



St. Matthew's UMC Council on Ministries

Opening Worship

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

Psalm 100

Make A joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into God's presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.

**We are the Lord's; We are the people of God,
the sheep of God's pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving
and God's courts with praise!

Give thanks and bless God's name!

For the Lord is good;

**God's steadfast love endures for ever;
God's faithfulness to all generations.**

1 Corinthians 12, Selected verses

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...

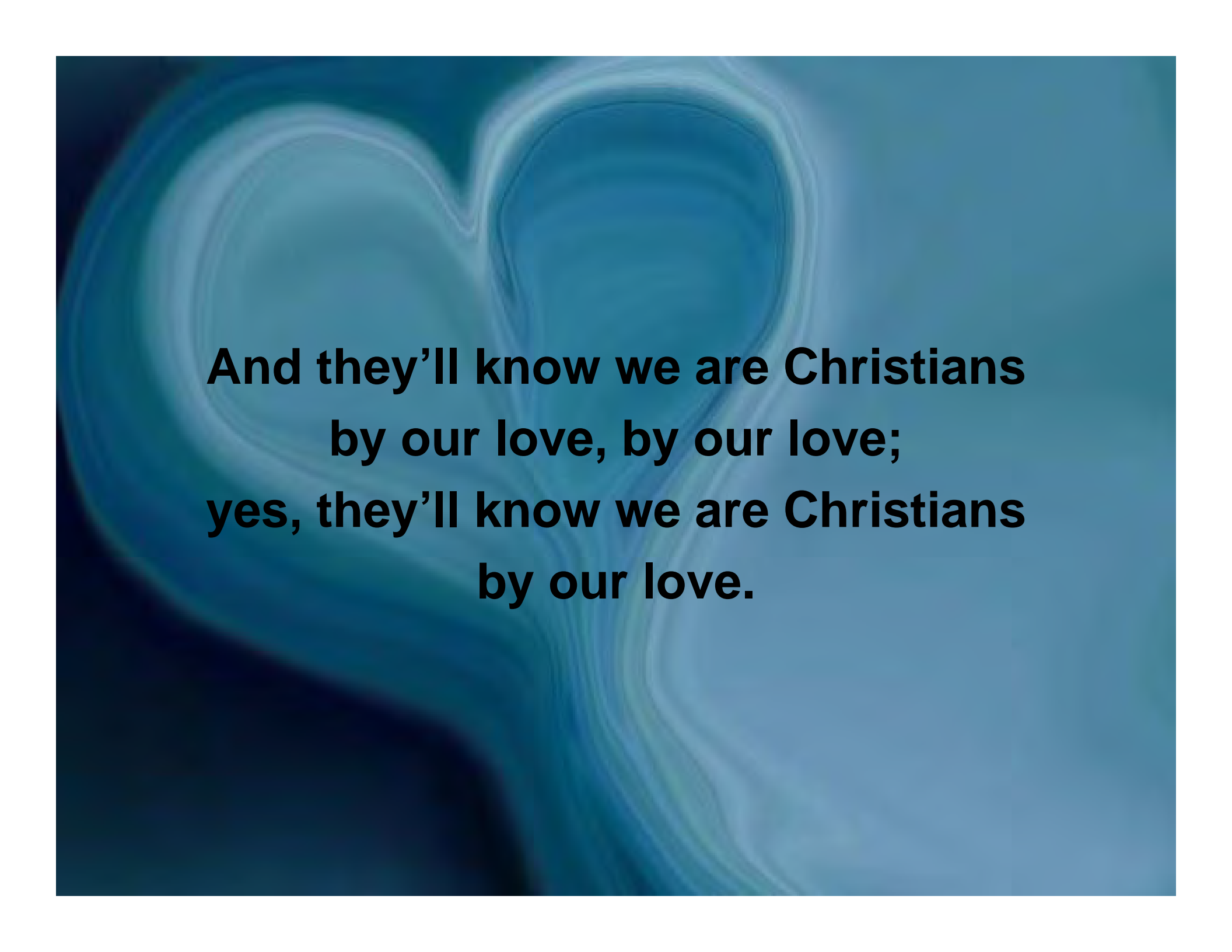
For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.




They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

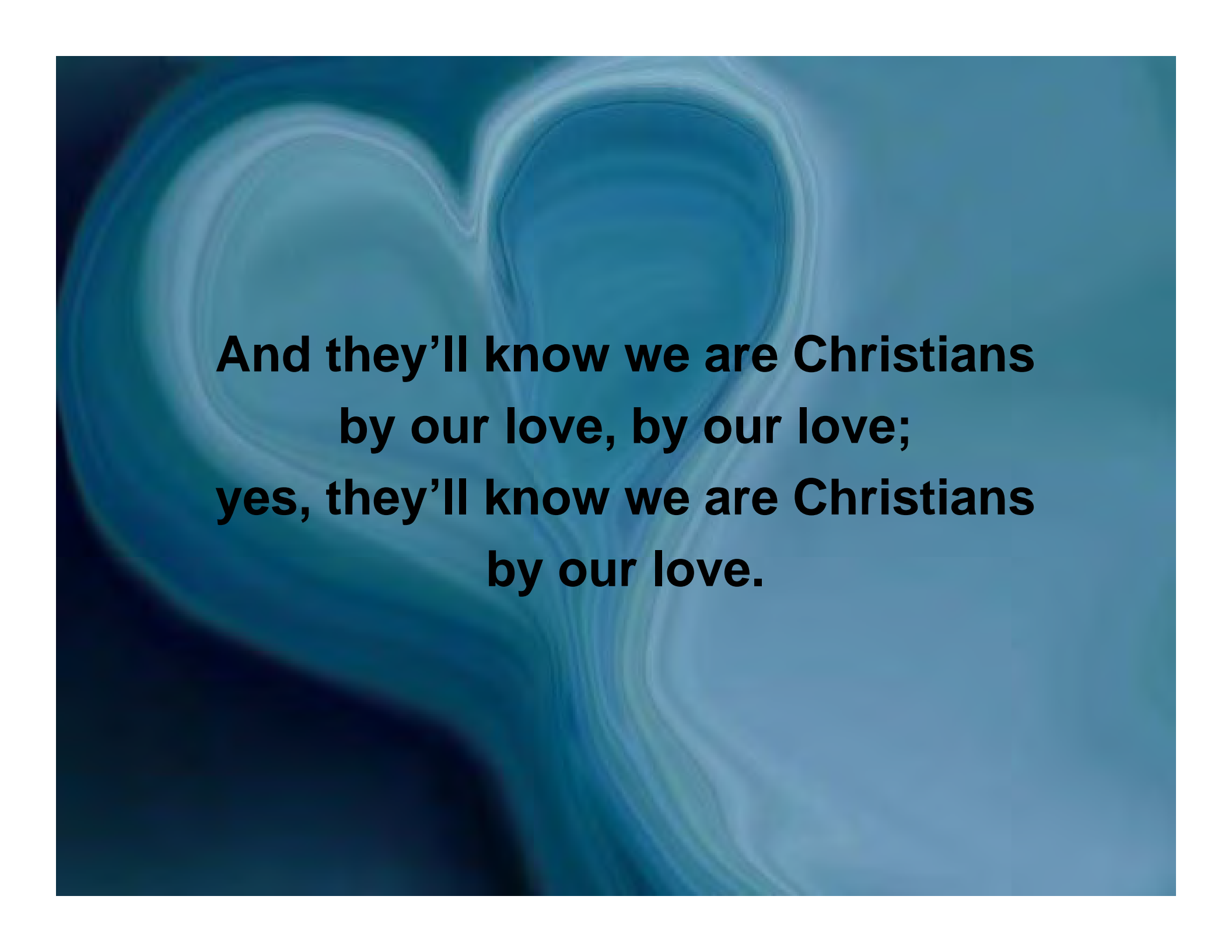
**We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity
may one day be restored;**



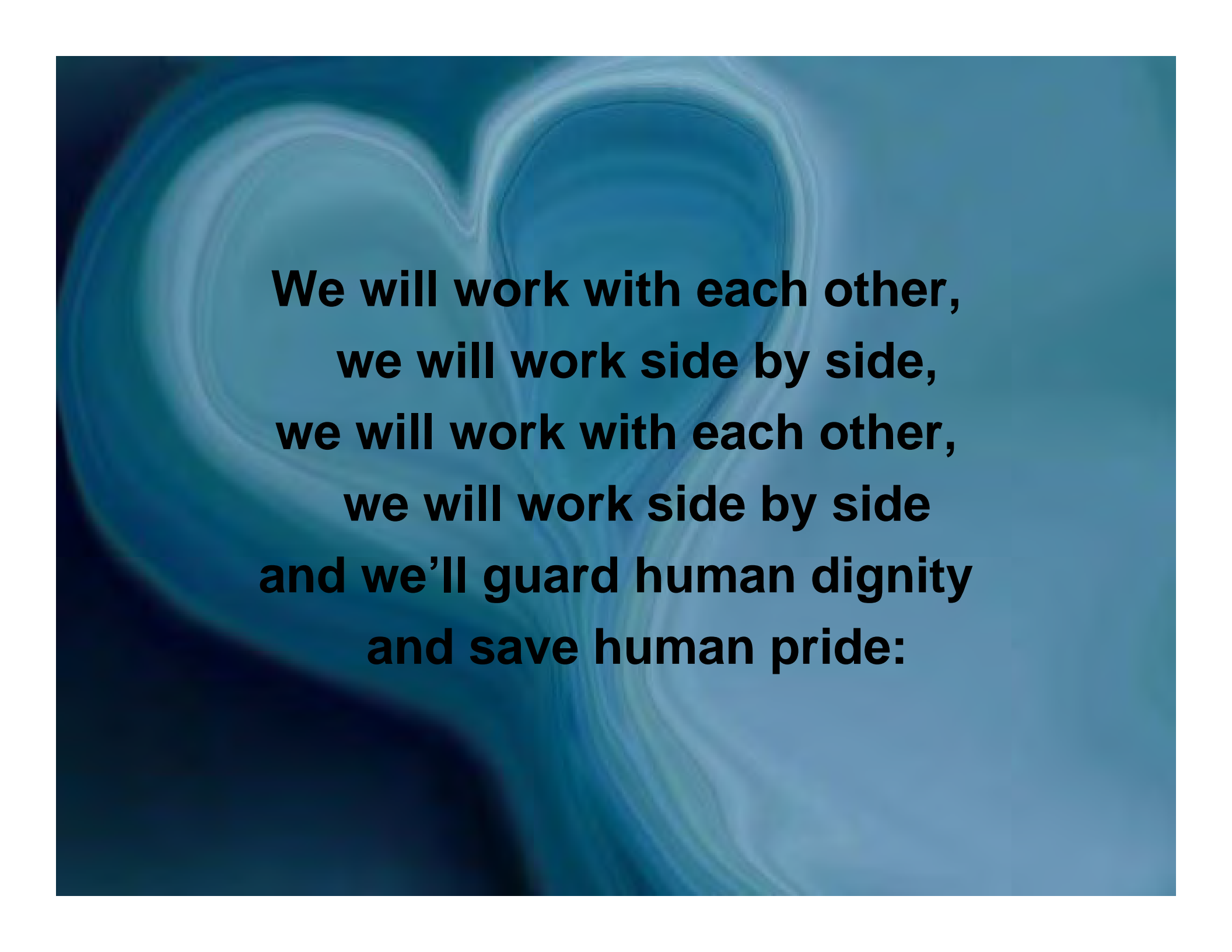
**And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.**



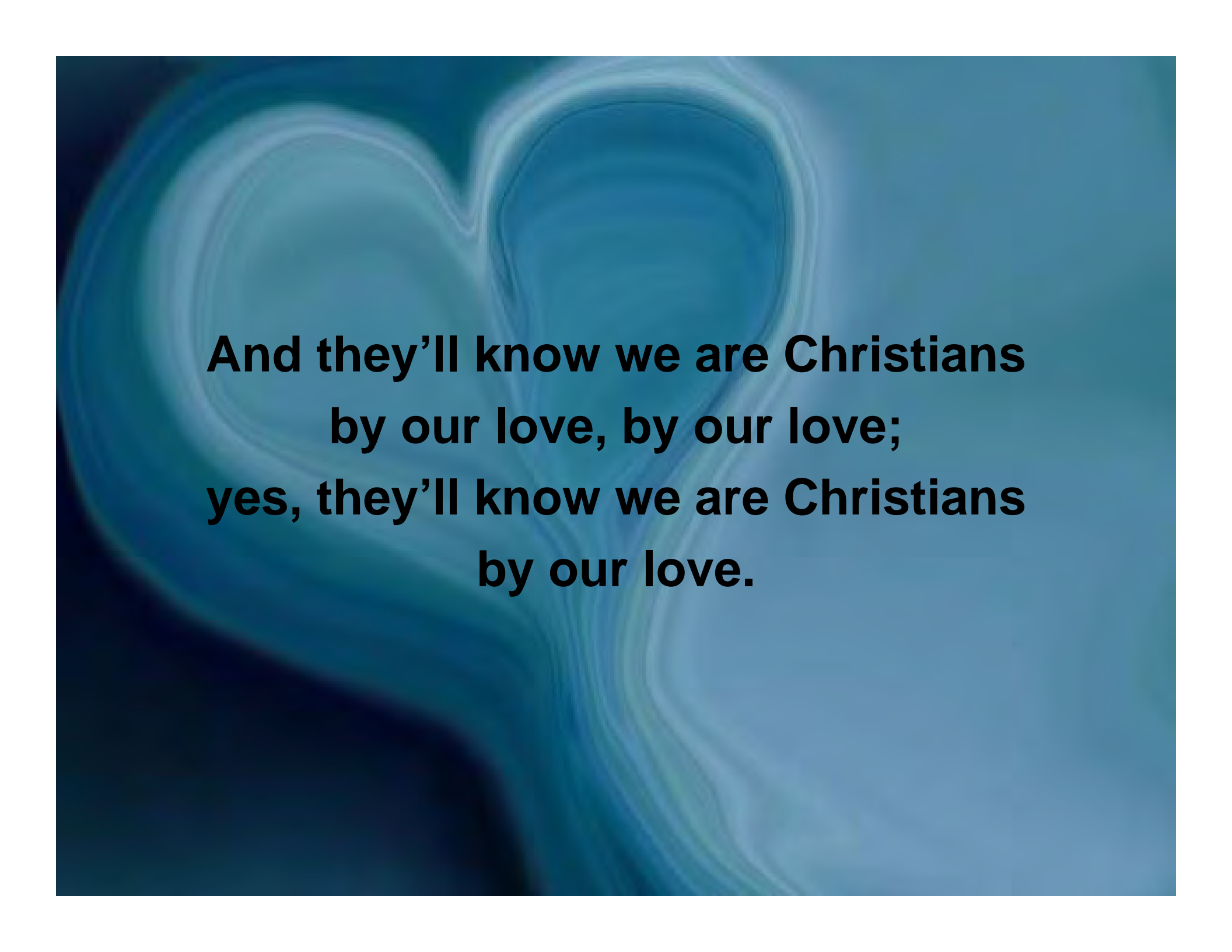
**We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land.**



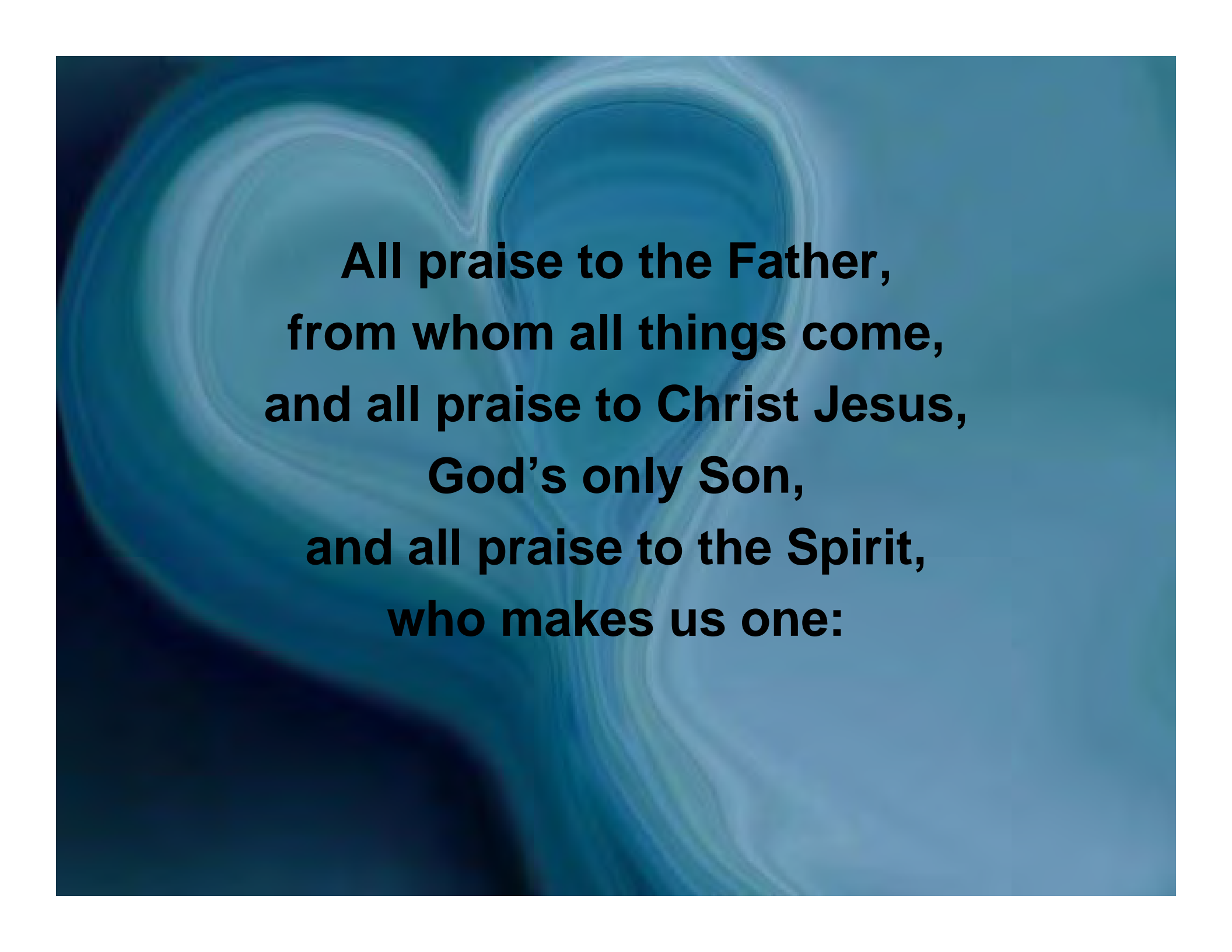
**And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.**



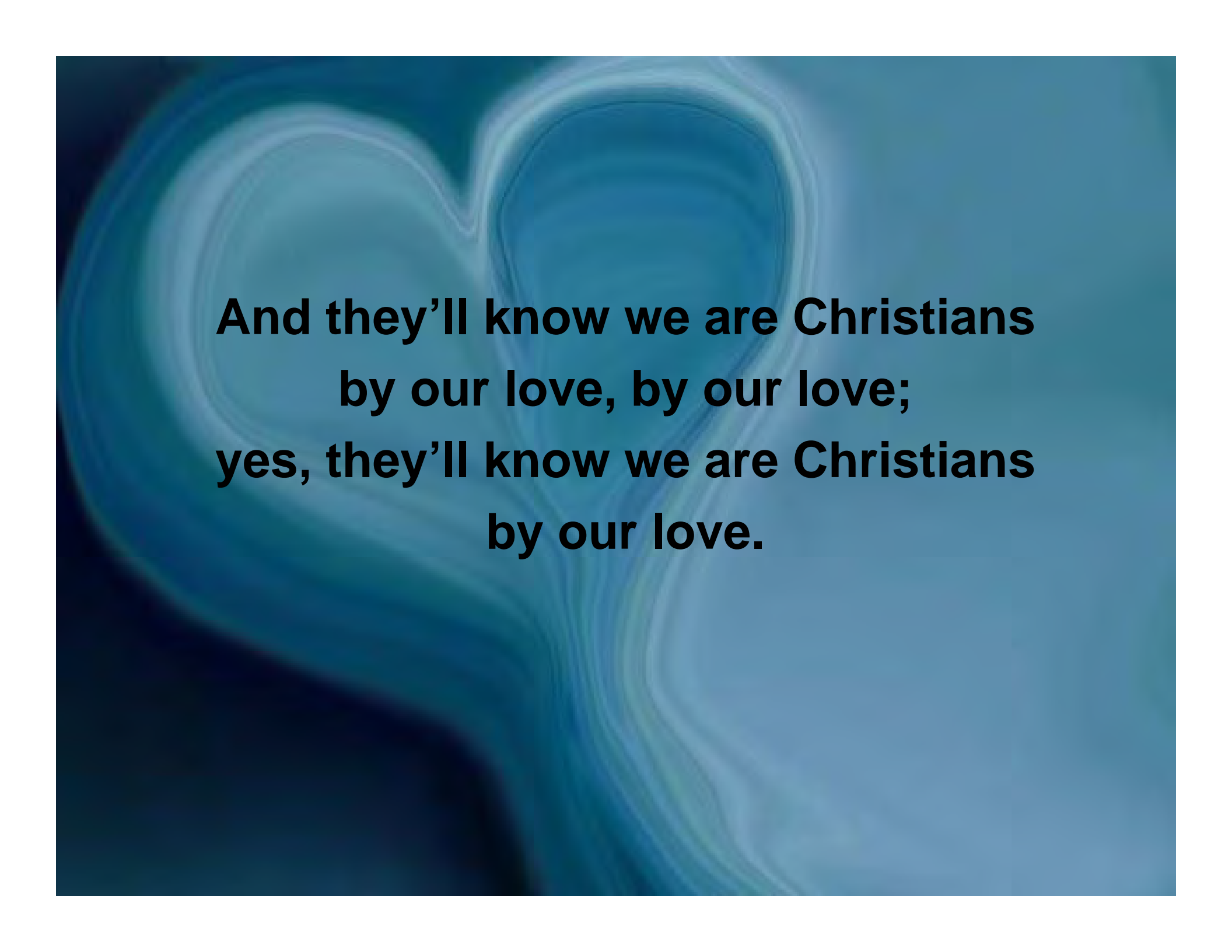
**We will work with each other,
we will work side by side,
we will work with each other,
we will work side by side
and we'll guard human dignity
and save human pride:**



**And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.**



**All praise to the Father,
from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus,
God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit,
who makes us one:**

The background is a solid blue color with a subtle, glowing heart shape in the center. The heart is formed by concentric, wavy lines of varying shades of blue, creating a soft, ethereal effect. The text is centered over this background.

**And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.**

A Ritual

Affirming our Shared Ministry

Pastor and Director of Council on Ministries:

We step forward in shared ministry.

As servant leaders of this congregation,
we affirm our commitment to provide vision,
encouragement, coordination, and support for
this Council on Ministries

so that St. Matthew's UMC lives fully into its vision:
to be inclusive, vibrant, sharing the love of
Christ, and making a difference.

(pastor and director light candles)

Church Staff & Committee, Board, and Council Chairs:

We step forward in shared ministry.

As servant leaders of this congregation,

we affirm our commitment to provide leadership
for our given ministries

and to collaborate with other ministry groups on
this Council

so that St. Matthew's UMC lives fully into its
vision: to be inclusive, vibrant, sharing the
love of Christ, and making a difference.

(Light candles from pastor and DotCom)

Committee, Board, Task Force and Council members:

We step forward in shared ministry.

As servant leaders of this congregation,
we affirm our commitment to offer our best
ideas, talents, and energies to our given
ministry

and to collaborate with others on this Council
so that St. Matthew's UMC lives fully into its
vision: to be inclusive, vibrant, sharing the
love of Christ, and making a difference.

(Light candles from Chairs and Staff)

ALL:

We are called to serve in shared ministry.

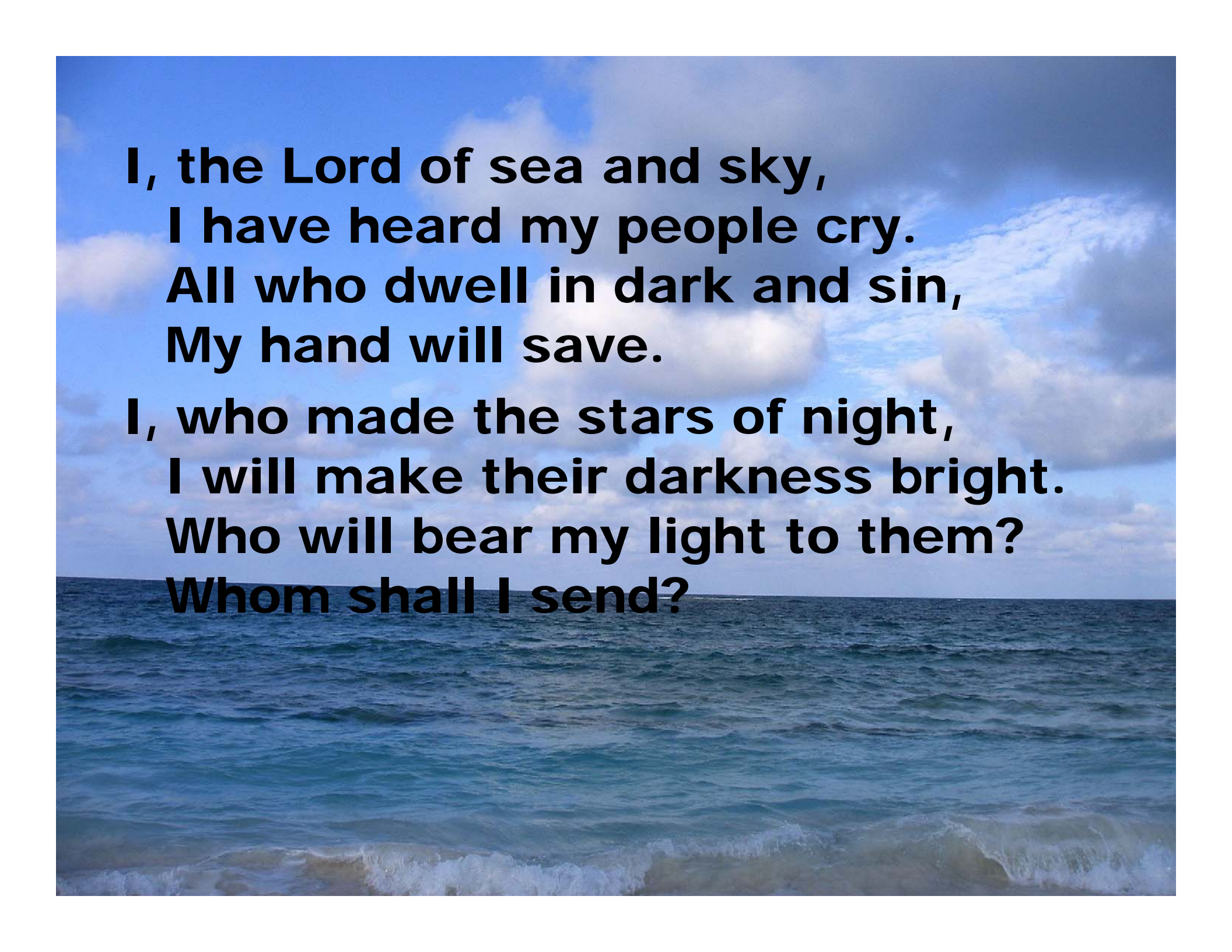
We stand together in faith and fellowship,
committed to service in the image of Christ
for the sake of the world.

Here I am Lord

Words and Music
by Daniel L Schutte
© 1981

Genesis 46:2

**"And God spake unto Israel
in the visions of the night,
and said, Jacob, Jacob.
And he said, Here am I."**



I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.

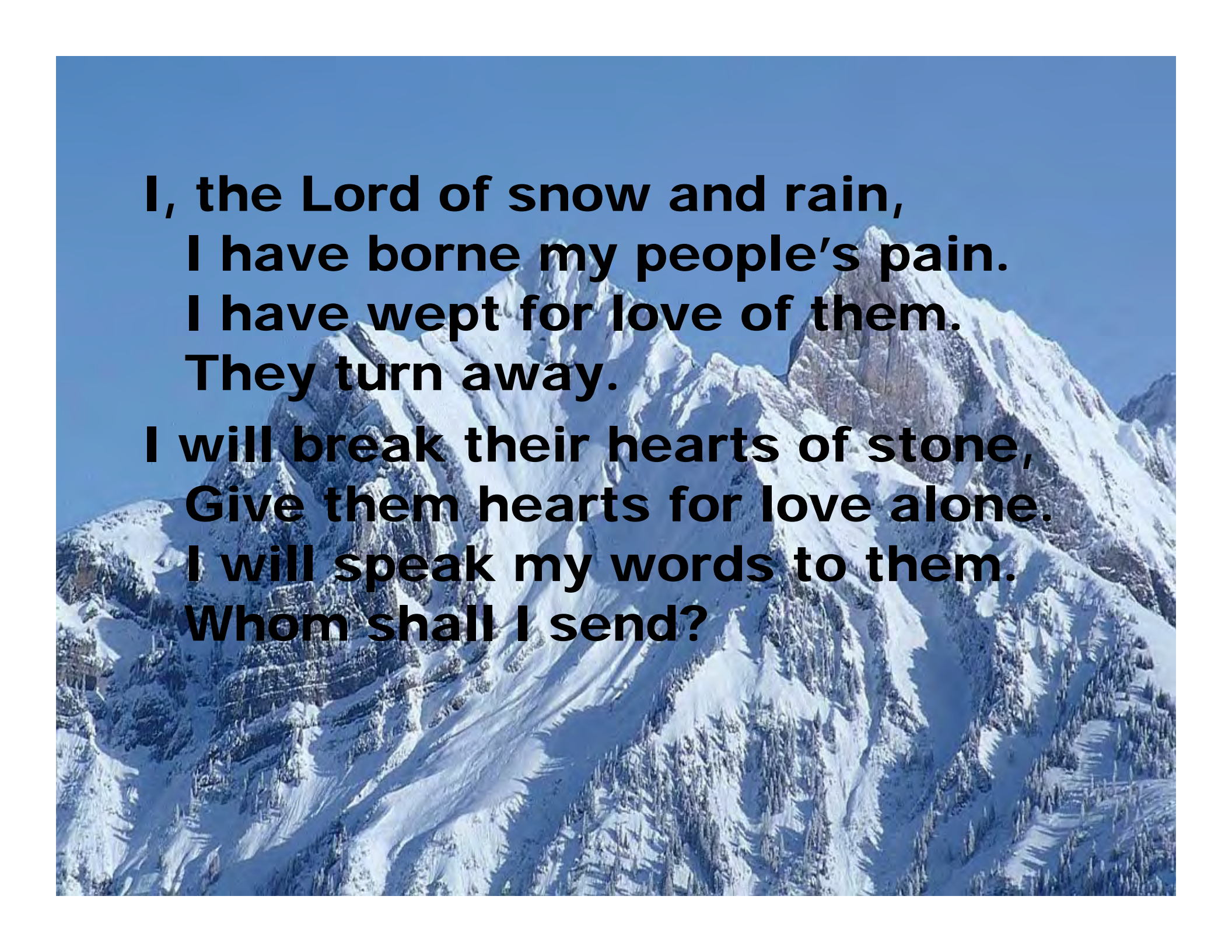
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

A photograph of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other and forming a heart shape with their fingers. The background is a clear, bright blue sky with some light, wispy clouds. The lighting is soft, highlighting the skin tones of the hands.

Chorus

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the
night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.



I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?

A photograph of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other and forming a heart shape with their fingers. The background is a clear, bright blue sky with some light, wispy clouds. The lighting is soft, highlighting the skin tones of the hands.

Chorus

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the
night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide,
'Til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?



A photograph of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other and forming a heart shape with their fingers. The background is a clear, bright blue sky with some light clouds. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers pointing towards each other to create the heart's outline.

Chorus

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the
night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Director of the Council on Ministries:

As we extinguish our individual candles, we leave the one candle on our altar lit.

This reminds us of our single vision: to be an inclusive, vibrant congregation where anyone who enters feels the love of Christ and each other, and where YOU make difference in the world.

Closing Prayer

Lord God, bless the ministries of your Church. We thank you for the variety of gifts you have bestowed upon us. Draw us together in one Spirit, that each of us may use our differing gifts as members of one body.

Keep before us the example of Jesus, who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all.

Guide us in our work and use us for your purposes in the world.

We pray in the name of the Trinity of Love, God in community, holy and one. Amen.

