

DEC 15TH | ADVENT CANDLE OF

*Joy*



# BLOW UP YOUR *Christmas*

With Pastor Mark Sterlace

**DECEMBER 15TH 2024**





LIVESTREAM

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YOUR *Christmas*

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**Scriptures: Luke 2:8-18**



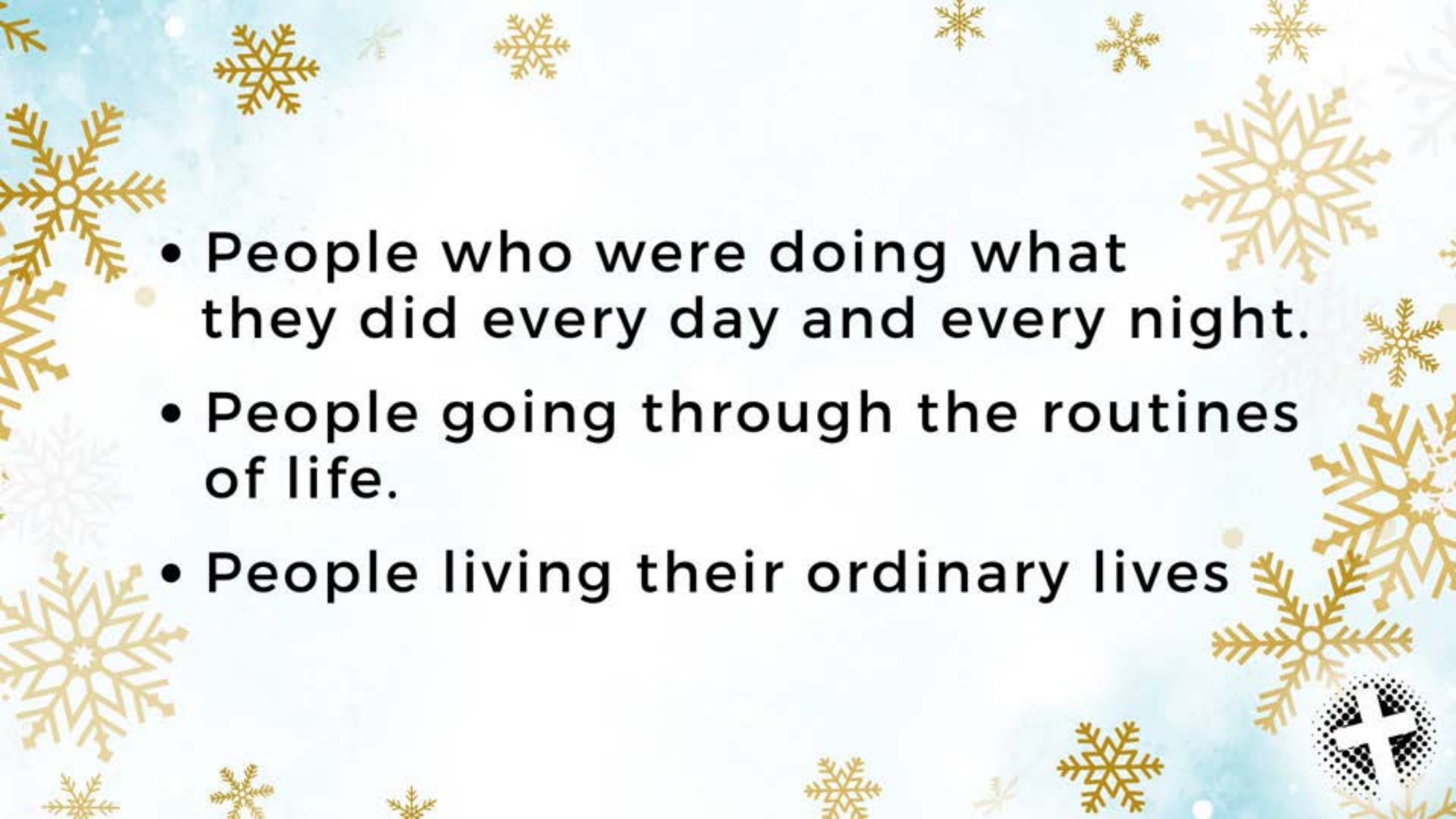
## He came because of them

- In this account, we discover the heart of God and the meaning of the birth of this child.
- Here is a graphic picture of Jesus, the One sent to the lowly and outcast.
- In this picture, we are reminded that Jesus came for people like the shepherds.

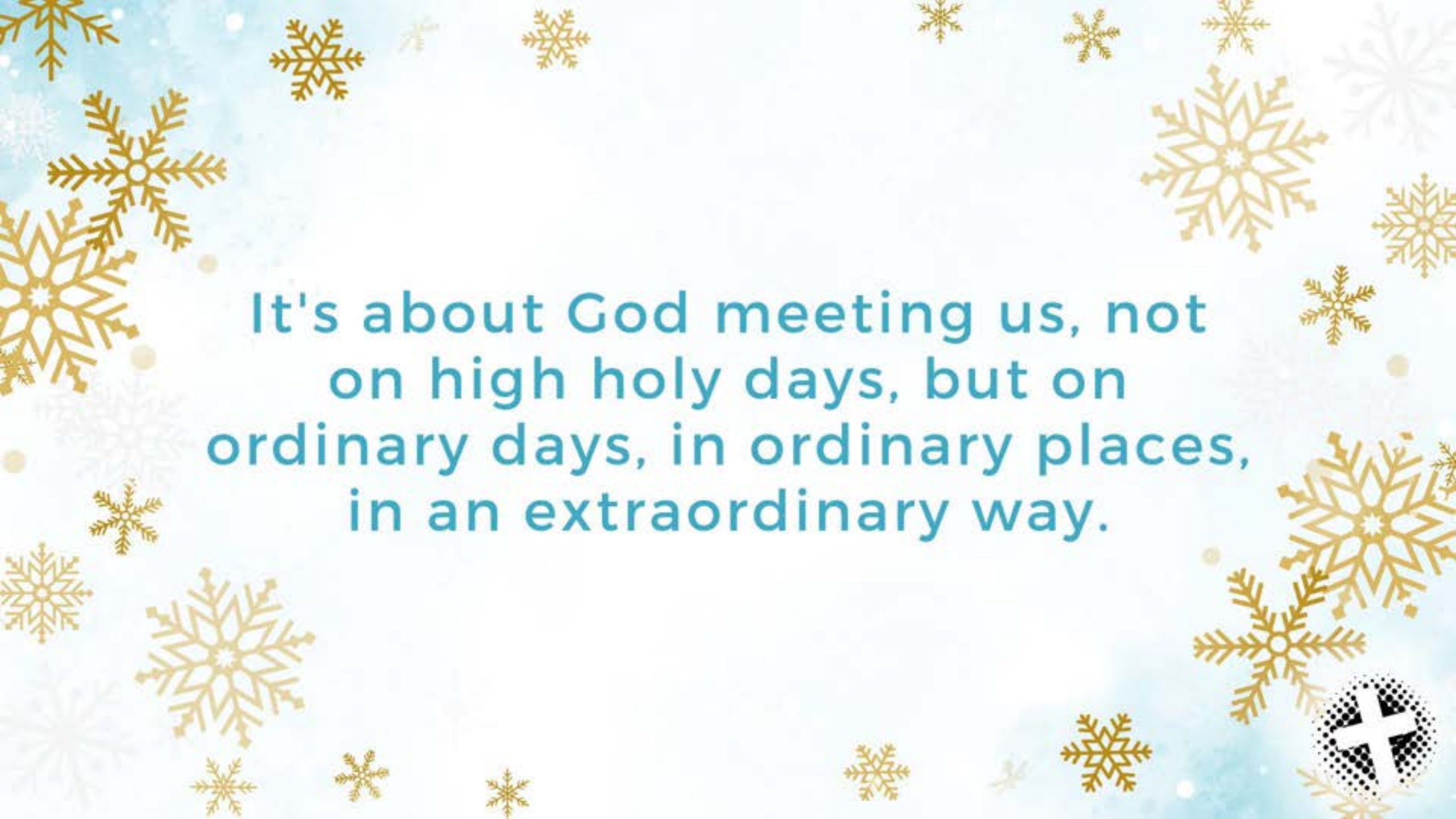
“In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David”

(Luke 2:8-11 HCSB)



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- People who were doing what they did every day and every night.
  - People going through the routines of life.
  - People living their ordinary lives

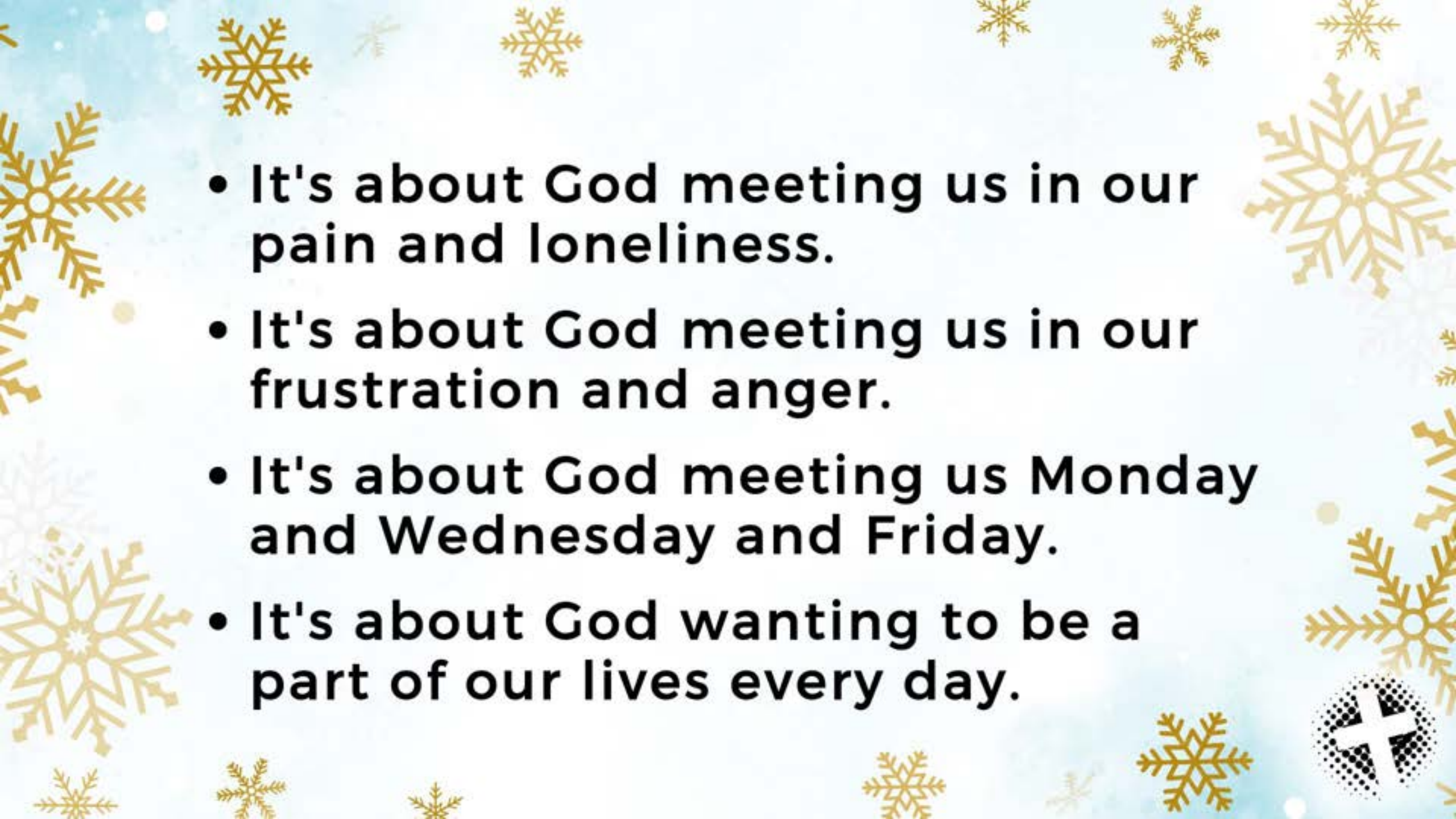




It's about God meeting us, not  
on high holy days, but on  
ordinary days, in ordinary places,  
in an extraordinary way.





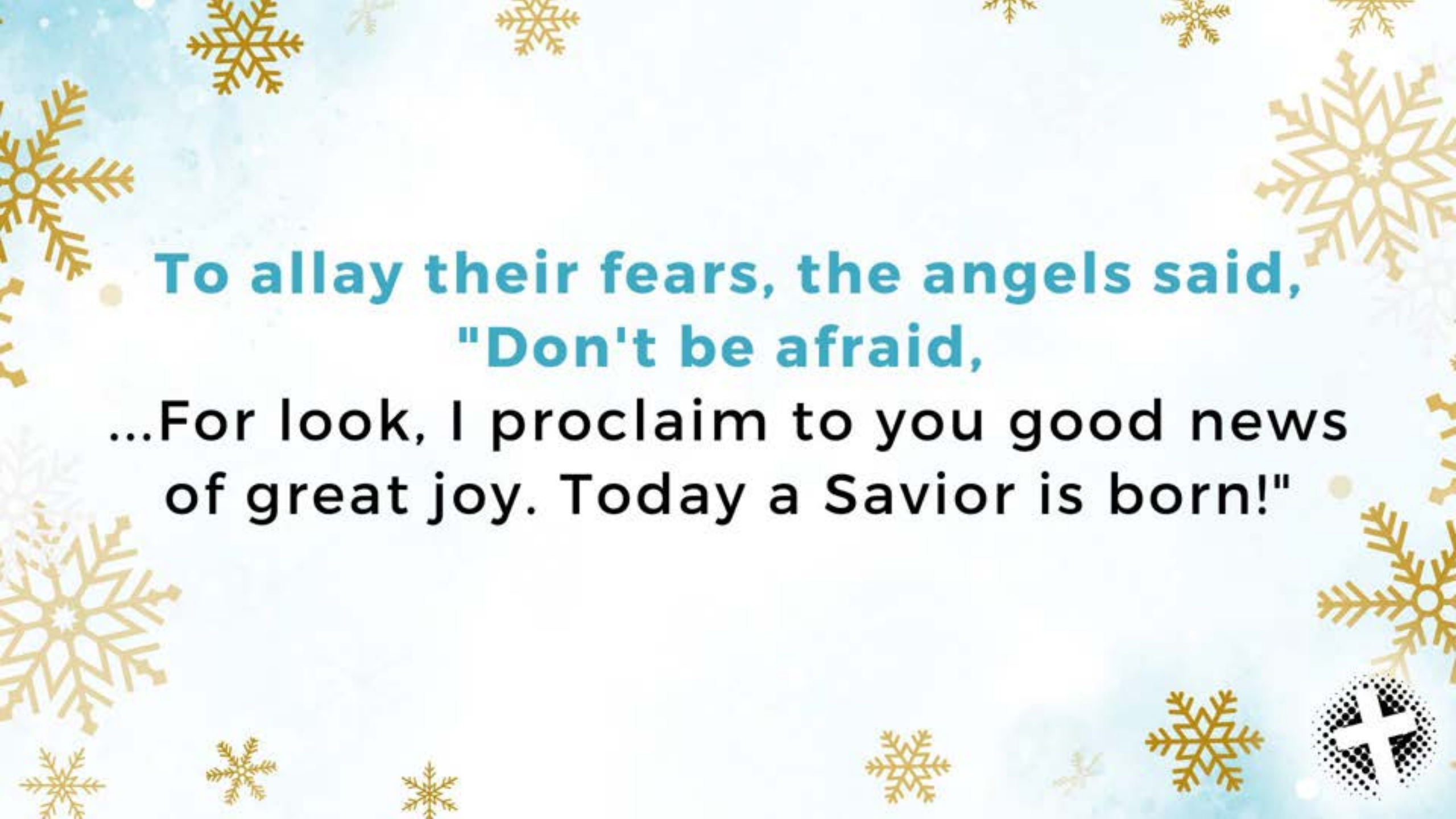
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- **It's about God meeting us in our pain and loneliness.**
  - **It's about God meeting us in our frustration and anger.**
  - **It's about God meeting us Monday and Wednesday and Friday.**
  - **It's about God wanting to be a part of our lives every day.**

## **That's what the birth of Jesus means.**


- Radical action.
- Radical behavior.
- Radical gospel.
- Radical Savior.
- Radical God.







**To allay their fears, the angels said,  
"Don't be afraid,  
...For look, I proclaim to you good news  
of great joy. Today a Savior is born!"**



**"They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. After seeing [them], they reported the message they were told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."**

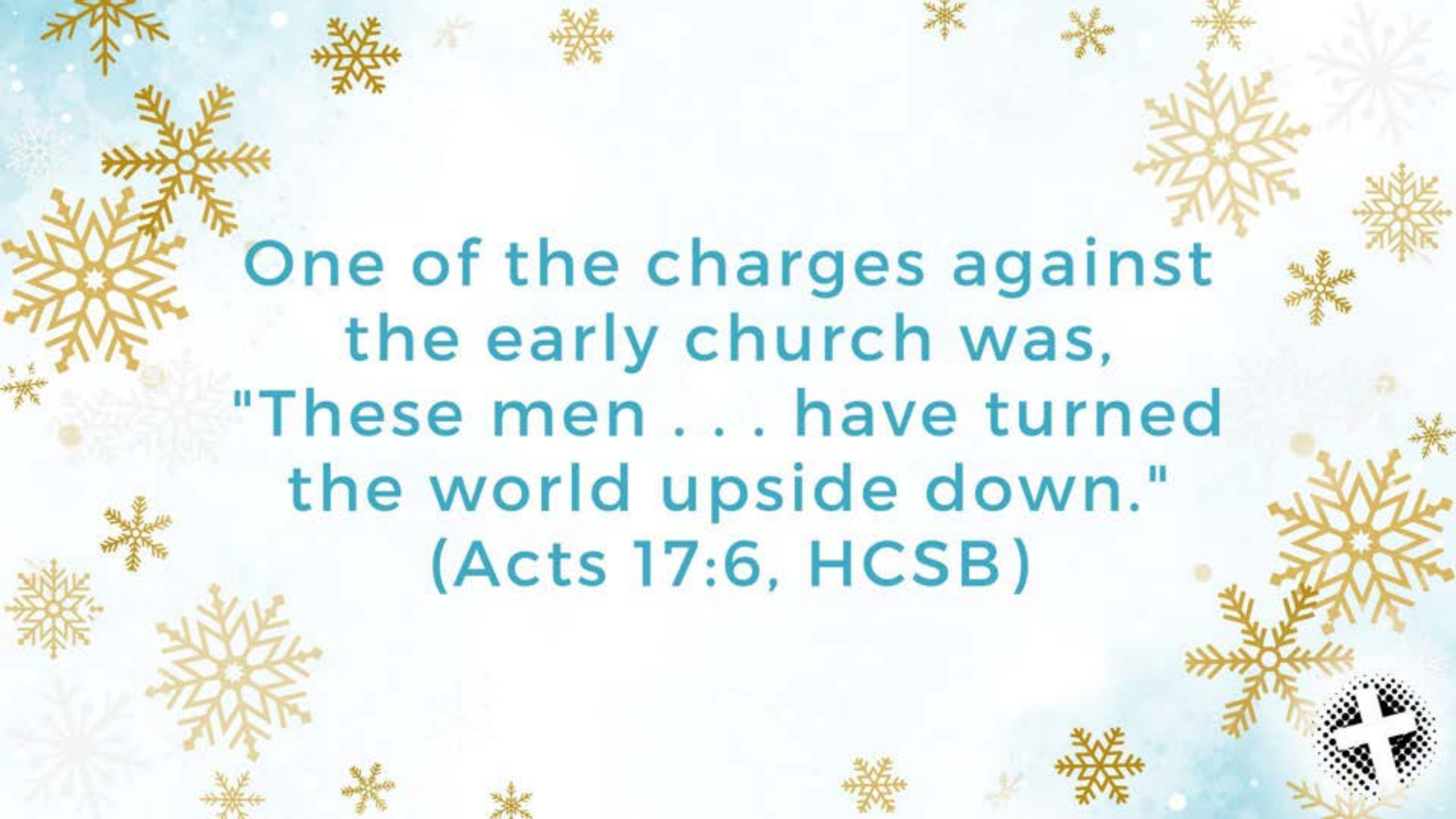
**(Luke 2:16-18, HCSB)**





**The result was the response that should arise from ALL God's people:**

**...The shepherds returned to their flocks "glorifying and praising God" (v. 20).**



One of the charges against  
the early church was,  
"These men . . . have turned  
the world upside down."  
(Acts 17:6, HCSB)