

A night sky with a bright starburst in the upper center, surrounded by a field of smaller stars. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a purple and magenta glow near the horizon. At the bottom, the dark silhouette of a city skyline is visible against the horizon.

CHRISTMAS PRESENCE

November 29, 2015

John 1:1-18

Christmas Wishlist

1. Wholeness
(Shalom)

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel*.

*God with us

John 1:1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

John 1:3-5

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

John 1:6–9

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

John 1:10–11

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

John 1:12–13

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

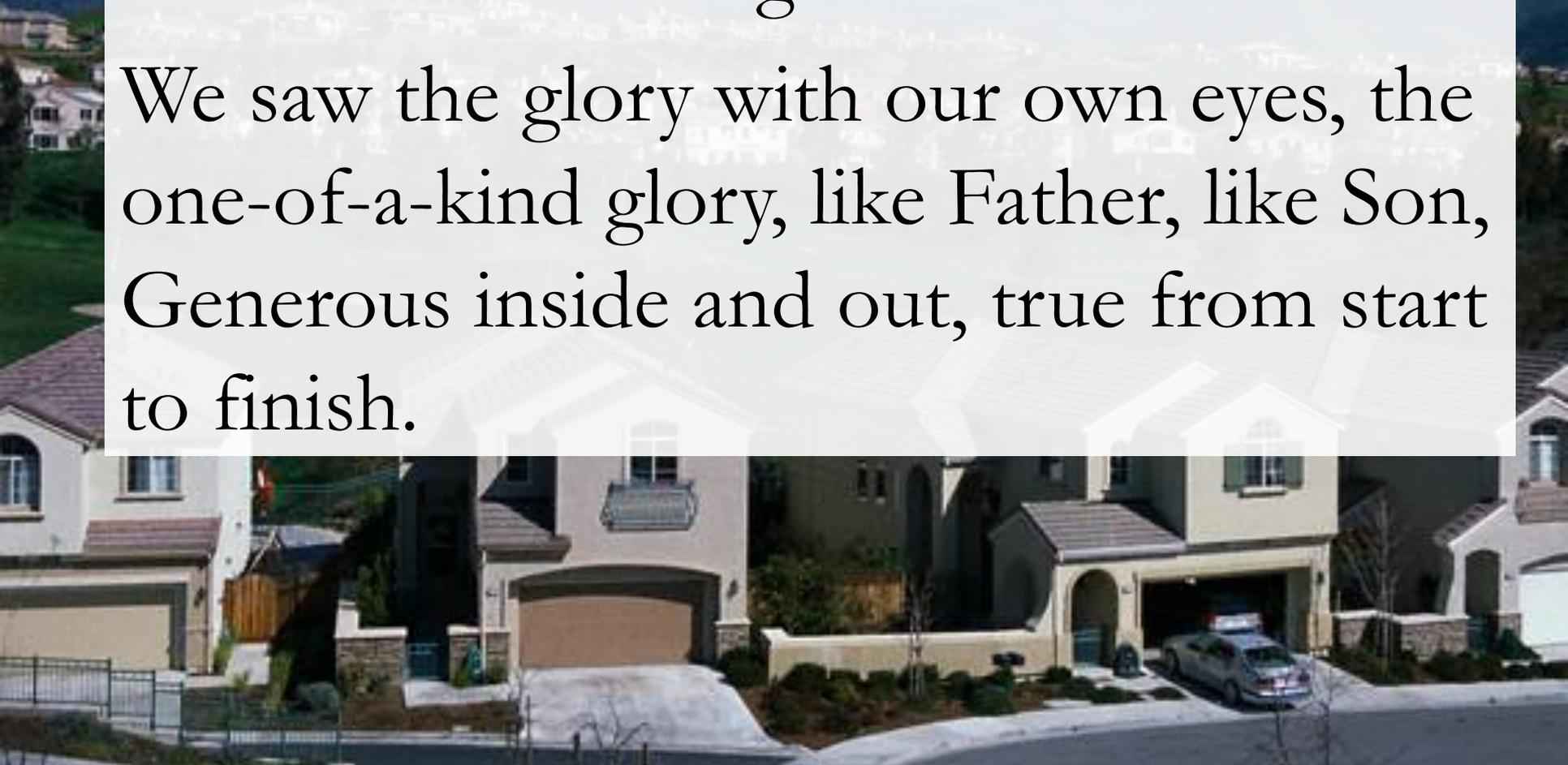
John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (The Message)

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.

We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

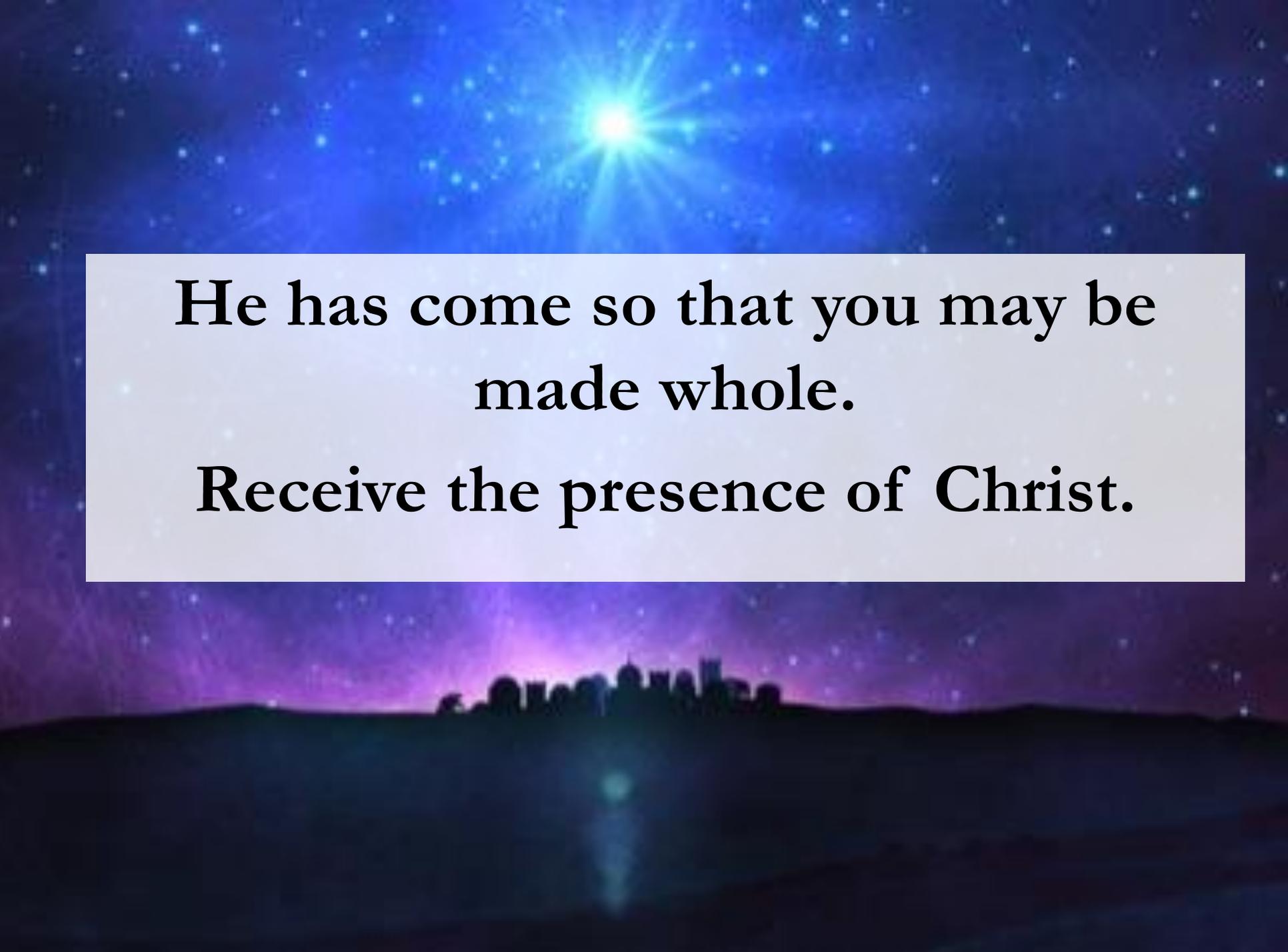


John 1:15–16

John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ” From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

John 1:17–18

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

The background of the image is a deep blue and purple night sky filled with numerous small, bright stars. A prominent, bright starburst with multiple rays of light is centered in the upper half of the frame. At the bottom of the image, the dark silhouette of a city skyline is visible against a lighter, purple-tinged horizon. The overall atmosphere is serene and celestial.

**He has come so that you may be
made whole.**

Receive the presence of Christ.