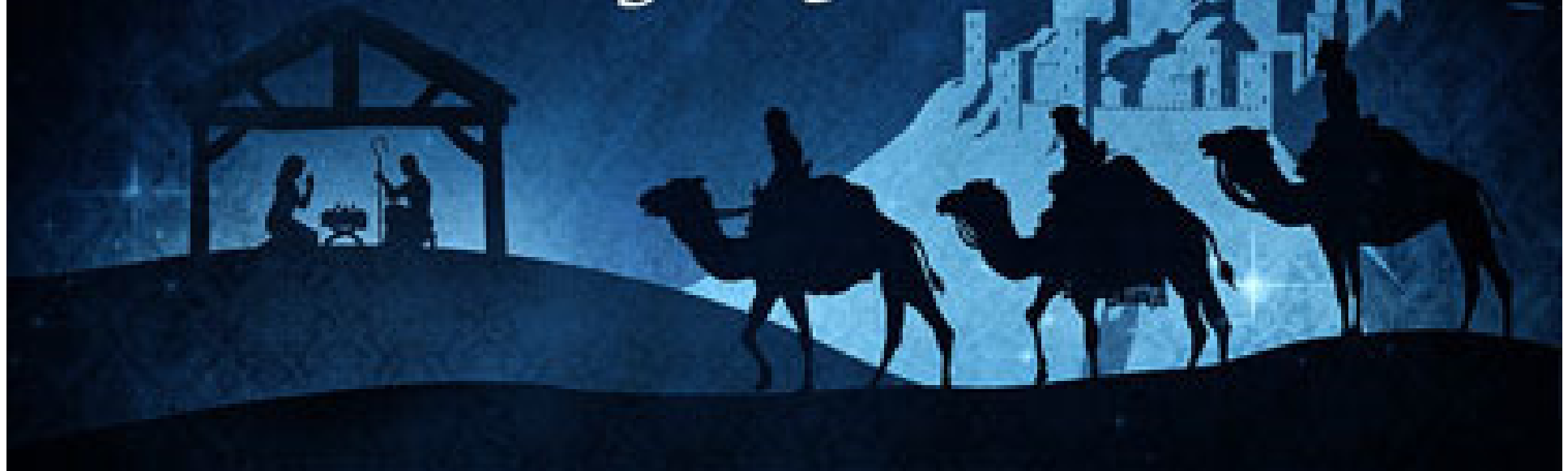
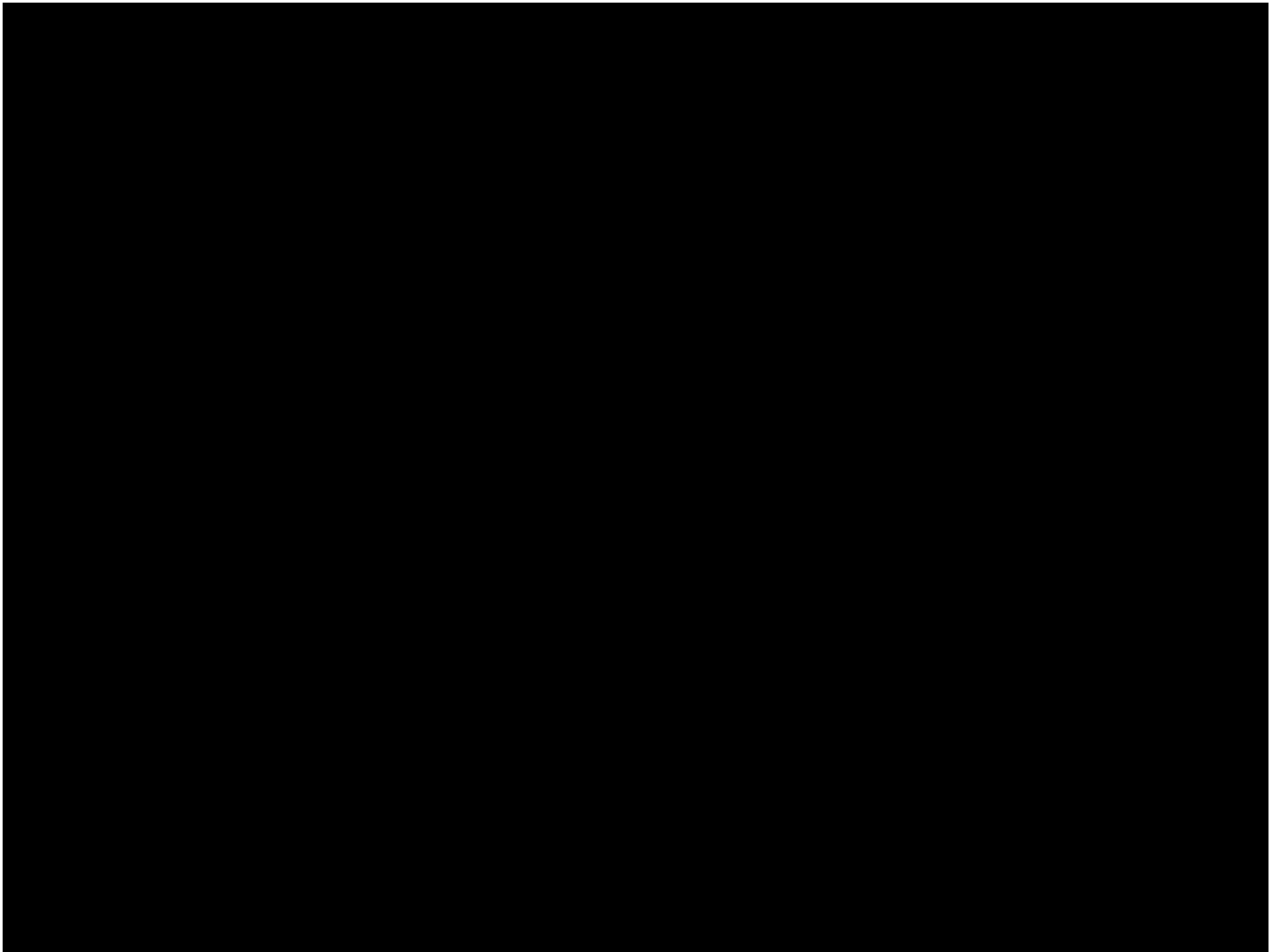


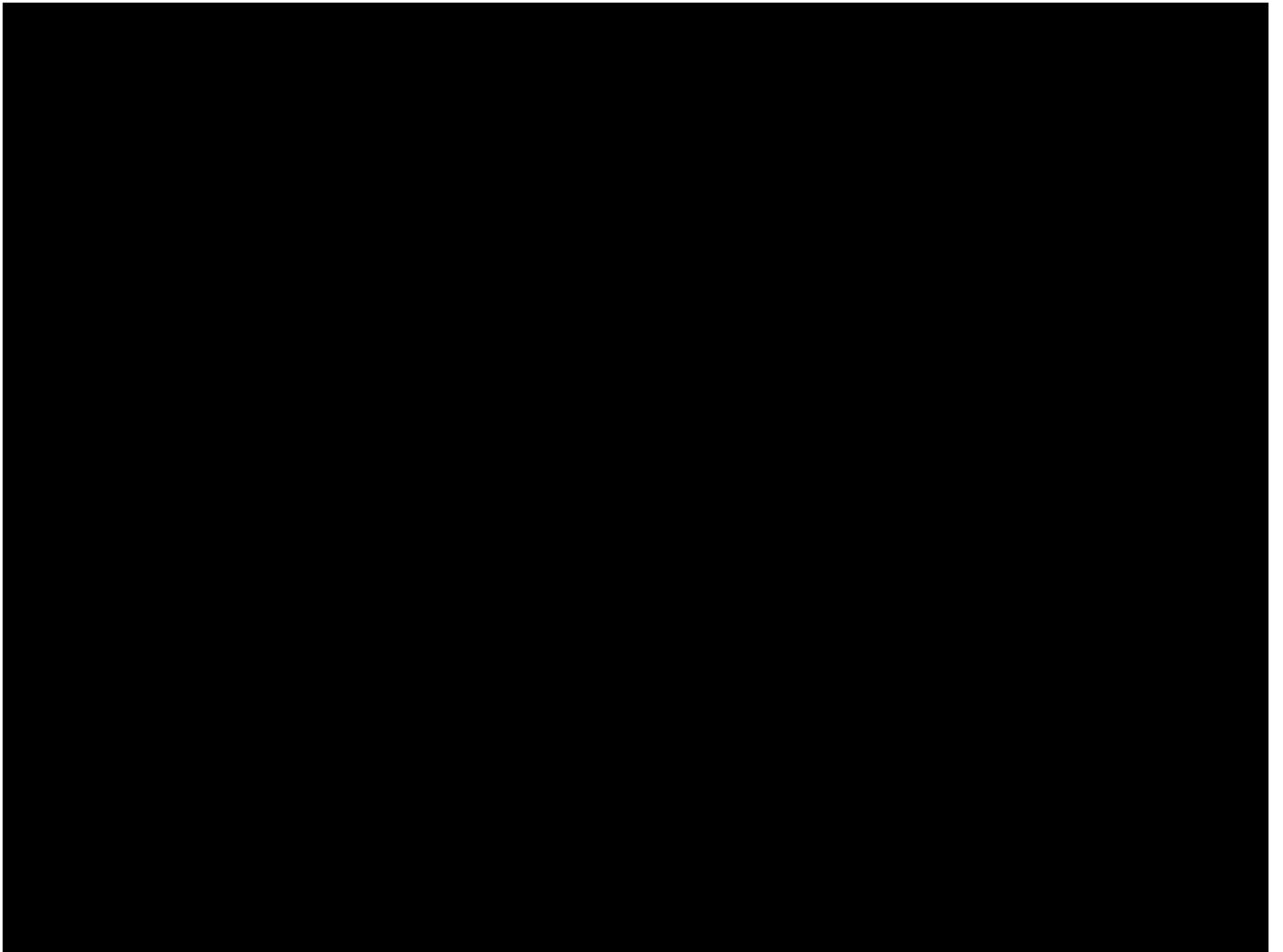
*M*ERRY CHRISTMAS
We're Glad You Are Here!







WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

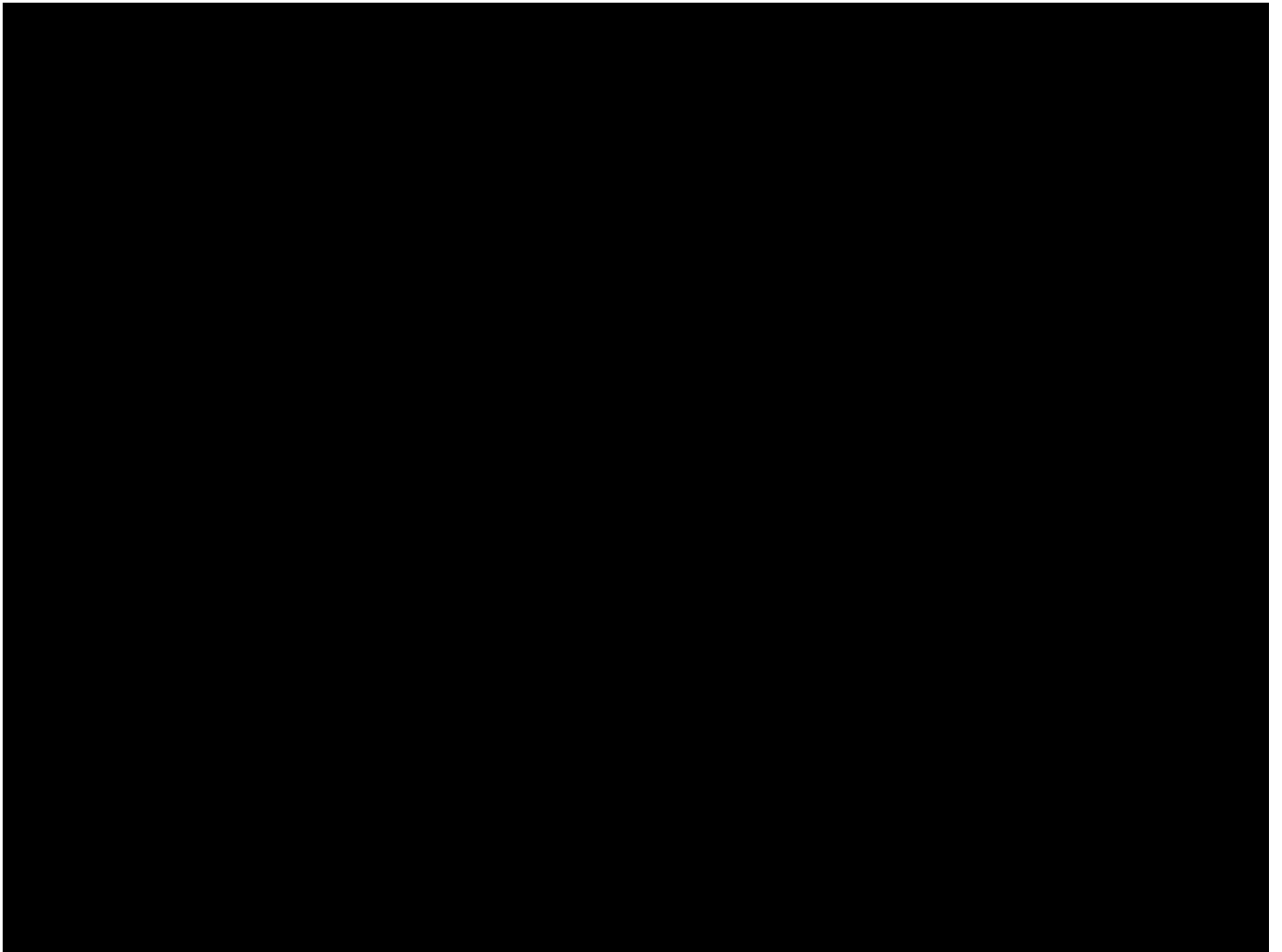


Sanctus #315

Holy, holy, holy!

Lord God almighty!

Early in the morning our song
shall rise to thee; holy, holy,
holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons,
blessed Trinity! ~

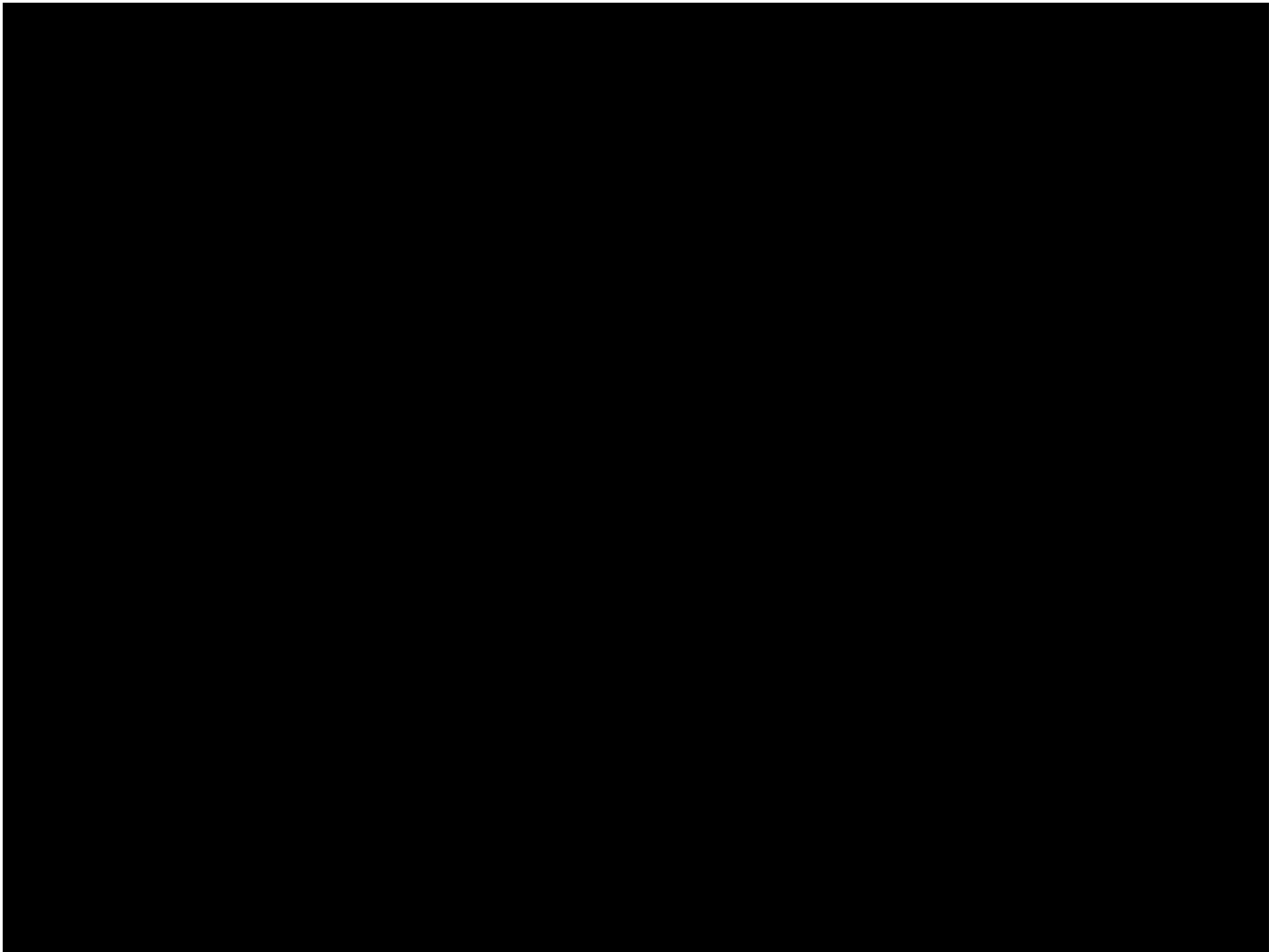


LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLES

A photograph of five lit advent candles in a row. From left to right, the candles are purple, red, white, purple, and purple. They are set against a dark, starry night sky with a faint, glowing arc of light in the background. The candles are lit, and their flames are bright and flickering.

ADVENT

- A SEASON OF EXPECTATION -



***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Come, and sing a new song
to God!

**All: for God has done wonderful
things!**

One: God brings justice and
salvation,

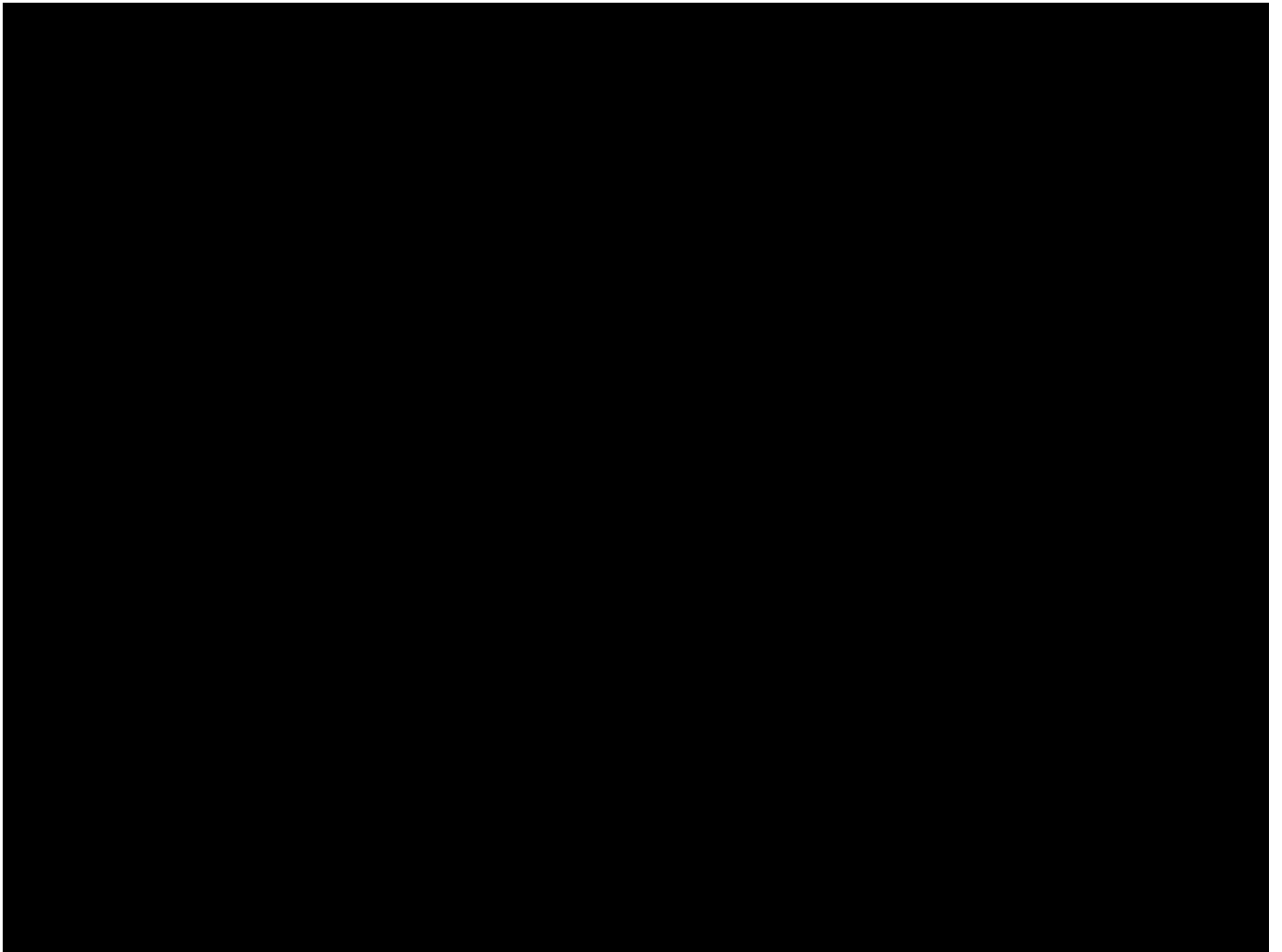
**All: God's faithful love is for
everyone.**

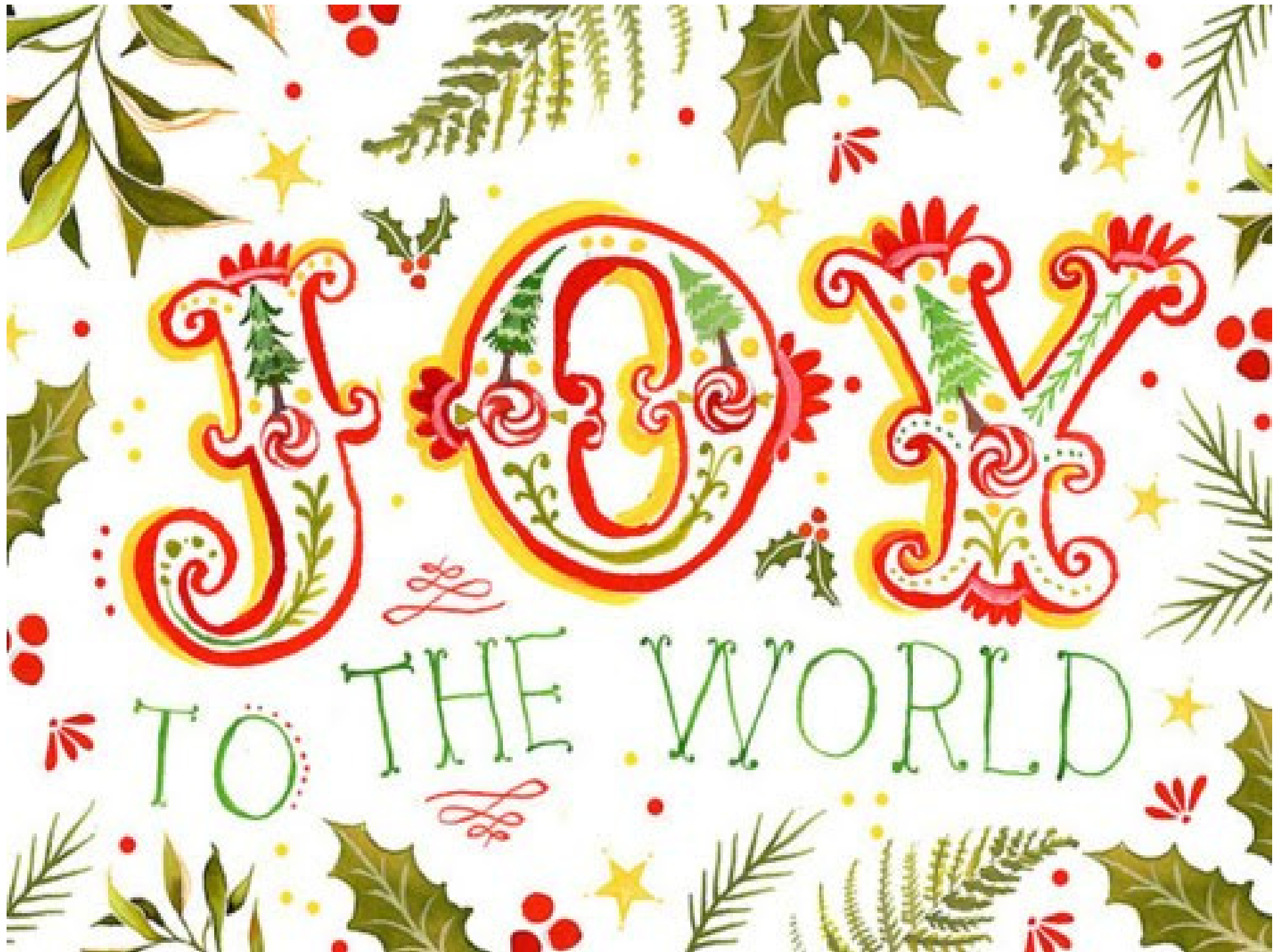
One: Tell everyone to sing songs of joy in praise of God!

All: Make music and celebrate!

One: For to us a child is born:

All: Jesus, the light of the world.





Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and
heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and
nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour
reigns:

let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills
and plains

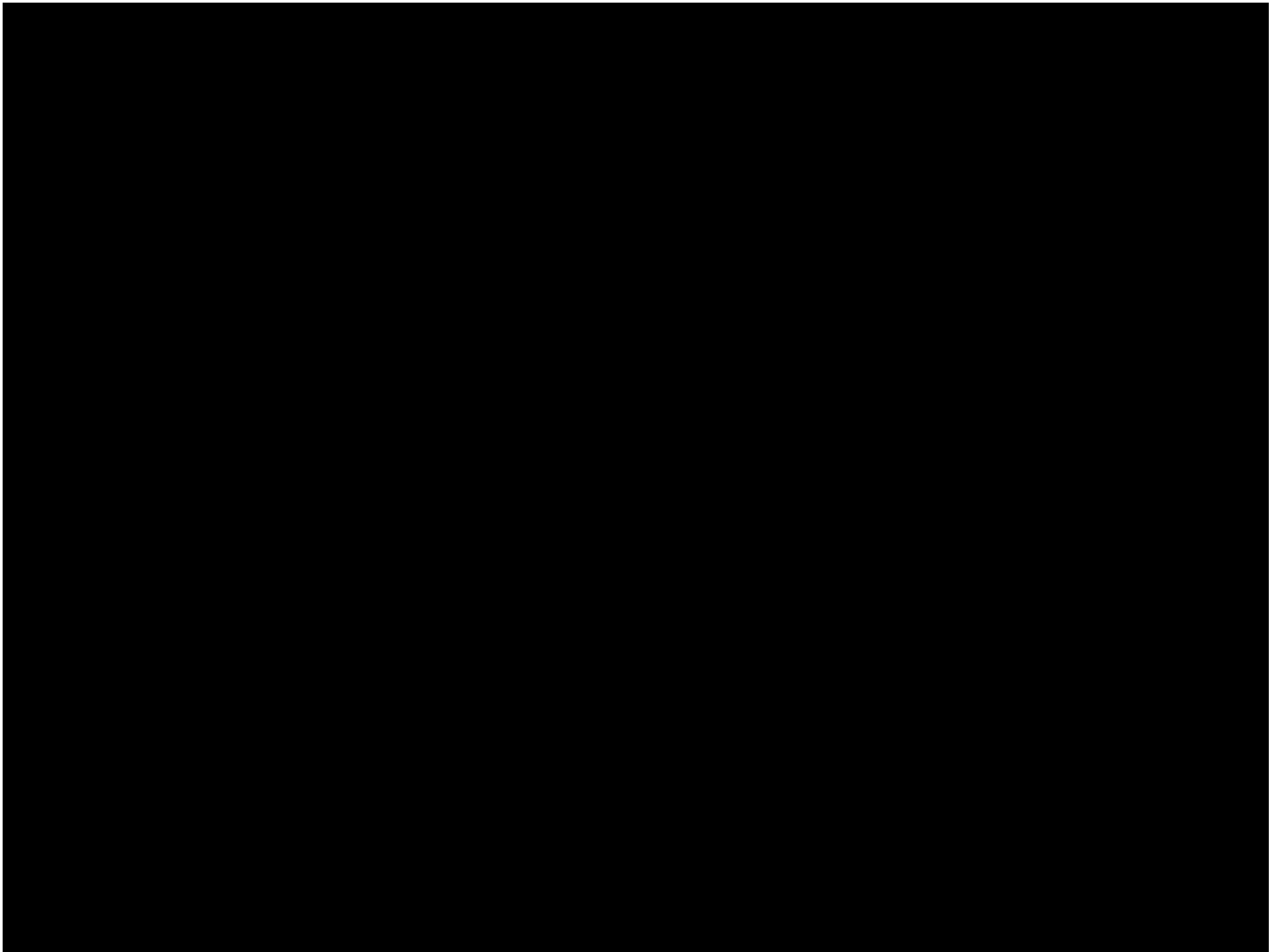
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the
sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings
flow

far as the curse is found, far as the
curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

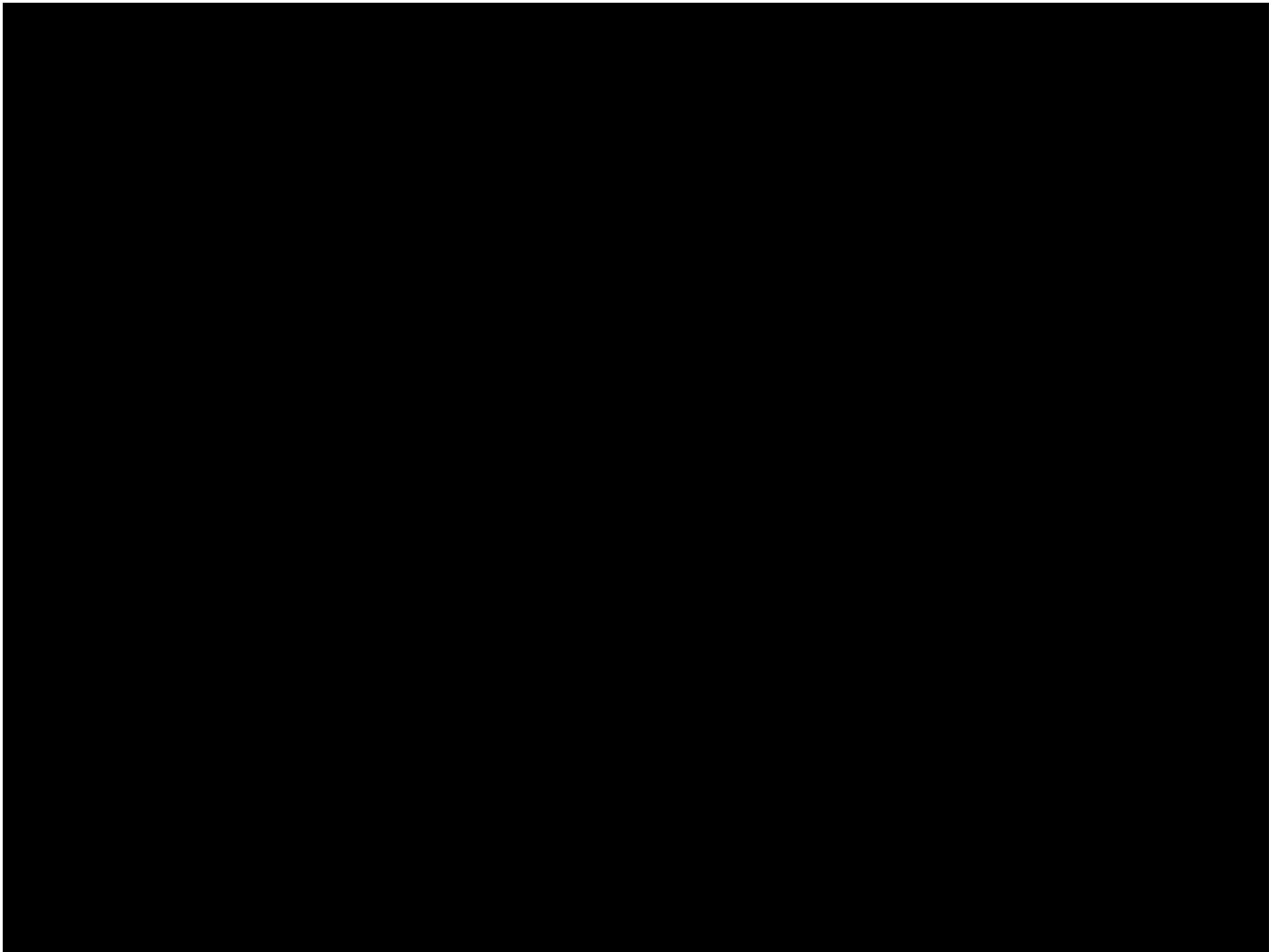
He rules the earth with truth and
grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and
wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his
love.~



***OPENING PRAYER:**

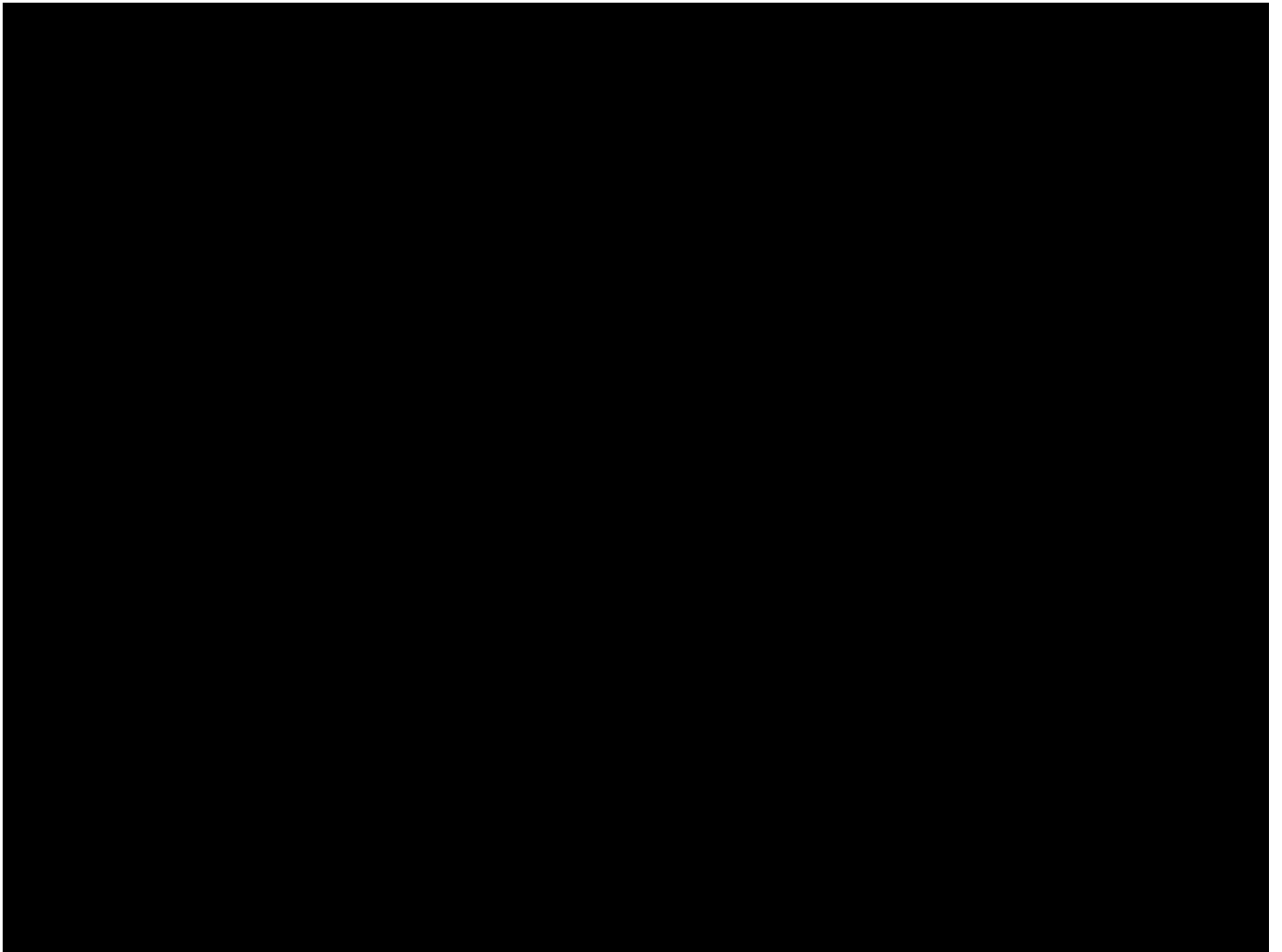
**On this day of days, loving God,
we gather to celebrate the
wondrous gift of Jesus Christ.
Born long ago and still today,
Child of the universe present
among us. May we, in the things
we do and say, continue to give
birth to the presence of the**

**living Christ in our world today
and always. Amen.**





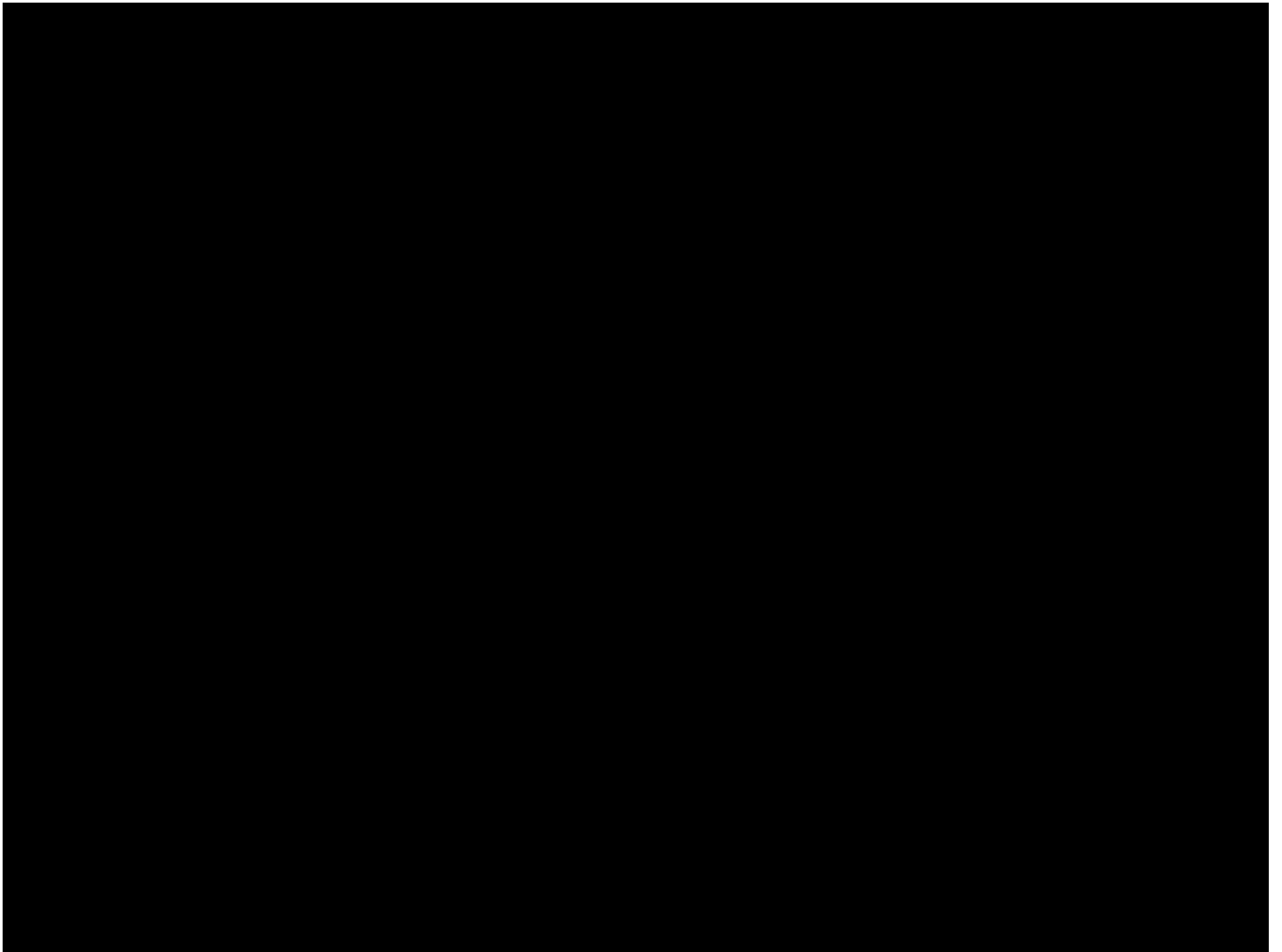
**PRAYER OF CONFESSION
& ASSURANCE**




PASSING THE PEACE:

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.





***HYMN VU#60**
O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and
triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem:

come and behold him, born the
King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come,
let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord.

God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's
womb;
very God, begotten, not created:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come,
let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in
exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above;
glory to God in the highest:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come,
let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord.

See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful
footsteps;

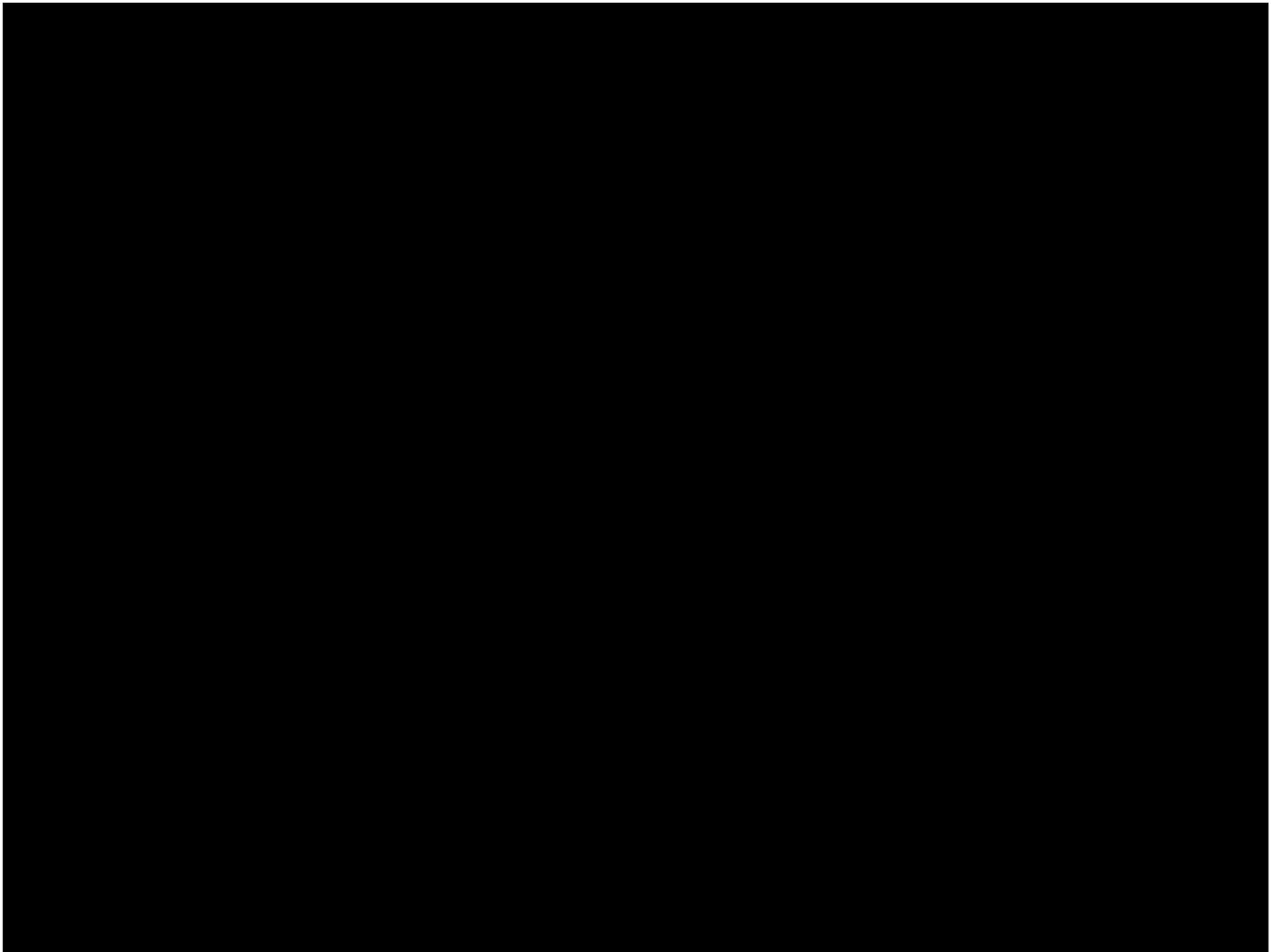
Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come,
let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this
happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh
appearing:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come,
let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ
the Lord.~



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white and appear to have some faint text, though it is not legible. The book is set against a dark, textured background that looks like a book cover or a similar material. The lighting is warm, with a yellowish glow emanating from the center of the book, creating a soft shadow around it. The overall mood is one of quiet study or reflection.

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 98

Joyce Fleet

One: Sing to God a new song,

**All: for God has done
marvellous things.**

One: Your right hand and your holy
arm have brought victory.

**All: You have made known your
salvation, and revealed before
the nations your saving power.**

One: You have remembered your

steadfast love and faithfulness to
the house of Israel;

**All: all the ends of the earth have
seen the salvation of our God.**

One: Make a joyful noise to God,
all the earth;

**All: break into joyous praise,
sing psalms.**

One: Sing psalms to God with the harp,

All: with the harp and melodious voice.

One: With trumpets, and the sound of the horn

All: make a joyful noise before our sovereign God.

One: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

All: the world, and its inhabitants.

One: Let the rivers clap their hands,

All: the hills sing together for joy

before God.

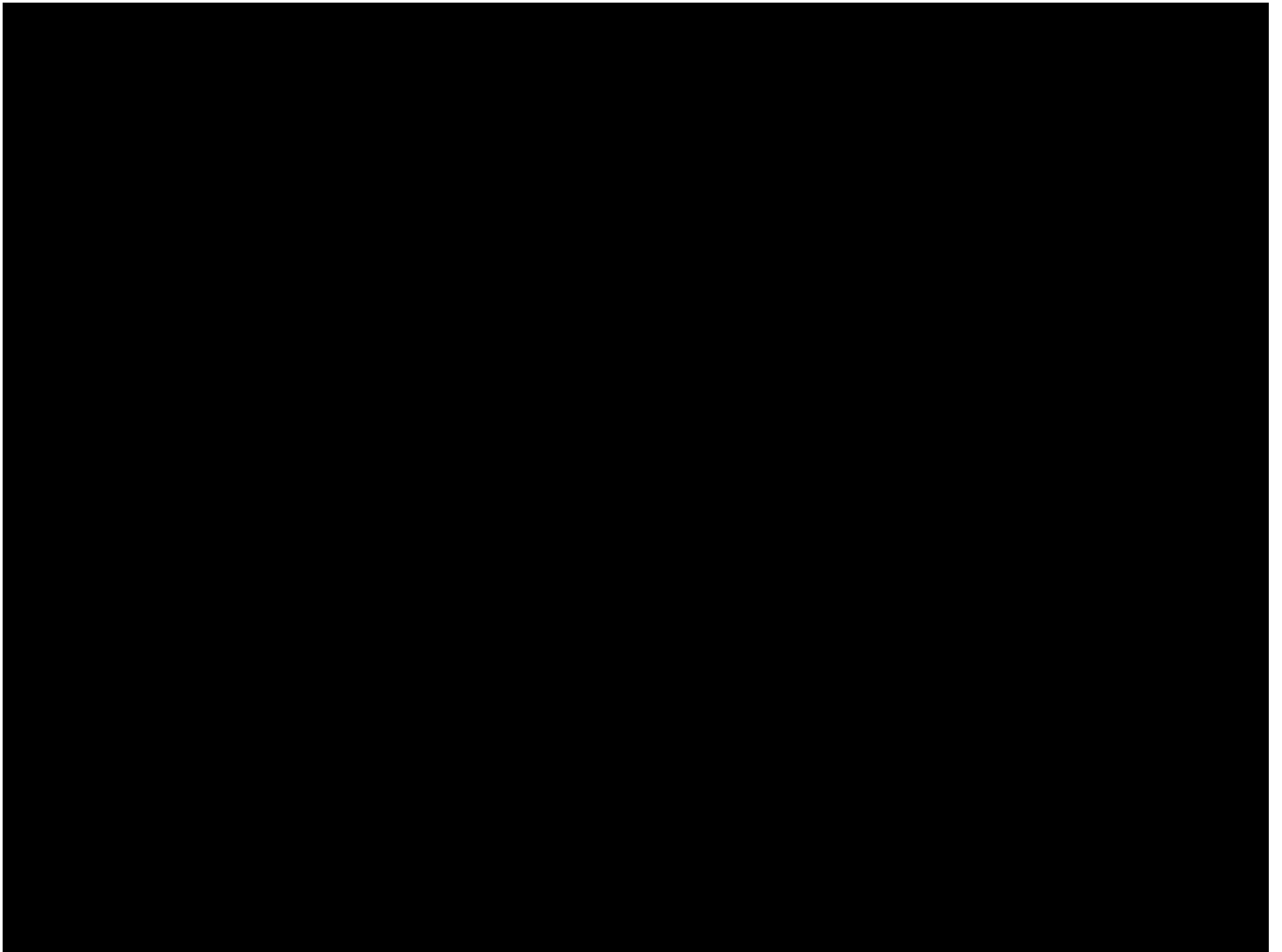
One: You come to judge the earth,

O God,

All: to judge the world with

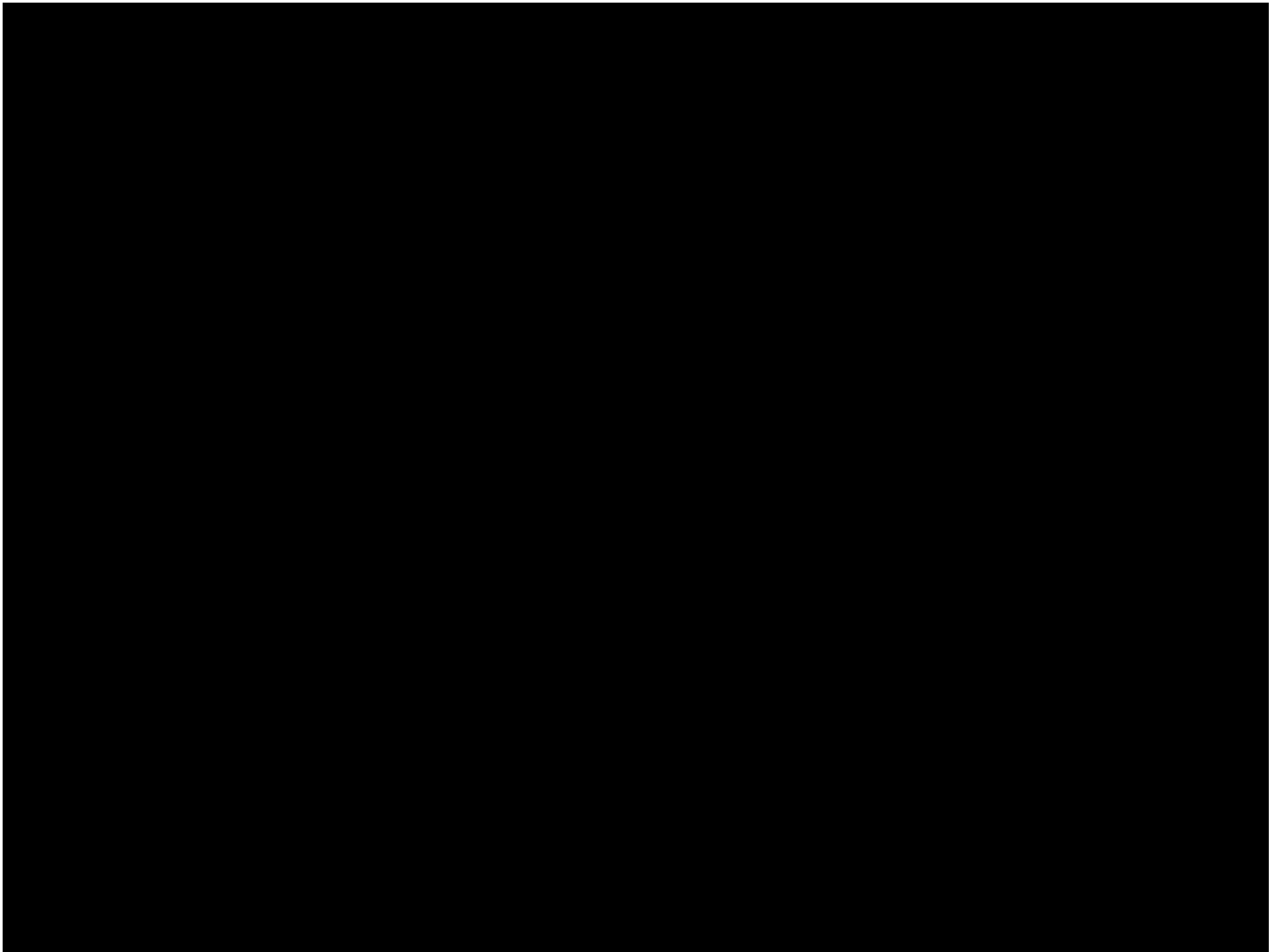
righteousness, and the peoples

with equity



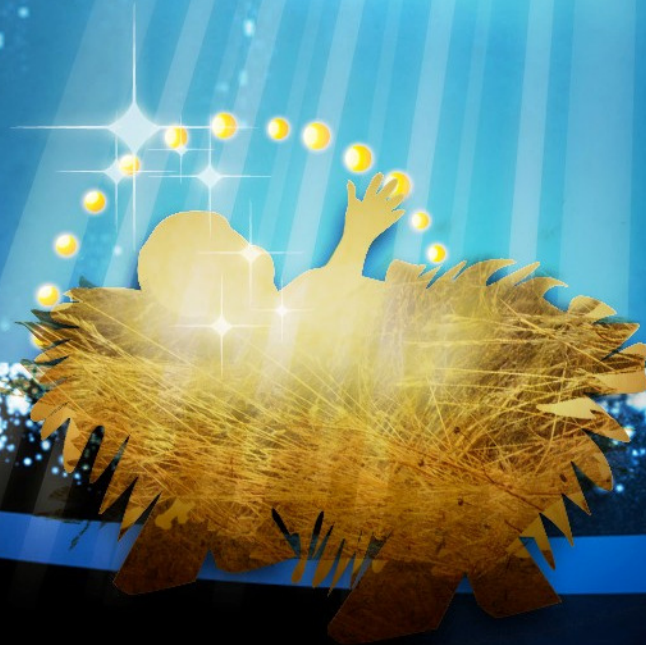


SERMON



HYMN: VU#74

“What Child Is This”



What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet
while shepherds watch are
keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels
sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners
here
the silent Word is pleading.

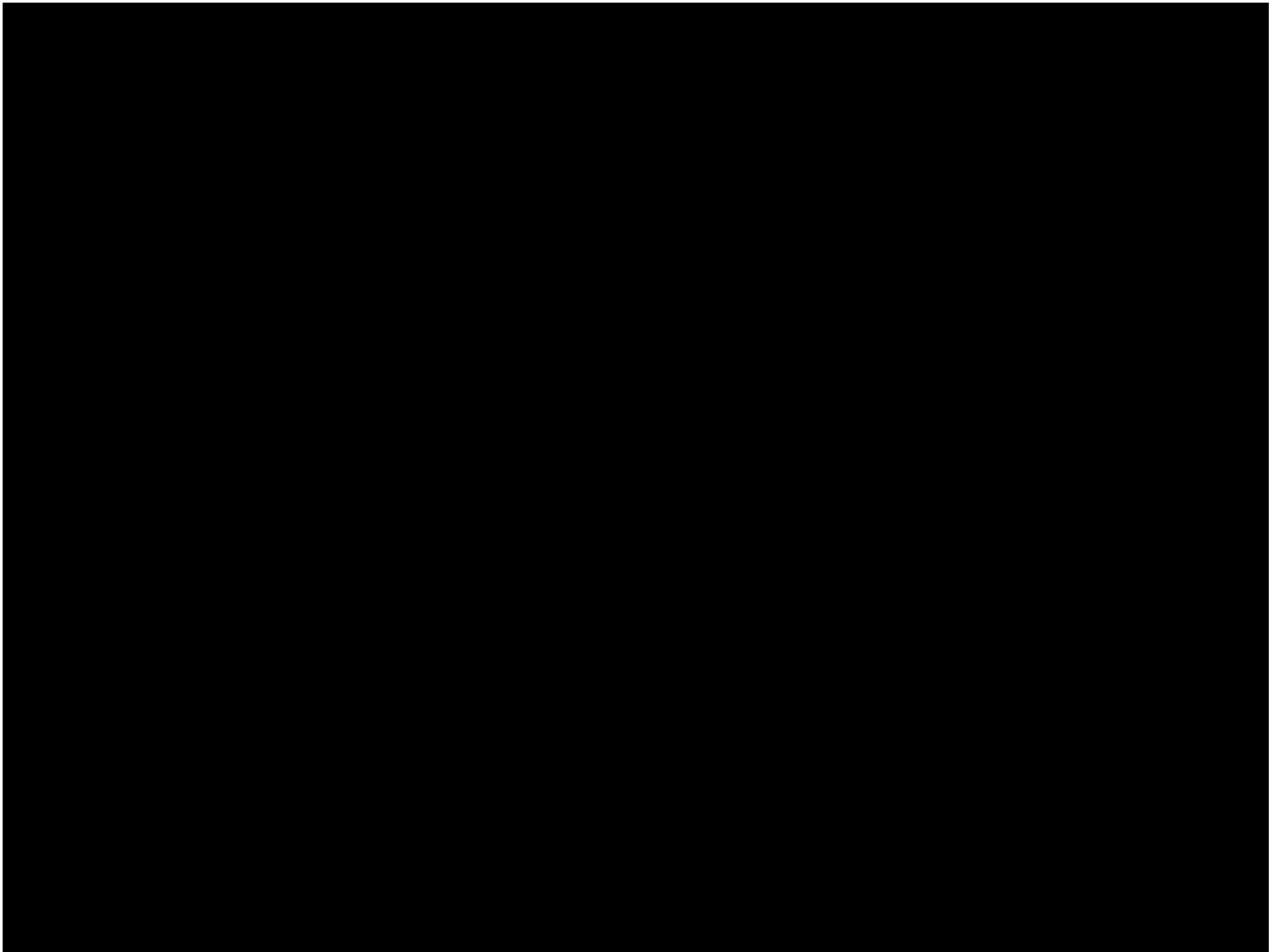
Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels
sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and
myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.

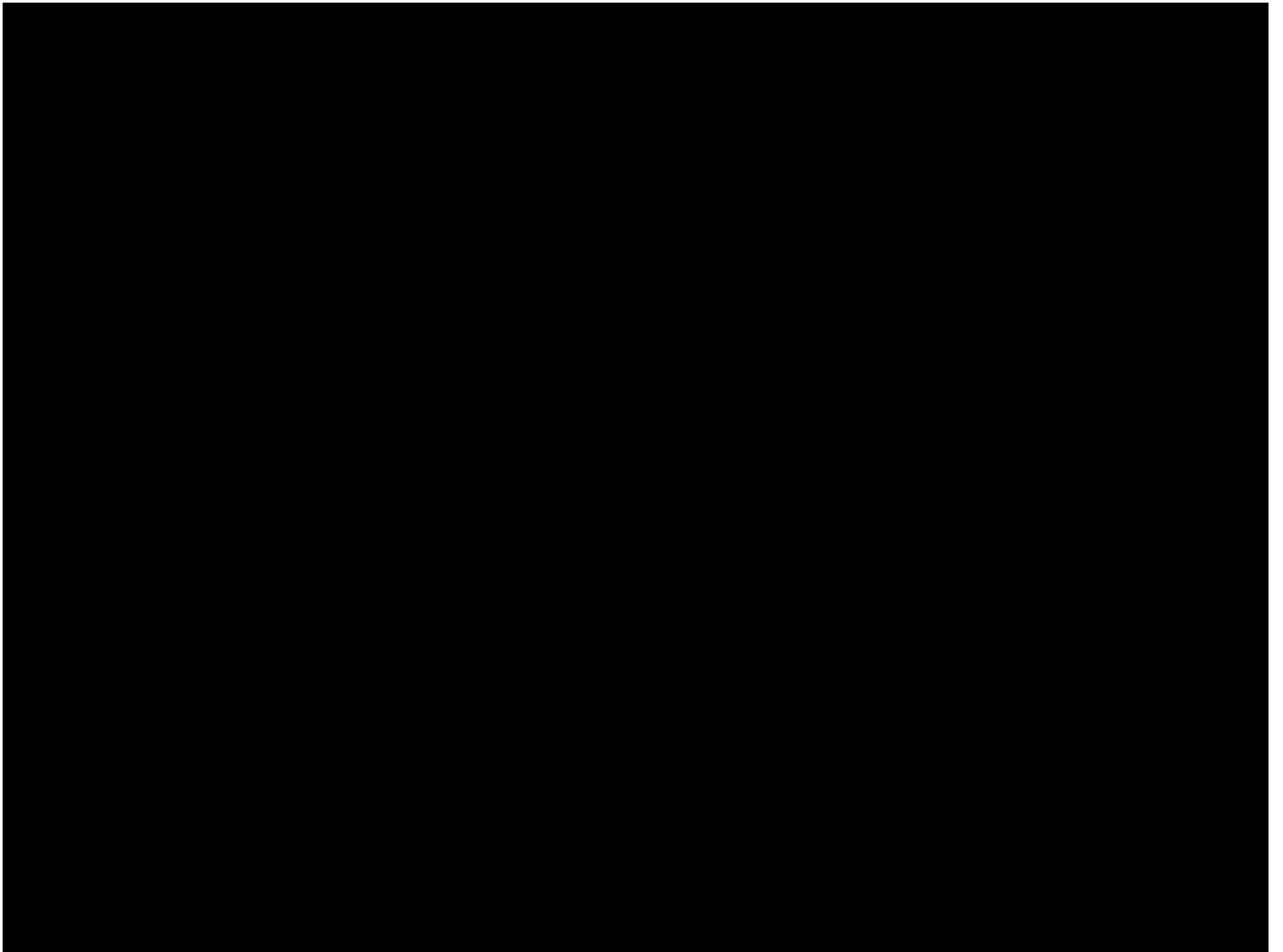
Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels
sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!~



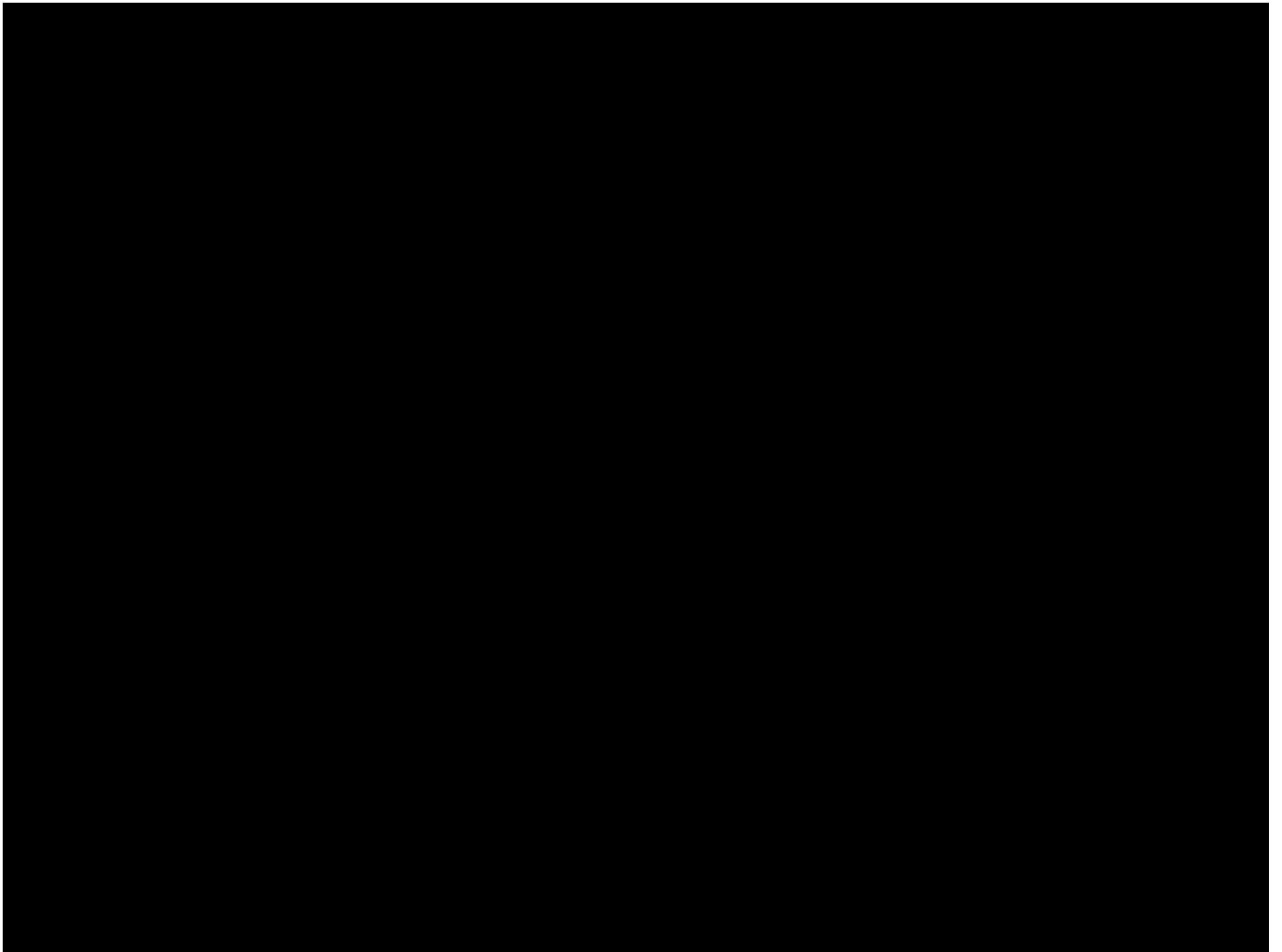
OFFERING: VU#55

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a
lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my
part;
yet what I can I give him - give my
heart.~



***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

**Loving God, in the birth of Jesus
You show your preference for all
that are humble and poor. May
this mystery save us from
illusions of grandeur and power,
and lead us to love simplicity of
heart, through Christ. Amen**



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

One: Most gracious and loving God, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of the beloved Child, Jesus the Christ. Grant that Christ may be born anew in our hearts. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we, too, may

sing with joy the angels' song.

All: (sing) “Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!”

One: God of mercy, by the birth of your holy Child Jesus, you give a great light to dawn on our darkness. We confess to you the darkness of our lives, the times when we have refused the gift of

your love. Forgive us. Bestow upon us the light of your peace that the likeness of the Christ be formed in us.

All: (sing) O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great,

**glad tidings tell, O come to us,
abide in us,our Lord Emmanuel.**

One: O God of love, by the
mystery of the word made flesh,
you draw near and dwell among
us. Open our hearts that we may
receive the gift of your presence in
the birth of Jesus. Fill our lives
with your love that we might care

for Earth's children with the love you have for us all.

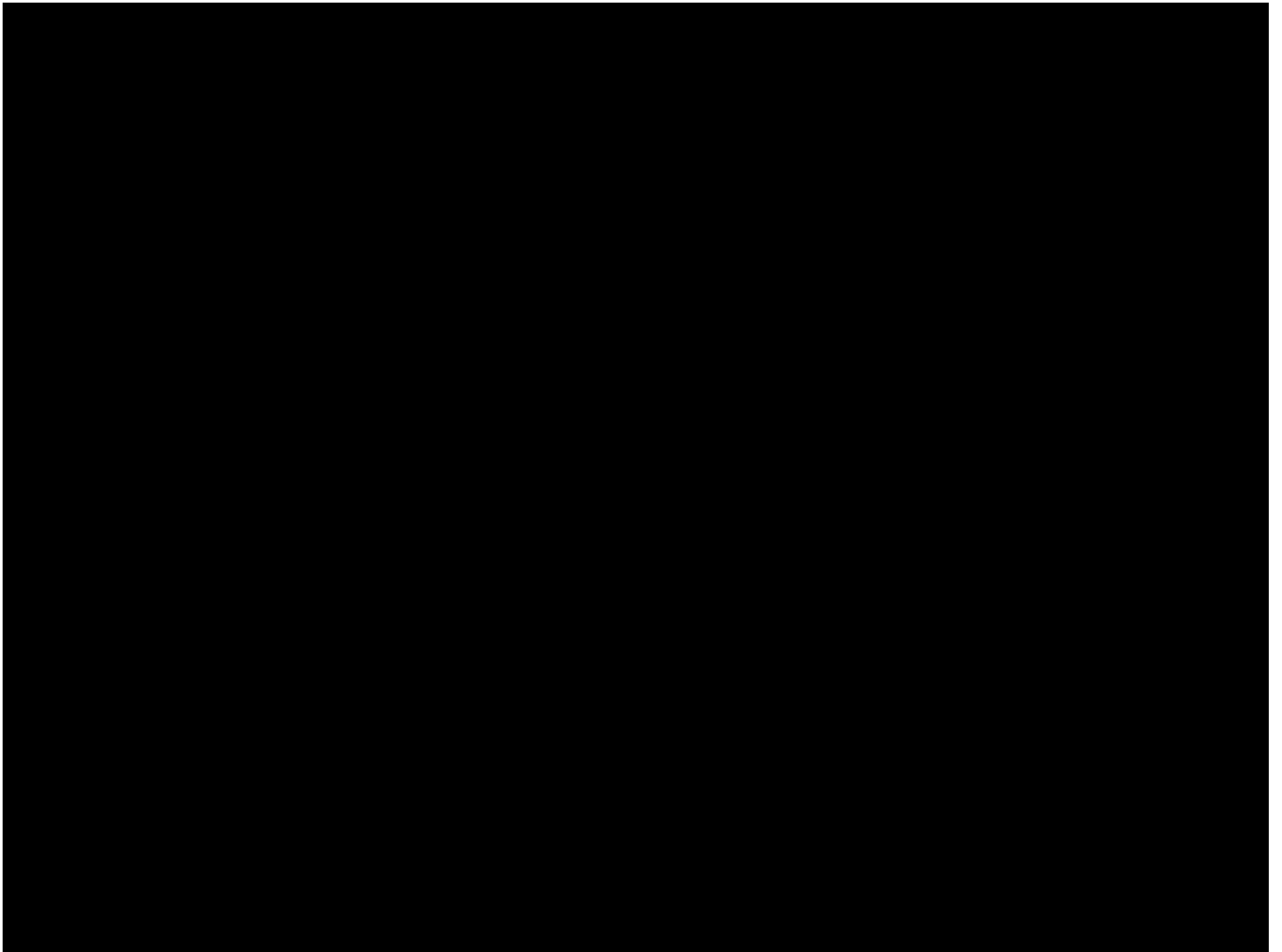
All: (sing) Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay. Close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

One: O God of peace, send the love of Jesus the peacemaker into

our hurting and troubled world. Strengthen those who work for peace, give courage to those who seek justice, and touch us all with the hope of your reign. Direct our steps that we may walk in the glory revealed to us in Jesus the Christ.

All: (sing) All glory be to God on high, and to the world be peace;

**good will henceforth from
heaven to Earth begin, and
never cease.**



***CLOSING HYMN: VU#35**

**“Good Christian Friends,
Rejoice”**

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!

Give ye heed to what we say:

News! News!

Jesus Christ is born today.

Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born
today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy!

Joy!

Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was
born for this!

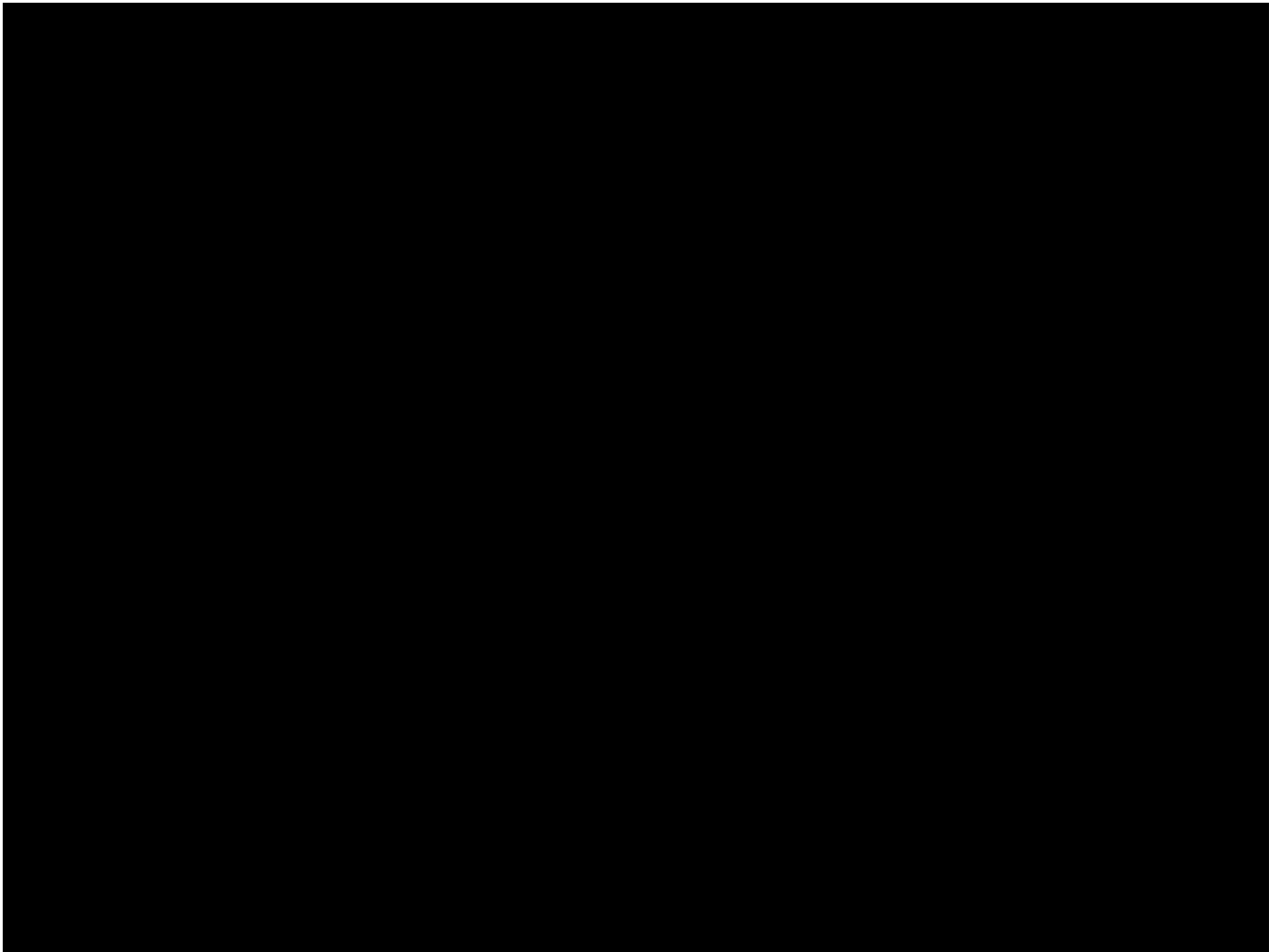
Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:

Peace! Peace!

Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was
born to save!~



BLESSING:

One: Go, and proclaim God's message of peace, good news, and salvation. Sing for joy. Say to the world "Your God reigns."

Group one: Let's go out and proclaim it on the mountains,

Group two: in the valleys,

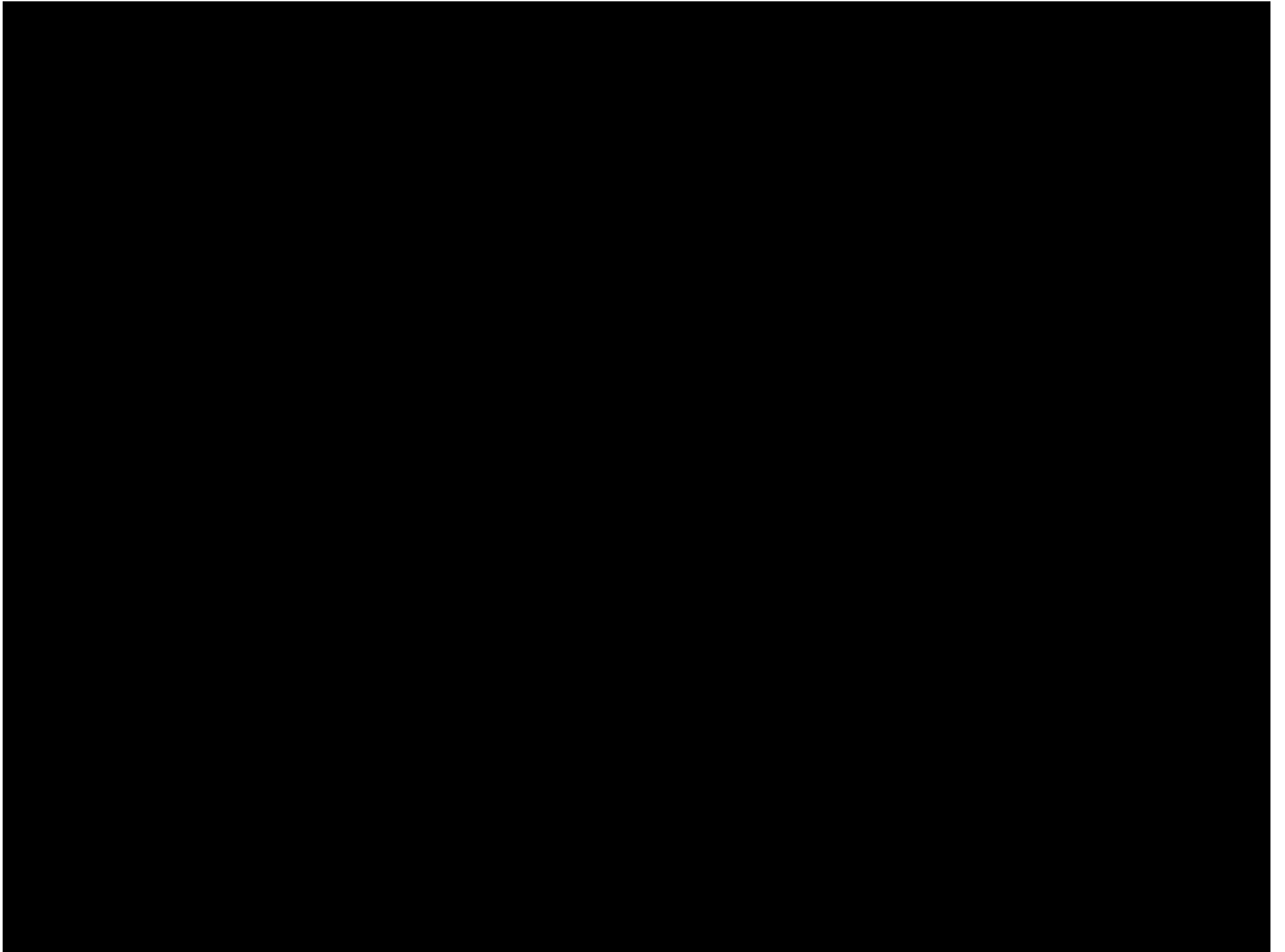
Group one: in the city streets,

Group two: beside the oceans and streams.

Group one: in the forests and the open fields,

Group two: in schools and parks and workplaces.

All: Let's go out and tell the good news: Jesus Christ is born!





***CHORAL RESPONSE: VU#43**

**“Go Tell It On The
Mountain”**

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth!

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.

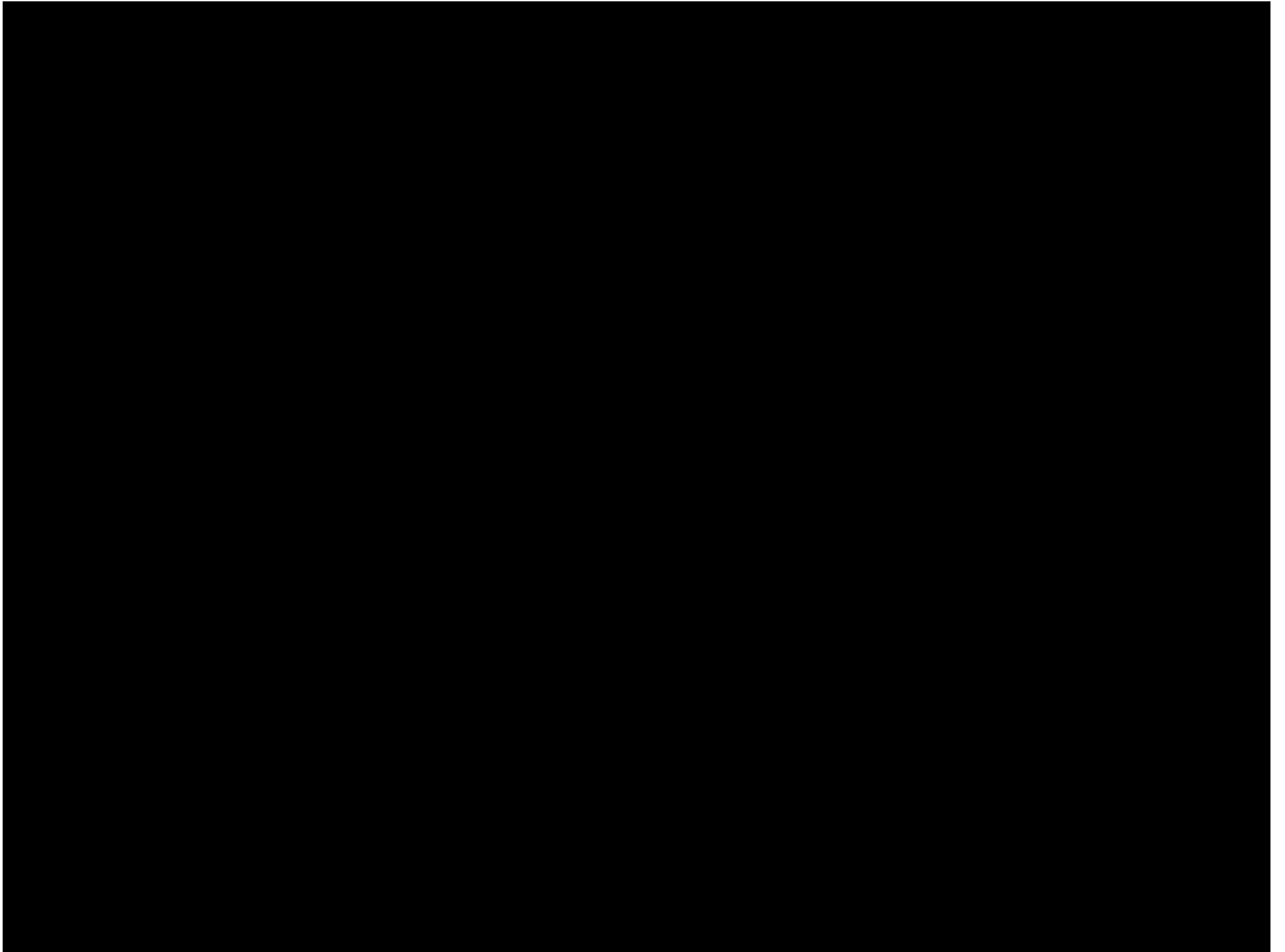
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.~



A festive Christmas card featuring a white envelope with a large, shiny red ribbon bow at the top. The card is decorated with gold stars and a gold ornament. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and white, suggesting a Christmas tree and lights. The text is centered on the envelope in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

**HAVE A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A BLESSED
HOLIDAY SEASON!**

