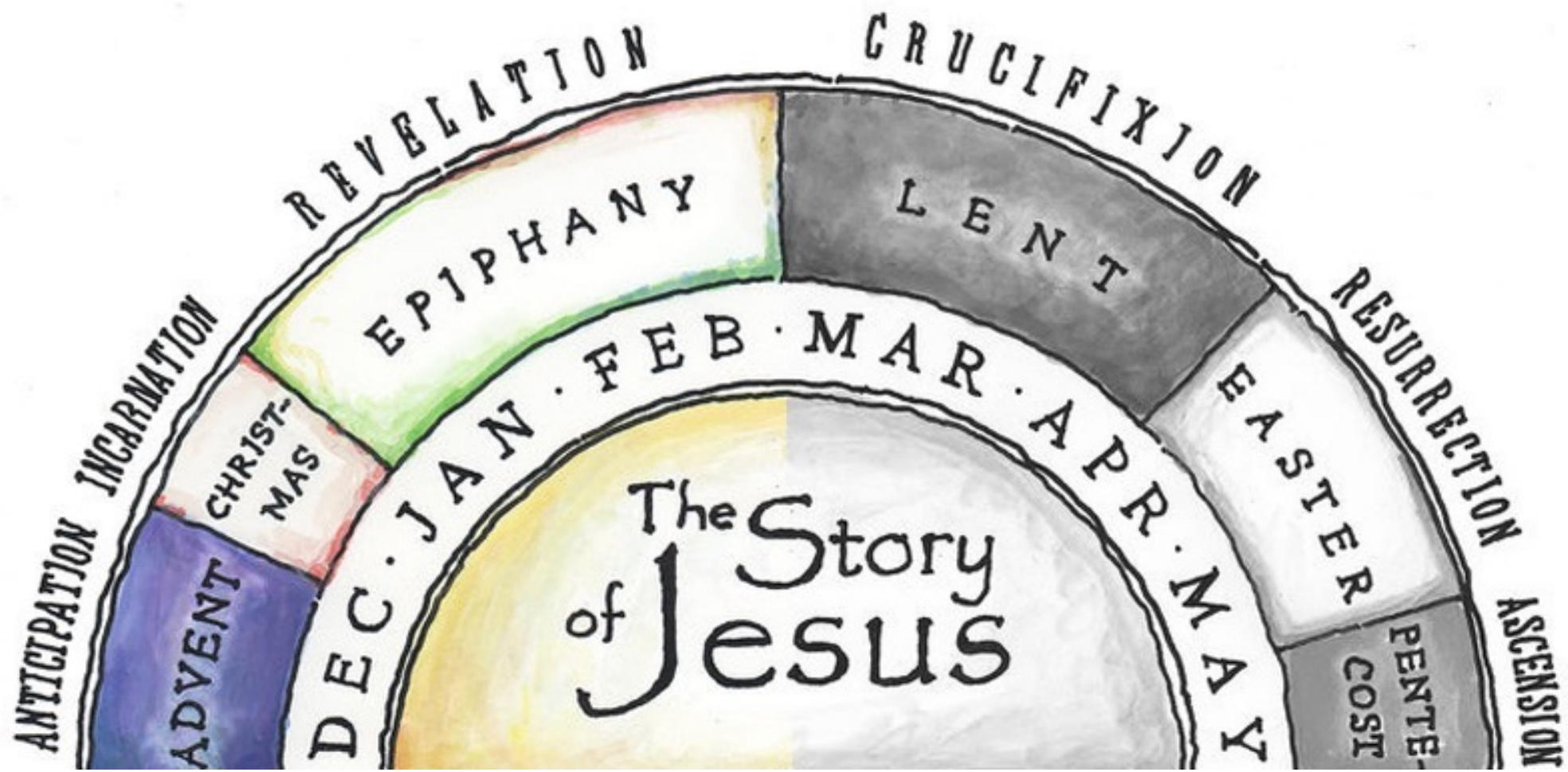


Lord God, you revealed your Son
in the waters of the Jordan and
anointed him with the power
of the Holy Spirit to proclaim good news
to all people. Sanctify us by the same Spirit,
that we may proclaim the healing power
of the gospel by acts of love in your name.
Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

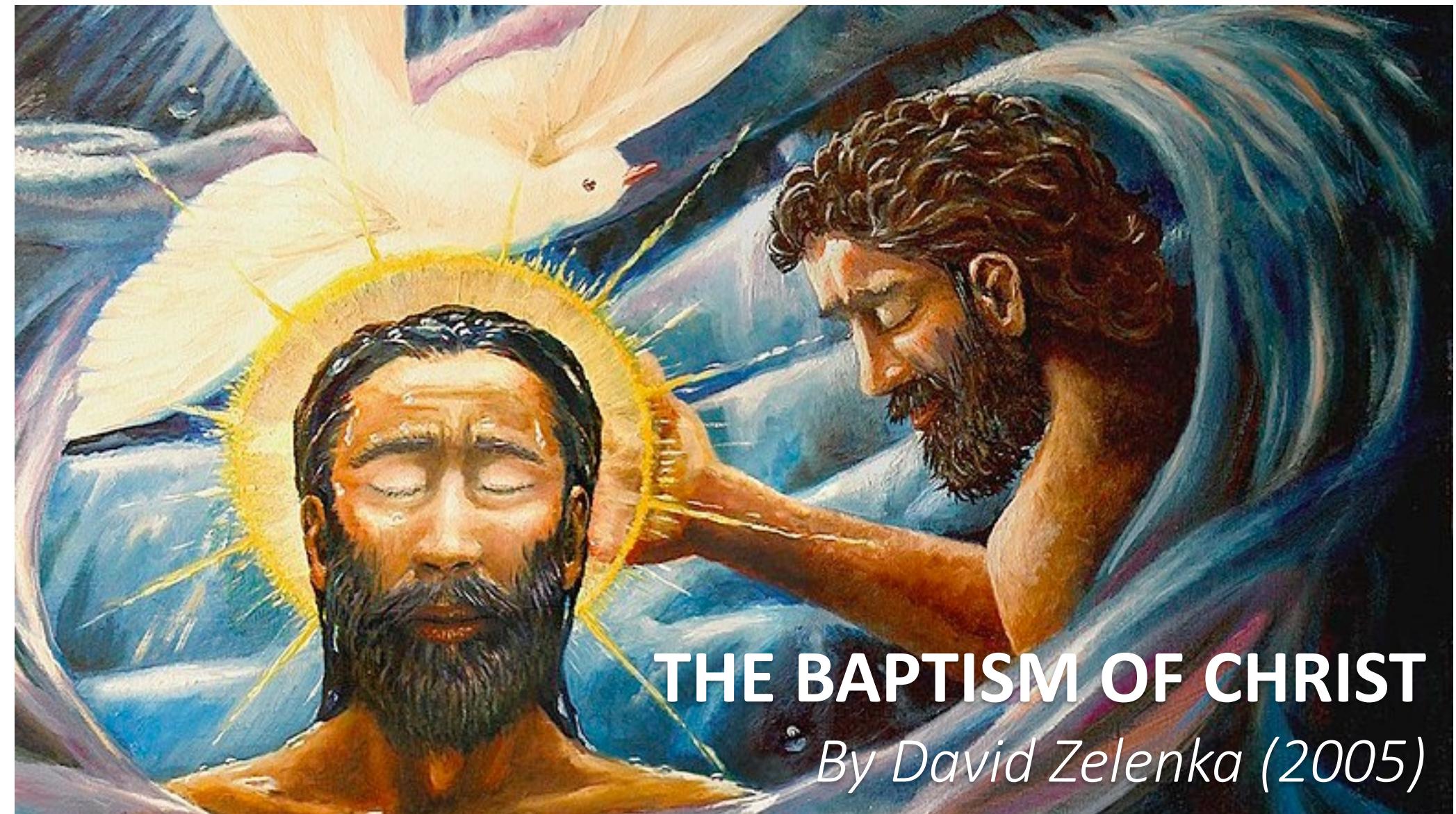




THE SEASON of EPIPHANY

the season of revelation,
seeing the character of God in Jesus

Week 1 – The Baptism of Jesus

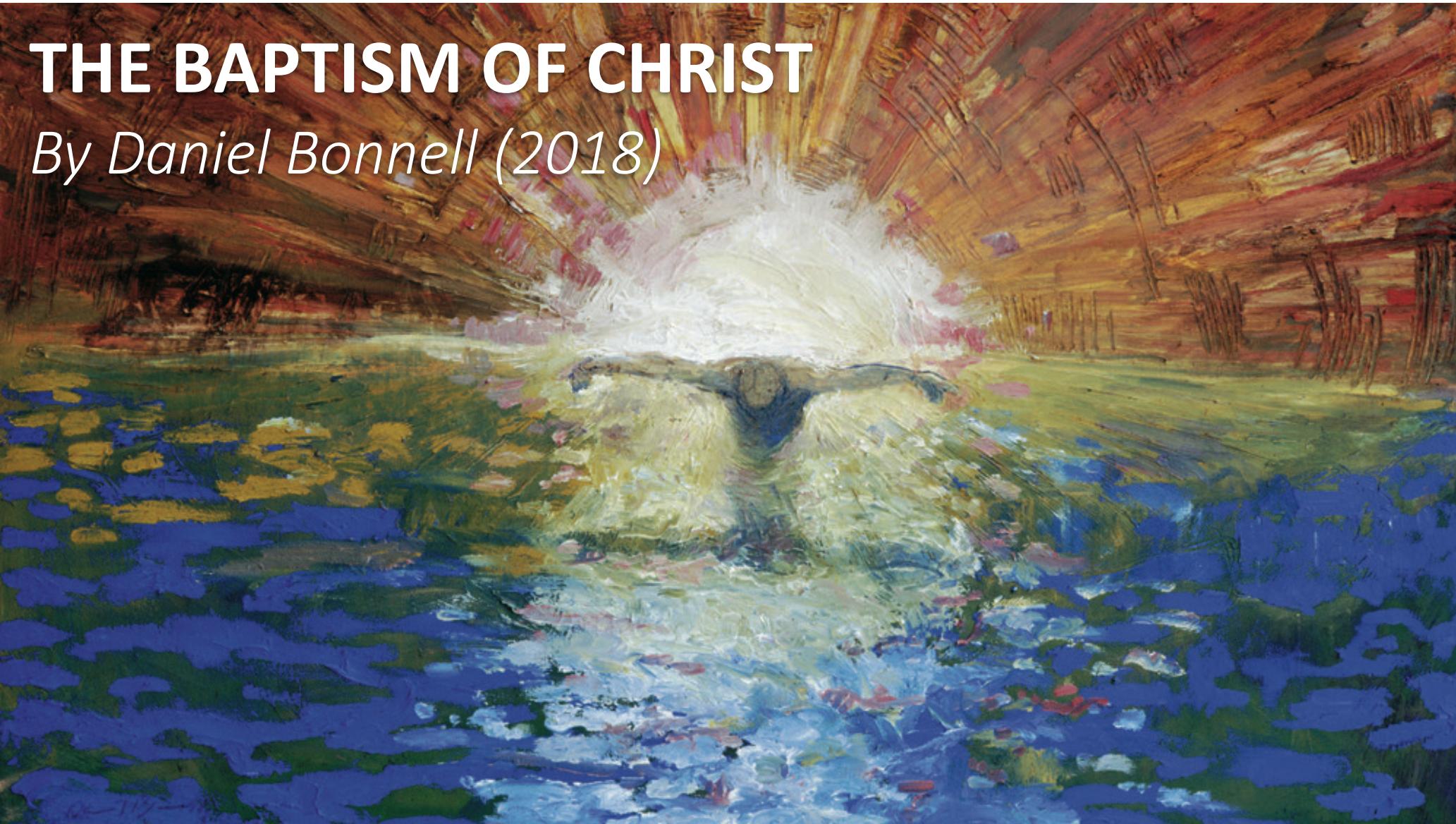


THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

By David Zelenka (2005)

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

By Daniel Bonnell (2018)

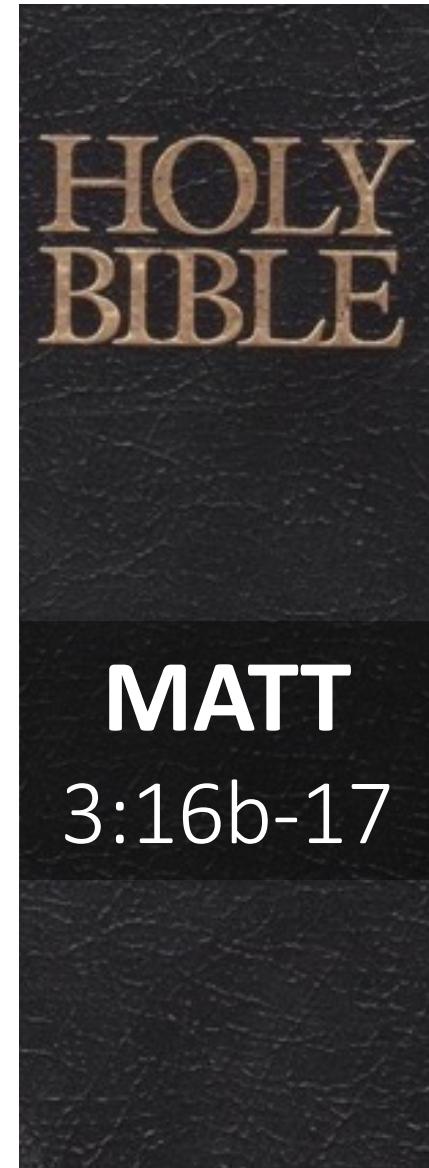


Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan, coming to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent him, saying, “I have the need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” But Jesus, answering, said to him, “Allow it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” ...After he was baptized, Jesus came up... from the water...



MATT
3:13-16a

*...and behold, the heavens were opened,
and he saw the Spirit of God descending
as a dove and settling on him, and
behold, a voice from the heavens said,
“This is my beloved Son, with whom
I am well pleased.”*



MATT
3:16b-17

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA



The Galilee Nature Reserve

HAIFA

Nazareth
Caesarea

The Golan
Sea of Galilee

SYRIA

Beit She'an

Nablus

Tel Aviv

AMMAN

Ramla

Jericho

Bethlehem

Jerusalem

Gaza City

Dead Sea

Hebron

Ein Gedi

Masada

Be'ersheva

ISRAEL

The Negev

Mitzpe
Ramon

Port Said

Suez Canal

EGYPT

SINAI

JORDAN

80

THE RIVER JORDAN

Recognized as the spot where
John the Baptist baptized Jesus

Israel

Jordan



EPIPHANY

the manifestation of Christ
to the Gentiles as represented
by the Magi; a festival commemorating
this event in the church calendar;
a manifestation of a divine or super-
natural or being; a moment of
sudden revelation or insight



WHAT IS BEING REVEALED?

1. The heart of a prophet, calling for covenant faithfulness in God's people and declaring God's faithfulness to them, and to all of creation



WHAT IS BEING REVEALED?

1. The heart of a prophet, calling for covenant faithfulness in God's people and declaring God's faithfulness to them, and to all of creation
2. The heart of God the Father for God the Son through God the Spirit



WHAT IS BEING REVEALED?

1. The heart of a prophet, calling for covenant faithfulness in God's people and declaring God's faithfulness to them, and to all of creation
2. The heart of God the Father for God the Son through God the Spirit
3. The heart of God for God's people, and the path to life for all humanity



Invitation

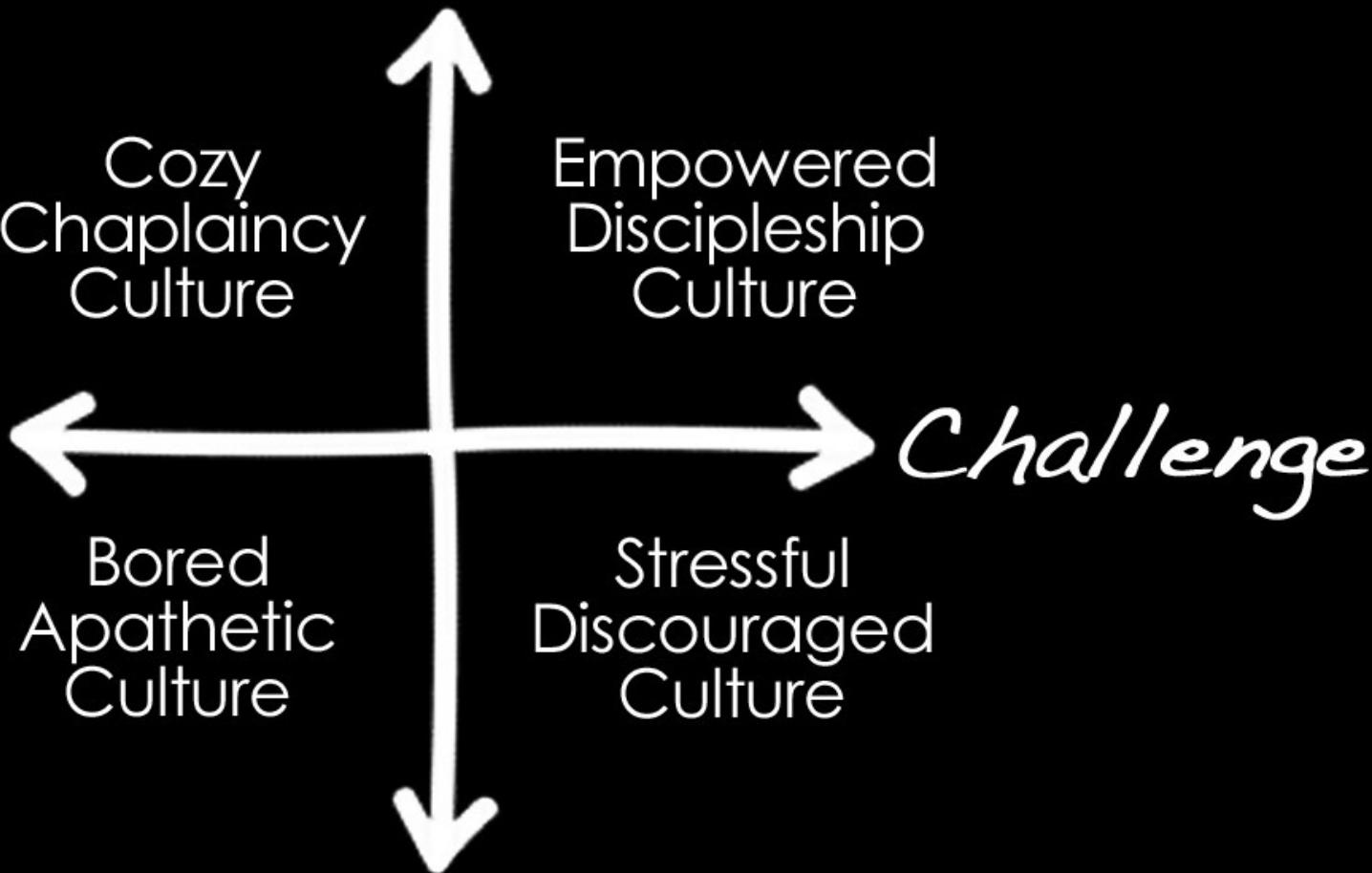
Cozy
Chaplaincy
Culture

Empowered
Discipleship
Culture

Bored
Apathetic
Culture

Stressful
Discouraged
Culture

Challenge





INVITATION

The love of God the Father poured out
on God the Son, affirmed by God the Spirit,
occurred before Jesus did ANY of his SAVING WORK

CHALLENGE

Following Jesus cannot be done by avoiding the cross/grave; his pattern of life is how life works: life, death, burial, resurrection, THEN new life...



GOOD REASONS TO BE BAPTIZED

1. To renounce Satan and all spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God
2. To renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God
3. To renounce the evil powers of the world which corrupt and destroy God's creatures



GOOD REASONS TO BE BAPTIZED

4. To receive/trust in God's grace/love
5. To publicly declare your commitment
6. To formally join God's historic/global family in the here-and-now
7. To inaugurate your kingdom citizenship



BAD REASONS TO BE BAPTIZED

1. To please/apease the desires of others
2. To get God to like/love or be less mad...
3. To check off a “religion” box



BAD REASONS TO BE BAPTIZED

1. To please/apease the desires of others
2. To get God to like/love or be less mad...
3. To check off a “religion” box
4. To baptize your current life/perspective



“To get the kingdom of God into someone, you first have to get America* out of them, or it just becomes another American* thing.”

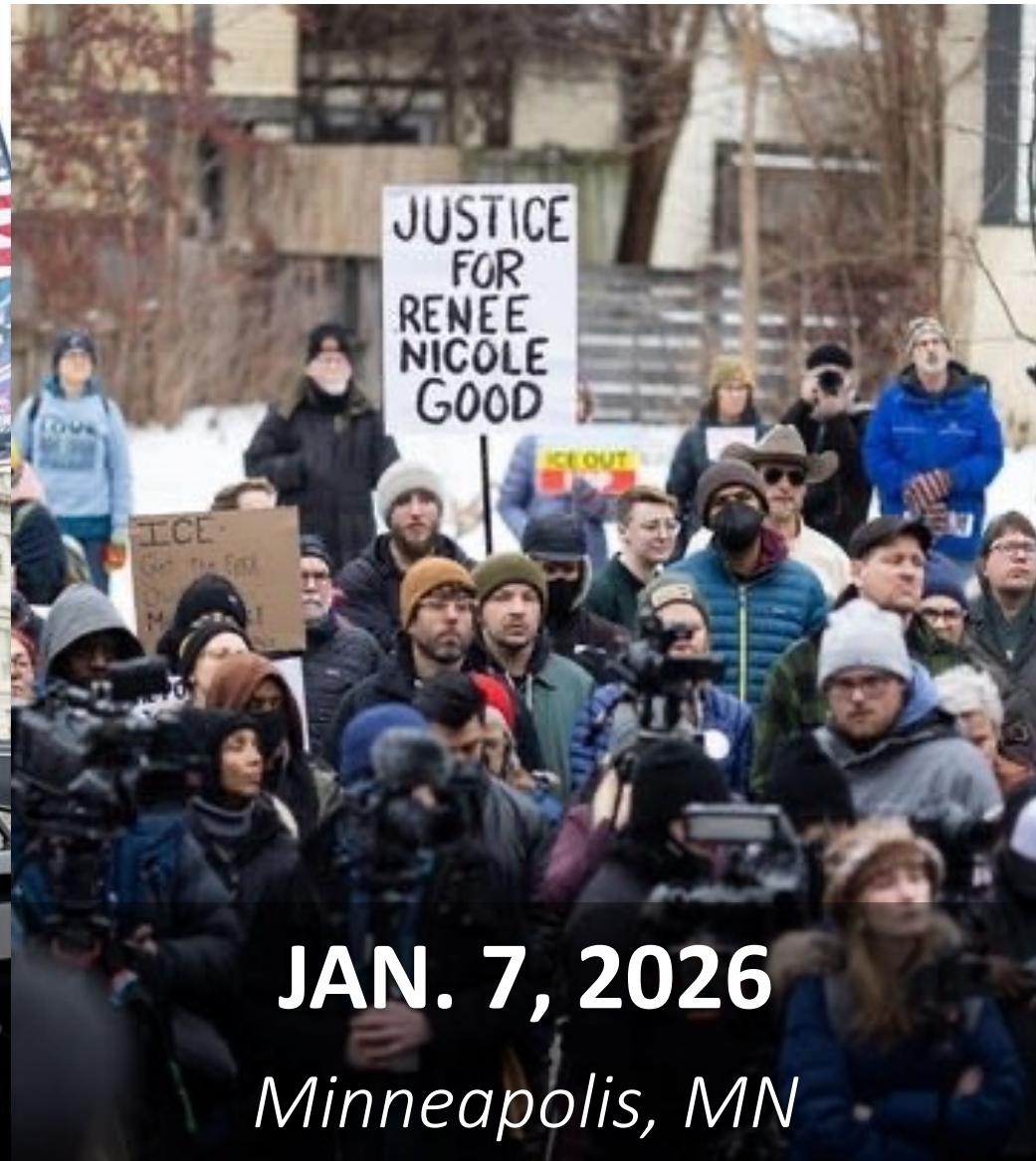
** or WHATEVER national/tribal interests you might be tempted to idolize and prioritize above the kingdom of God*





JAN. 6, 2021

Washington D.C.



JAN. 7, 2026

Minneapolis, MN

GASLIGHTING

psychological manipulation
that makes the recipient
question their feelings,
instincts, and even their sanity



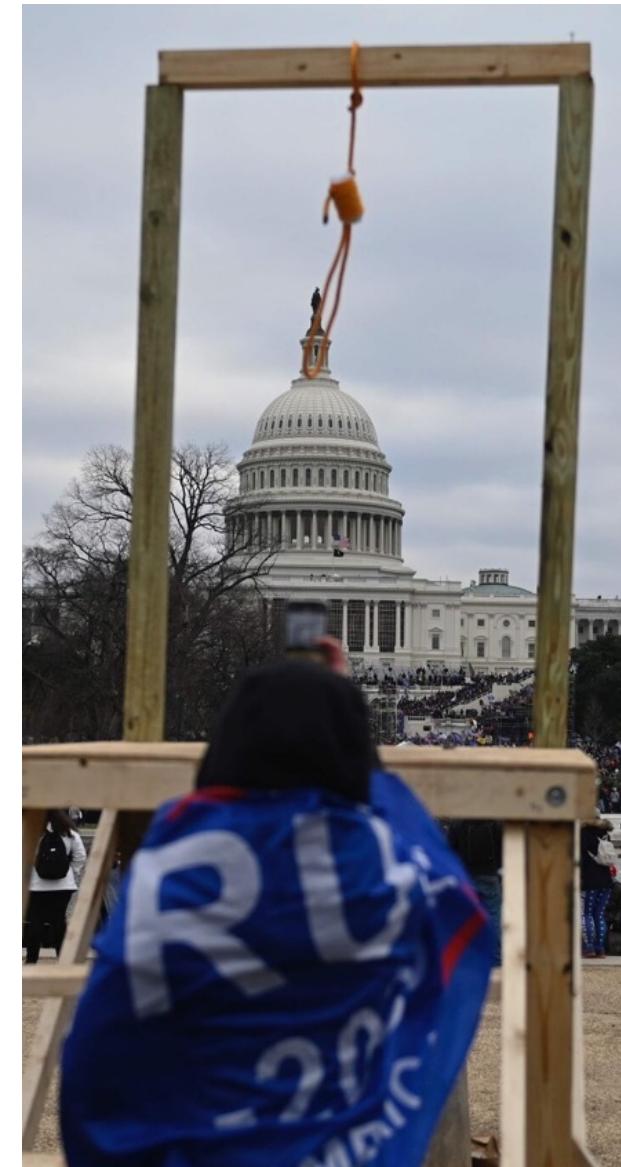
GASLIGHTING

“The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It became their final, most essential command. And when all others believed the lie, then it passed into history and became the truth.”



TRUMP ON EVENTS OF 1.6.21

“They were there with love in their hearts, and it was a beautiful day.”



TRUMP ON EVENTS OF 1.7.26

“The woman screaming was, obviously, a professional agitator, and the woman driving the car was very disorderly, obstructing and resisting, who then violently, willfully, and viciously ran over the ICE Officer, who seems to have shot her in self-defense.”

(He also later claimed the officer had been injured, was hospitalized, and was lucky to be alive.)



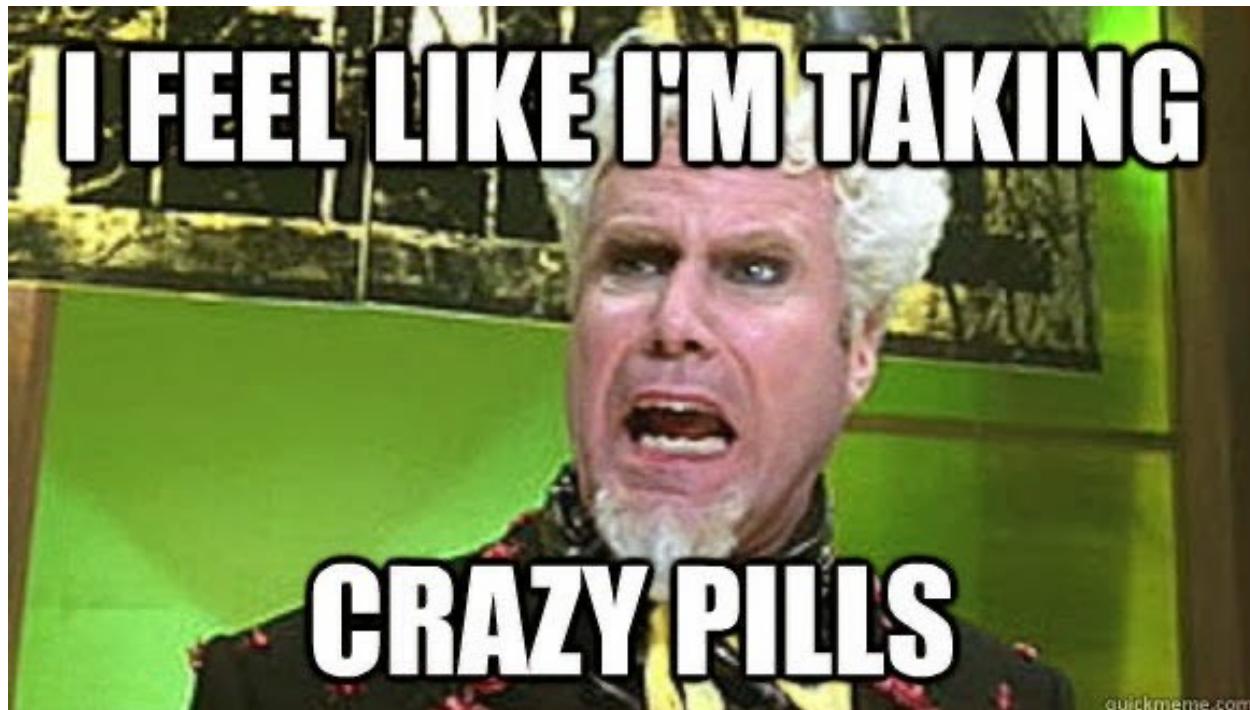
JANAE (BATES) IMARI

Renee was 37 years old, a mother, a U.S. citizen, a Minnesotan, a legal observer, a woman who believed that her neighbors deserved dignity, safety. She was not armed (nor) a threat. She was standing for freedom. And the federal government answered her courage with a bullet.



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

- You are not crazy



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

- You are not crazy
- You are not alone



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

- You are not crazy
- You are not alone
- What ICE is doing – and what happened to Renee Nicole Good (among so many others) – is as wrong and unjust as you think it is



WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

- Christian hope is that:
 - God will make all things right by the power of restorative justice
 - Restoration will be complete, from “molecular” to “universal”

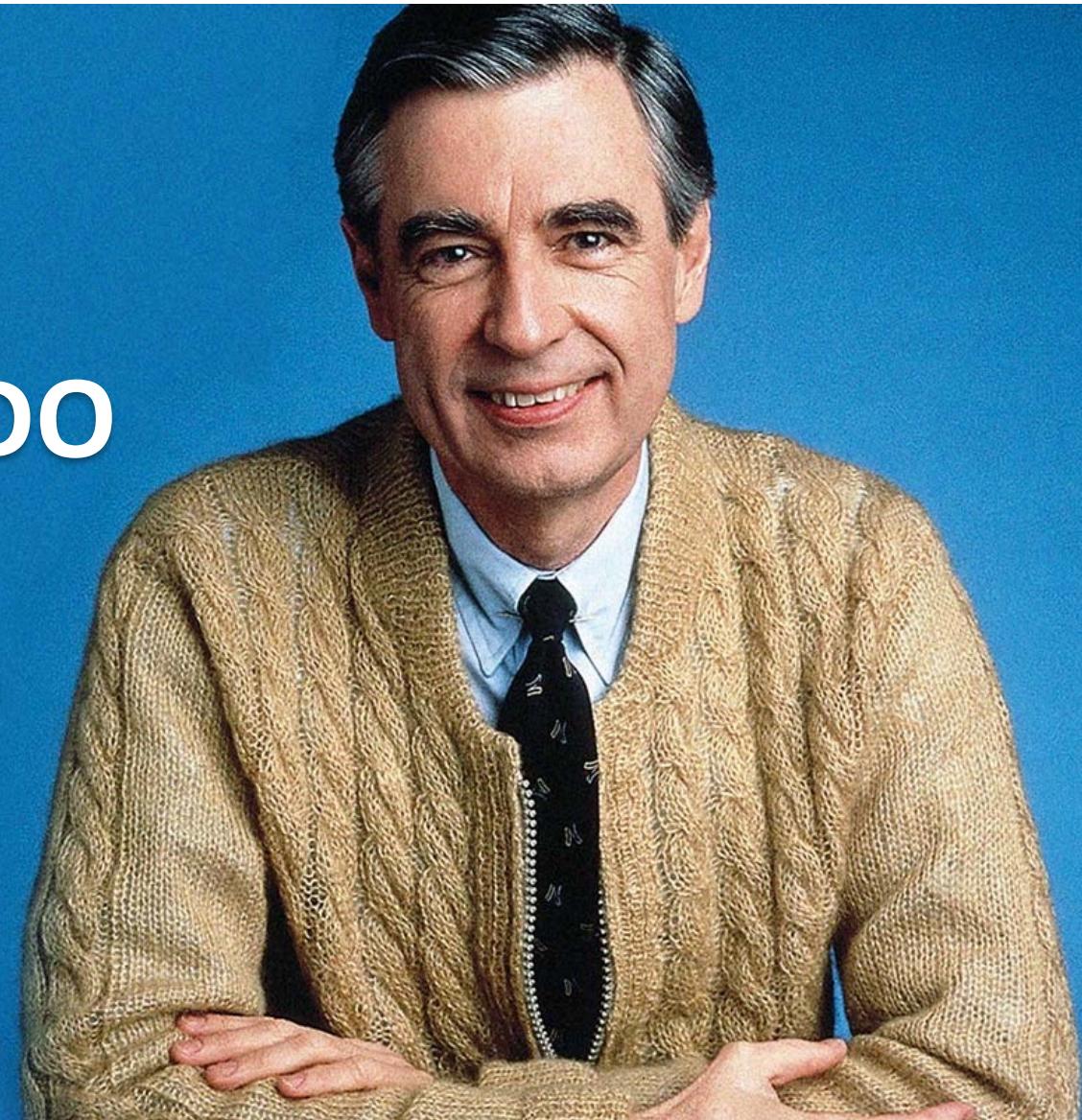


WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

- Christian hope is that:
 - God will make all things right by the power of restorative justice
 - Restoration will be complete, from “molecular” to “universal”
- While we await God’s final victory, we are invited to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly *together*



WHAT DO YOU DO
WITH THE MAD
THAT YOU FEEL?



Let's Talk Palestine



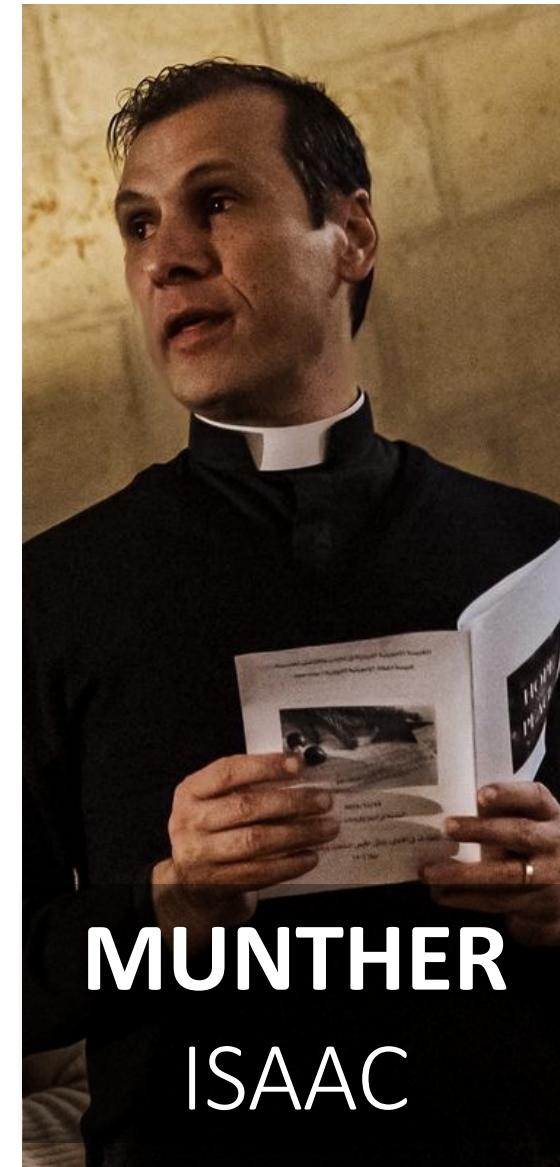
Podcast



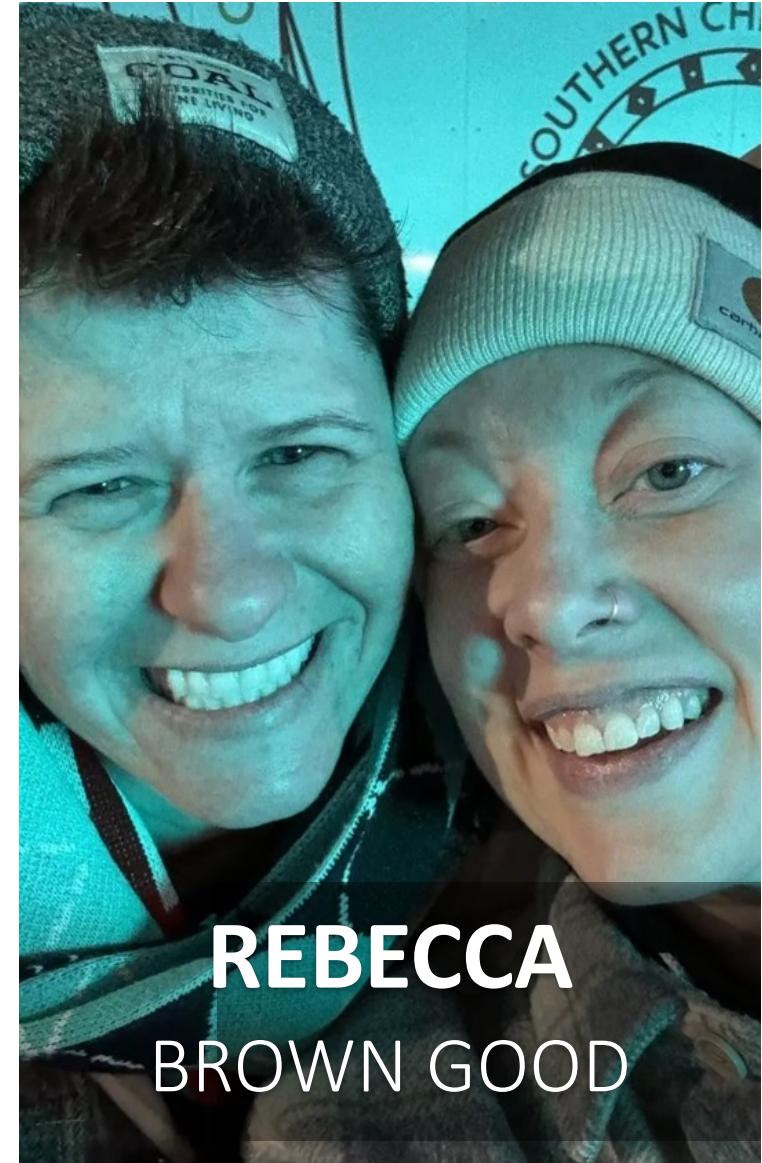
22 DECEMBER 2025

MONDAY

You need to channel all of this anger you have into action, into helping others, making phone calls to politicians, etc. ... If all of this suffering is in vain, is vanity, is meaningless or worthless, do I even want to go on living in this life? Then why would we even advocate for (justice)? (But) belief in God, belief in ultimate goodness and ultimate justice enables (us) to never lose hope...



Renee leaves behind three extraordinary children; the youngest is just six years old and already lost his father. I am now left to raise our son and to continue teaching him, as Renee believed, that there are people building a better world for him. That the people who did this had fear and anger in their hearts, ***and we need to show them a better way.***



REBECCA
BROWN GOOD

God of all ages,
you have revealed your grace
in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we wait patiently on his return,
strengthen us to live in your justice,
that with open hearts we may hear
and accomplish your will, through Christ,
who lights our way to you. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide featuring abstract black and white geometric shapes (triangles and lines) on a dark background. In the center, there is a stylized, colorful circle composed of overlapping red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple segments.