort, rehabilitation or transformation.

We invite your loving compassion for:

Jasmine,
Leese(y),
Sid, Toots and Lulu
Polly and Suki
Fred, George and
Percy
Koshka

Lambert
Kala, Nigel and Little One
Toby
Taco
Paddy and Jax
Rosie



We name in our hearts, out loud or in the chat,
the animals we bring to the Lord in prayer. **PAUSE...**

Reader 2: Eternal Trinity of Love, we uphold to you the people we love and carry cares for:

Kerry and Les, Jake,
Dr Julie,
Julie and
Ray, Tracey, Shane
Jess and Leah
May
Kirsten, Greg, Daphne &
Beau
Tanya
Matthew & Nicholas
Alan & Gaylene
Susan

Barry
Dilys and Tony,
Paul and Darhon
Judy and Mary
Mark, Desley and Bob
Ruth
Phil
Rachel, Mervyn & Gillian
Liz's Godchildren
Bonnie and girls

Bill and Marjorie
Rev'd Shane & Janette
Alecia, Martin and Aidan
Aaron and Andrea
Neva
Bob and Di
Steven, Vanessa and
Craig
Miriam
Barry and Gwen
Pat and Julie

We name in our hearts, out loud or in the chat, those we bring to the Lord in prayer. **PAUSE...** Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayers. **Amen.**

Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer

Leader: Loving God, joining with the Church in our cycle of prayer, we ask your blessings on:

- Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- Ministry with the Torres Strait Island People of Australia - Rose Elu
- The Parish of Carindale: Lynda Crossley, Allan Paulsen, John Magee, Ron Paschke
- Mission to Seafarers - Steven Briggs & Ian McGilvray - Hon Chaplains
- St Margaret's Anglican Girls School, Ascot: Principal - Roslyn Curtis; Chaplain - Jasmine Dow; Chair of School Council - Lisa Worner; School Council members; staff & students

Prayer for Lay Ministry

Leader:

God of love, pour out your Holy Spirit on our lay ministry at Holy Hermits Online.

Bless those who offer their ministry gifts as cantors, readers, prayer writers, Liturgical Assistants, lay leaders, service prep team members, broadcasters, proof-readers, welcomers, tech supporters, fellowship leaders, the ministry task-groups and helpers in any way. We pray each one feels encouraged to continue serving you.

Give courage to those who hear your voice and offer their ministry gifts so that they too can serve you in the future.

Thank you for your rich blessings on our community.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Leader: Let us pray together the prayer which Jesus gave us saying:

All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.



Devotions

Hermit Wisdom



Leader: Most well known saying from Holy Hermit Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Leader: As we enter a few minutes of silence together, you are invited to pray this prayer of adoration and/or spend this time in contemplation.

The Spiritual Communion prayer follows on the next slide. Let us be still.

Leader and Cantor mute

Mighty, Holy God, we adore you for:
revealing yourself to humanity through the
ages; the promises to Abraham and all his
descendants for ever; inspiring the prophet
Isaiah to offer hope on the journey home; the
blessing of Mary, the joy in her soul and the
praises she sang, and today for the blessings
we have in our lives. Amen.



Oh, my Lord Jesus I turn to you present at the Altar and in the Tabernacle. I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of your most Sacred Body and Blood. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my Soul. I cannot at this moment receive you Sacramentally in Holy Communion. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it, Sanctify it. Render my heart like your own heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly with you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed. Amen

Making a Spiritual Communion

(Prayed in
silence)



Lighting The Advent Wreath: Joy

Leader: In a world of despair, where depression rates run high, where there has been so much sadness and loss, where joy has become a distant memory, Lord, we call upon you to come.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Leader: We long for Hope, pray for Peace, and welcome Joy, as we await the God of Love in the promised child, Lord we call upon you to come.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Leader: In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Joy into our world. We await the birth of the Anointed One, the Promised Child, who comes into our lives in a new way.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come, and bring us your joy.



Light the third pink (Joy) candle.

Leader: Three candles lit as signs of judgement, shining out against all that is wrong, flickering and dancing in the darkness, to say that God is coming to meet us in the form of a baby in a manger, bringing hope, and joy and peace to the world.

All: Amen.



Leader: Let us Pray,

All: God of hope, who brought love into this world,


be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the light, and focus of our lives. Amen.





The first is for God's promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth's darkness
the hope of love and light.

A Personal Prayer for each of us in the silence



Lord, may the whole world come to know about your love.

May all the people of the whole world praise you.

And, just as the water covers the sea, may the whole world be covered with your glory.

Lord, may we care for the world and for each other, as people who know your love.

Amen.

Leader unmutes

Our final song is
Jesus Put This Song Into Our Hearts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCYdLA8qR5c>

We stay on mute
Leader and Cantor mute

Sending Prayer

All: Lord God, may we go:
with joy and singing,
strong and without fear,
to walk your highway
with joy and gladness
and without sorrow and sighing.
For Jesus' sake, we pray.
Amen.

The Benediction

Leader: Let us all invite God's blessings together,

All: May the Lord bless us and keep us.

May the Lord's face shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord's countenance be lifted upon us, and bring us peace. Amen

Notices

- Christmastide Planning Workshop @11am today! All welcome.
- A call out for broadcasters, readers and servers for HHO Christmas Eve service (9 readers) and Christmas Day contemplative service
- The final week of our Advent study based on [The Muppet Christmas Carol](#) continues Thursday @6pm
- Purchase of [Christmastide Subscription 2025](#) is open
- Next week we welcome Dean Peter who will join us for weekly worship
- Next week we remember Holy Hermit [Catherine De Huek Doherty](#)
- See HHO Events page for further upcoming events [HHO Events](#)

Offerings: Thank you for your regular gifts to this ministry

Offerings are most welcome via

- The HHO App
- Direct Debit
- International Direct Debit
- Please consider a one-off donation or leaving a legacy in your Will



For further information go to HHO give page

<https://holyhermits.com.au/give>

Serving next week 21st December
4th Sunday of Advent
9:00 am AEST

Service Prep: Kristine

Music: Wiggles

Proof-reader: Viki

Broadcaster: Kieron

Backup Broadcaster: Barry

Zoom Buttons: Viki

Chat Host: Viki

Priest: Dean Peter

Deacon: N/A

Welcomer: Chris

Leader: Jeremy

Cantor: Vanessa

First Reader: Bob

Second Reader: Margo

Preacher: Dean Peter

Fellowship: Julie

Safety Officer: Chris

Attendance: Viki

Thank you for your ministry gifts

New Servers always welcome!

Please email Rev'd Lauren to get involved

holyhermits@anglicanchurchsq.org.au

The Dismissal

Leader: I invite everyone to unmute for the Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ, Amen.

Fellowship time

Thank you, Leonie for
leading Fellowship

Please feel welcome to
linger or pop a message in
the chat and head off
when you are ready.



Adapted for this Sunday

Extra resources developed
by Roots on the Web