

Sermon Series



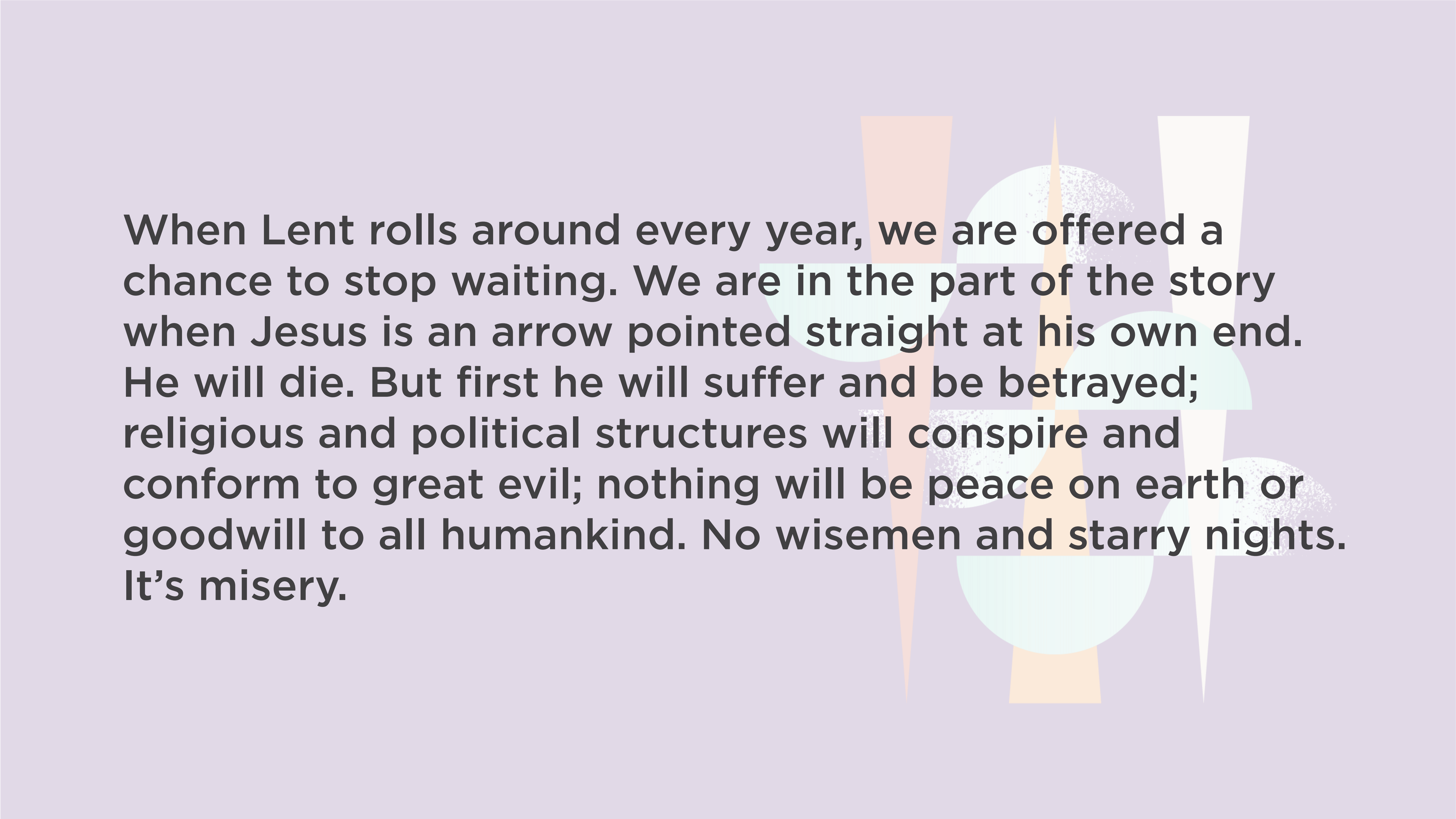
Lent





**Sometimes we wait. Spiritually, I mean. We just wait.
And wait. Maybe something will happen?**

Kate Bowler

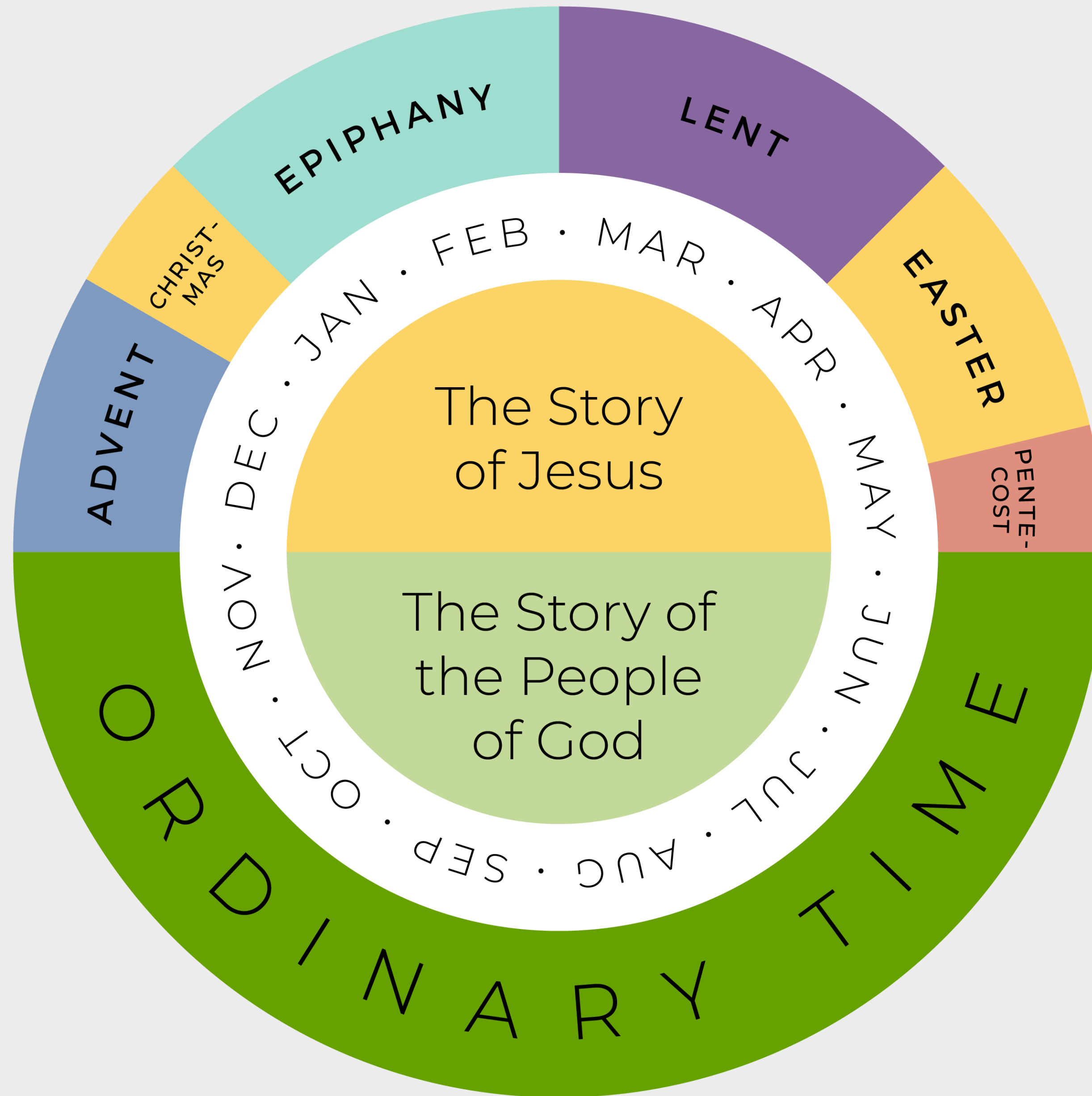


When Lent rolls around every year, we are offered a chance to stop waiting. We are in the part of the story when Jesus is an arrow pointed straight at his own end. He will die. But first he will suffer and be betrayed; religious and political structures will conspire and conform to great evil; nothing will be peace on earth or goodwill to all humankind. No wisemen and starry nights. It's misery.

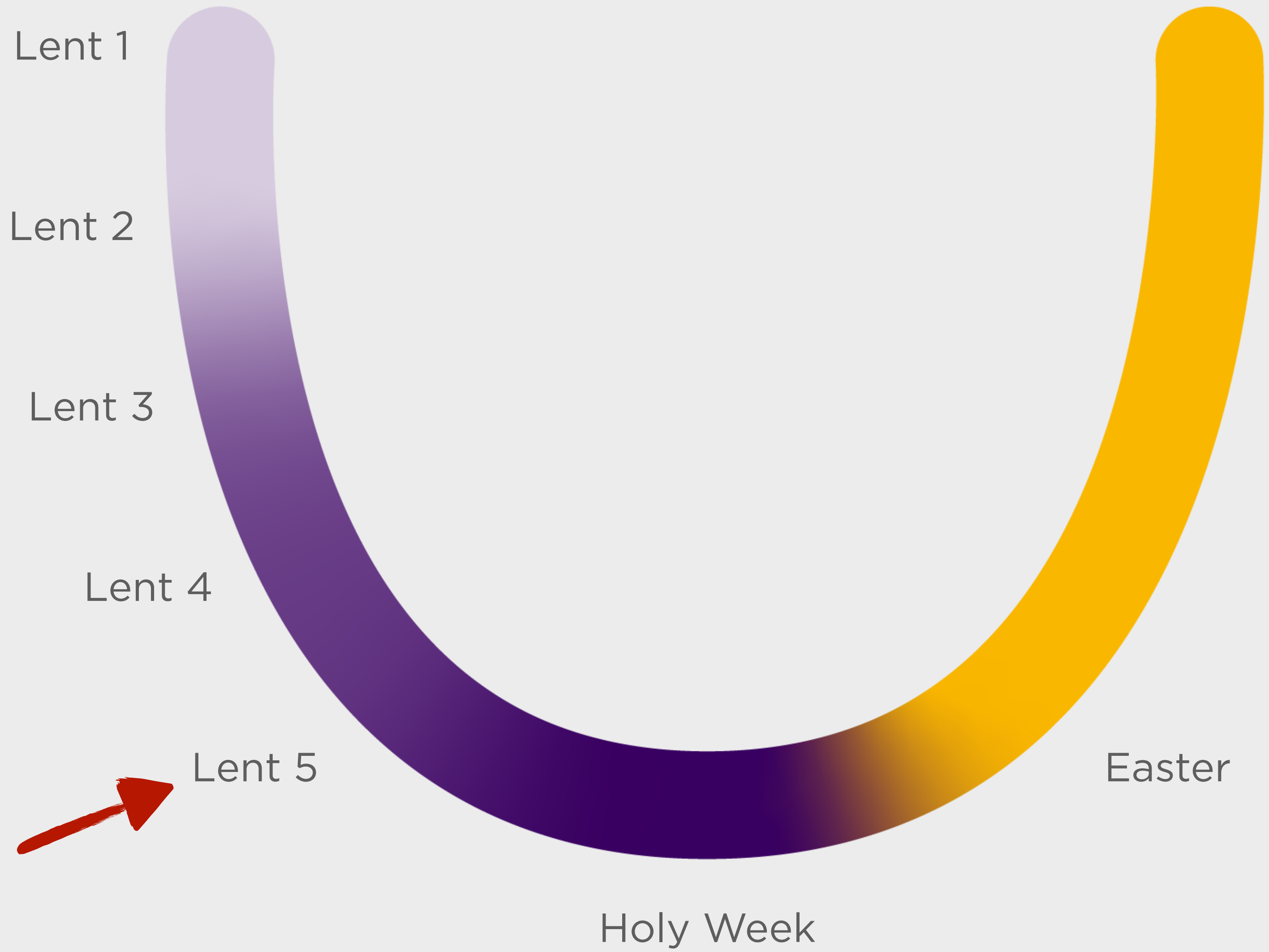


**And it should make us pause. That is where we meet Jesus.
We meet him on his way down.**

Kate Bowler

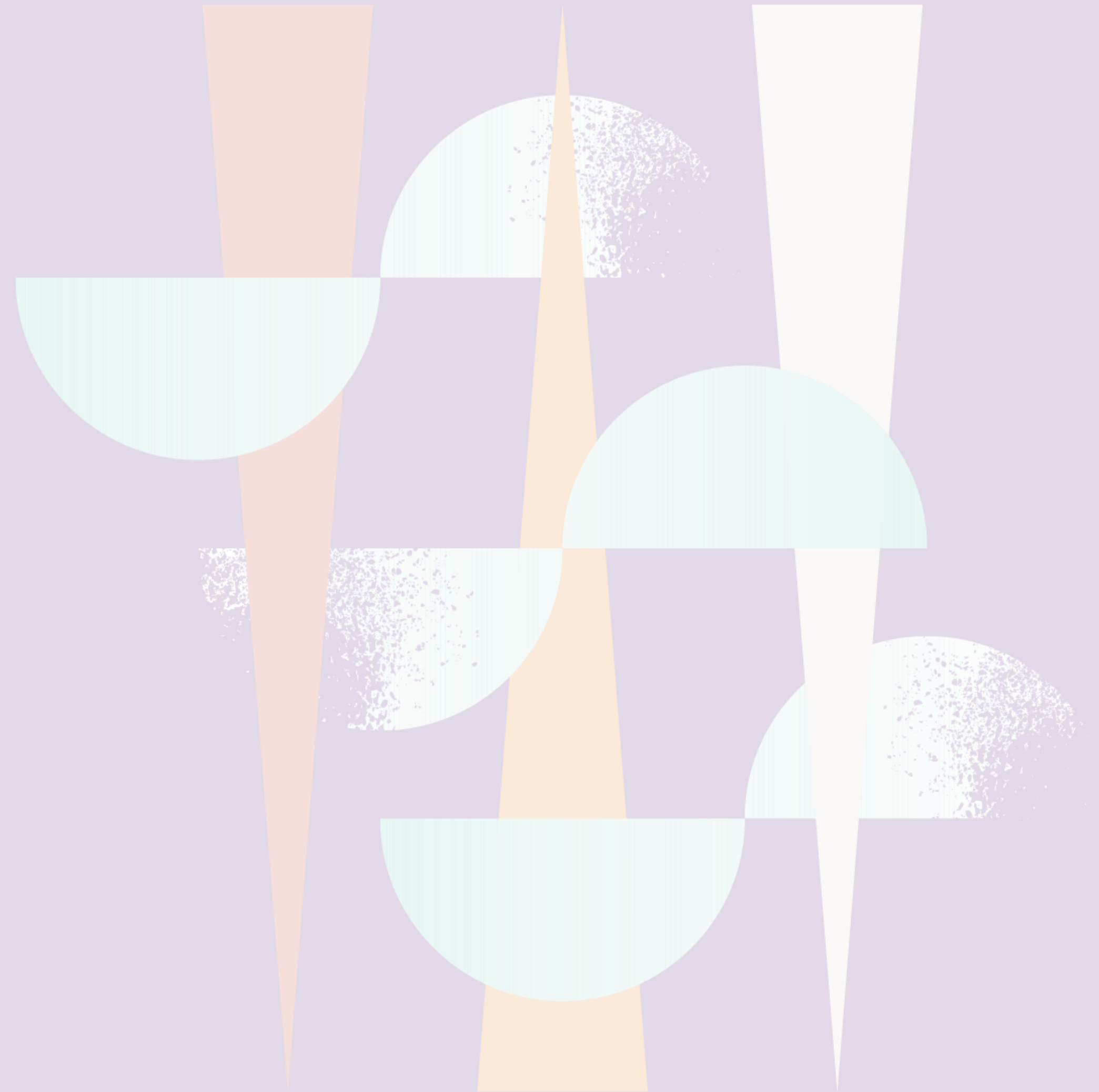




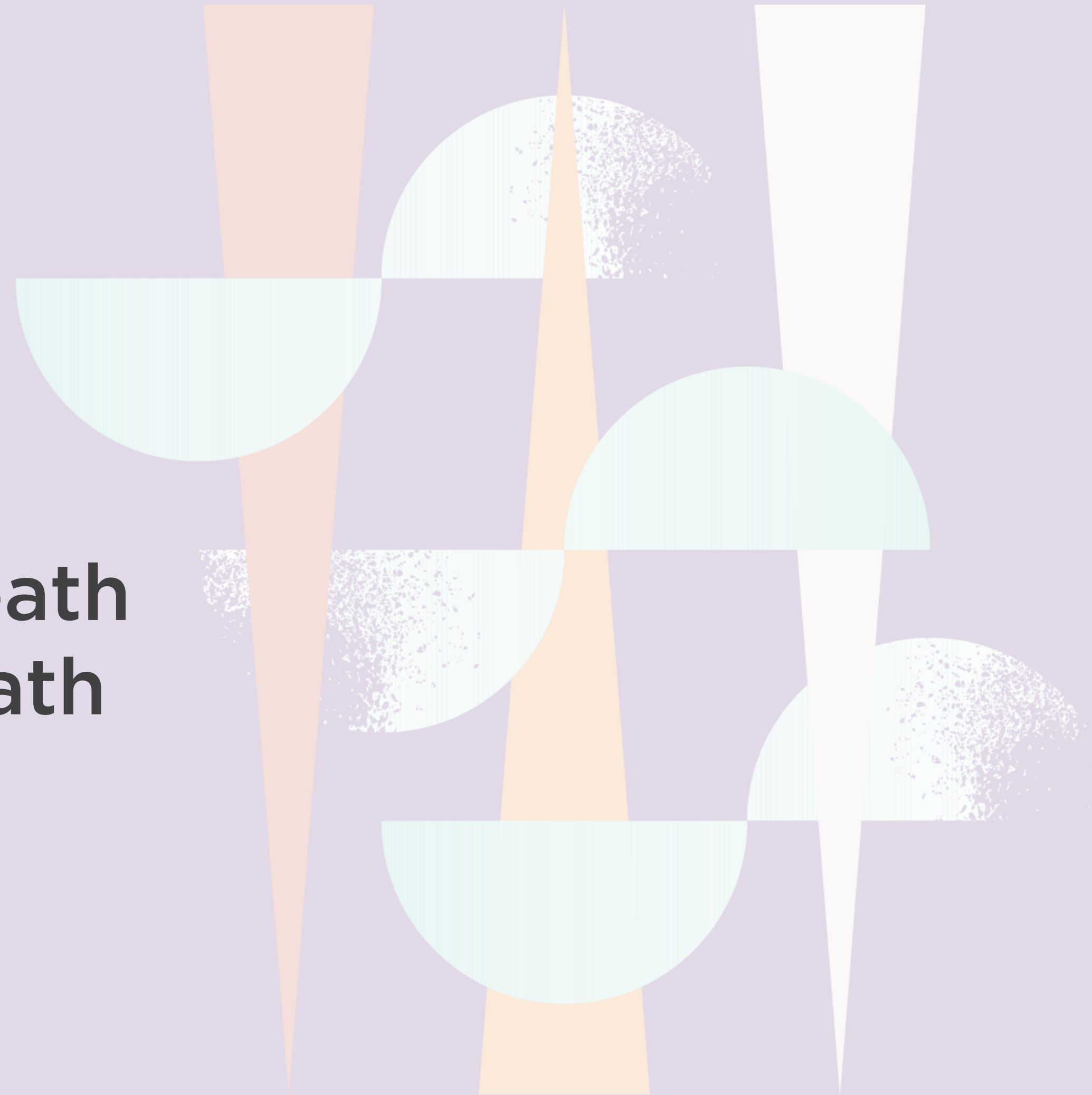


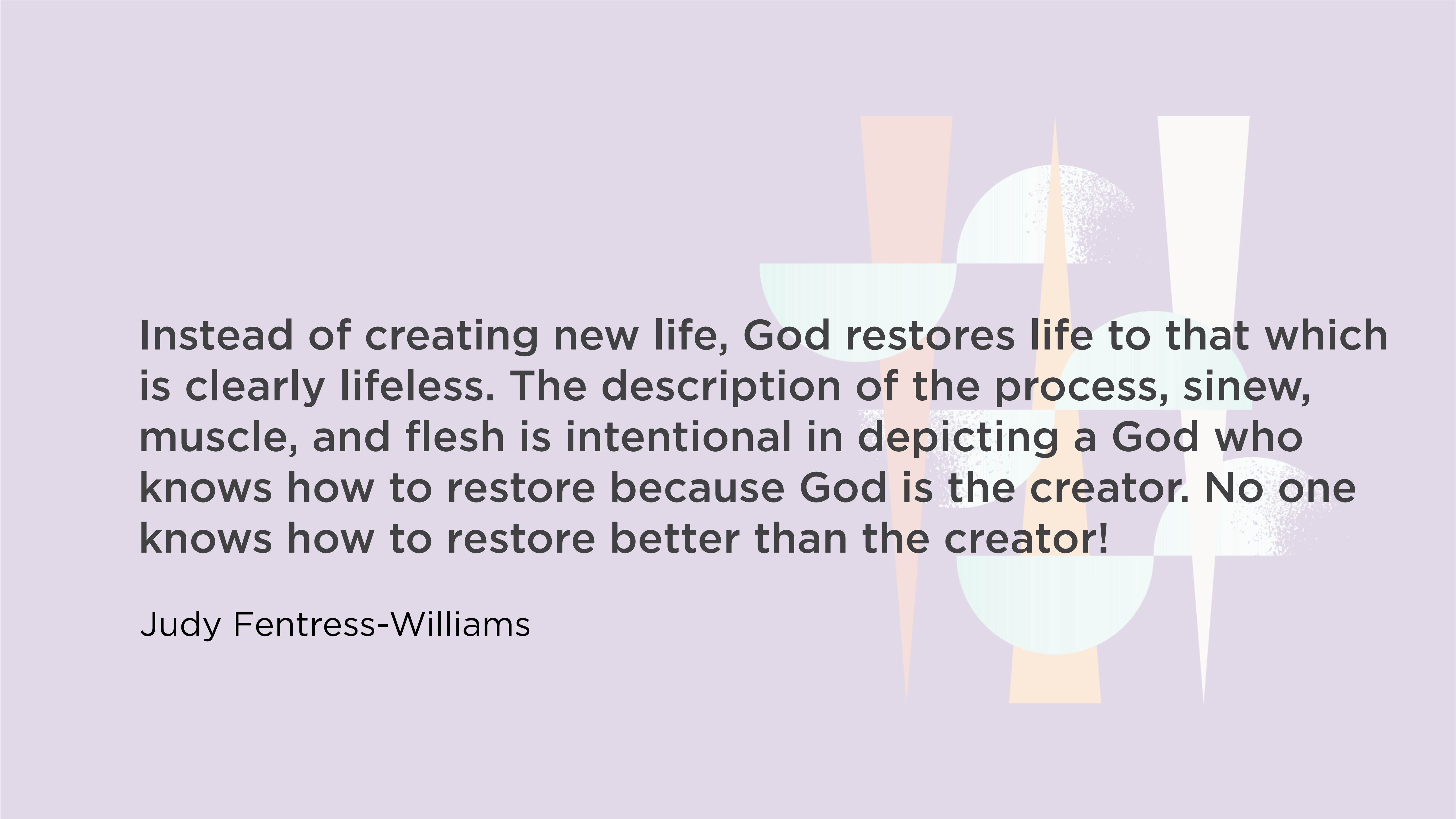
Ezekiel 37:1-14

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- **teleportation**
- **devastation**
- **resurrection / life from death**
- **the Spirit's animating breath**





Instead of creating new life, God restores life to that which is clearly lifeless. The description of the process, sinew, muscle, and flesh is intentional in depicting a God who knows how to restore because God is the creator. No one knows how to restore better than the creator!

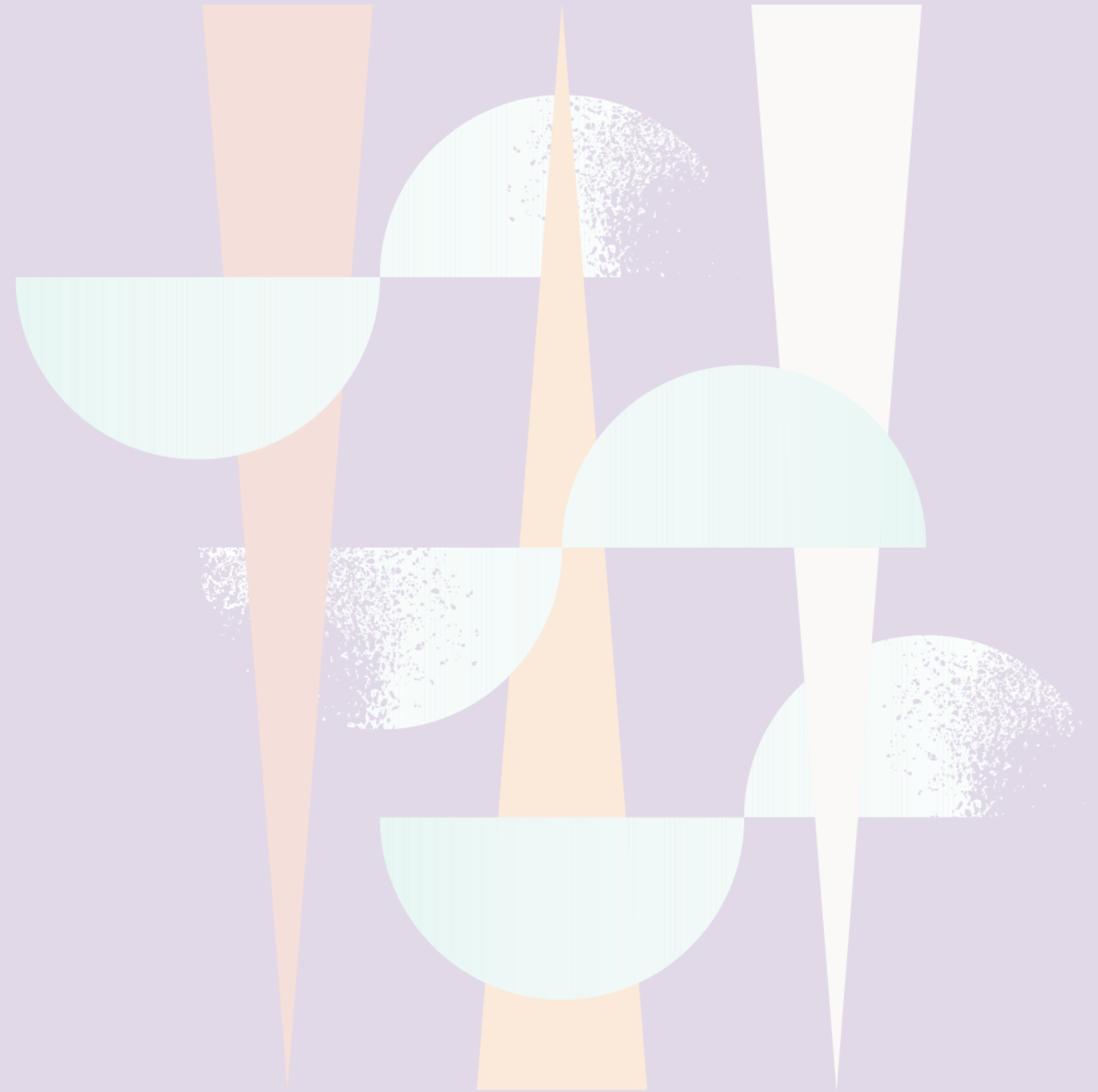
Judy Fentress-Williams

The grace to imagine differently



Psalm 130

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**Throughout most of Scripture, God speaks to us.
In the Psalms, we respond to God.**

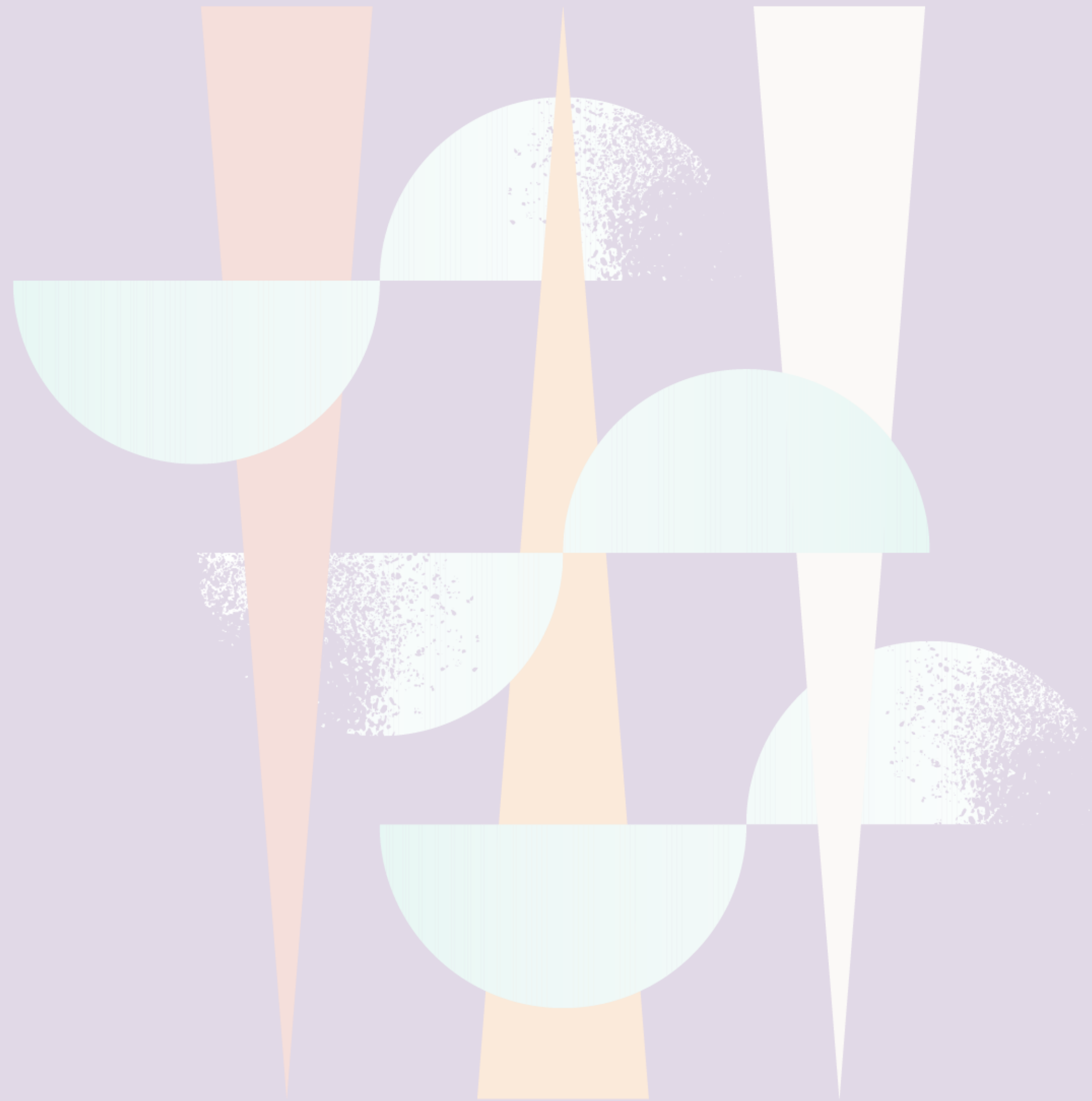


**O Israel, wait and watch for God—
with God's arrival comes love,
with God's arrival comes generous redemption.**

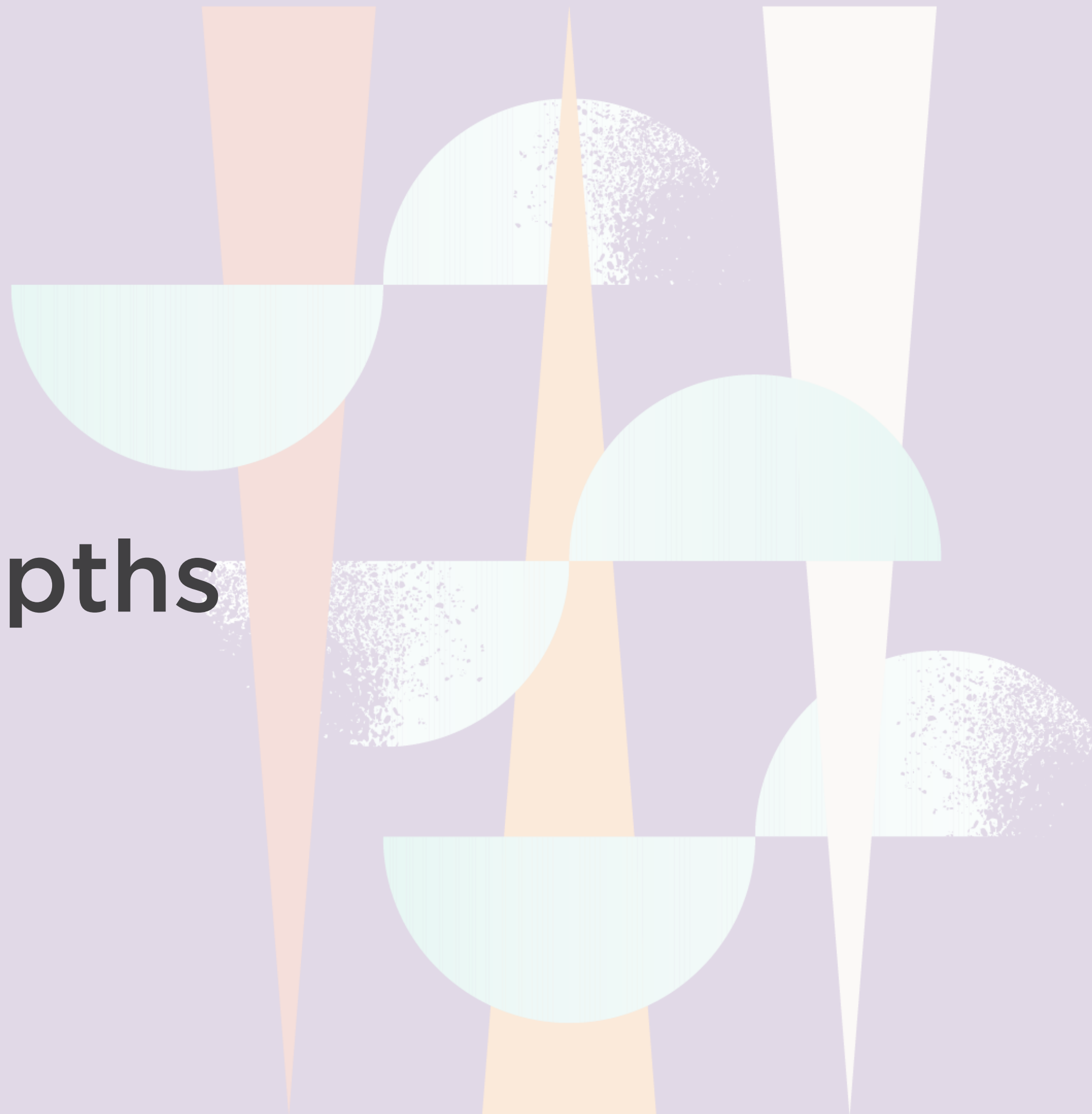
Psalm 130:7 [MSG]

John 11:1-45

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the depths





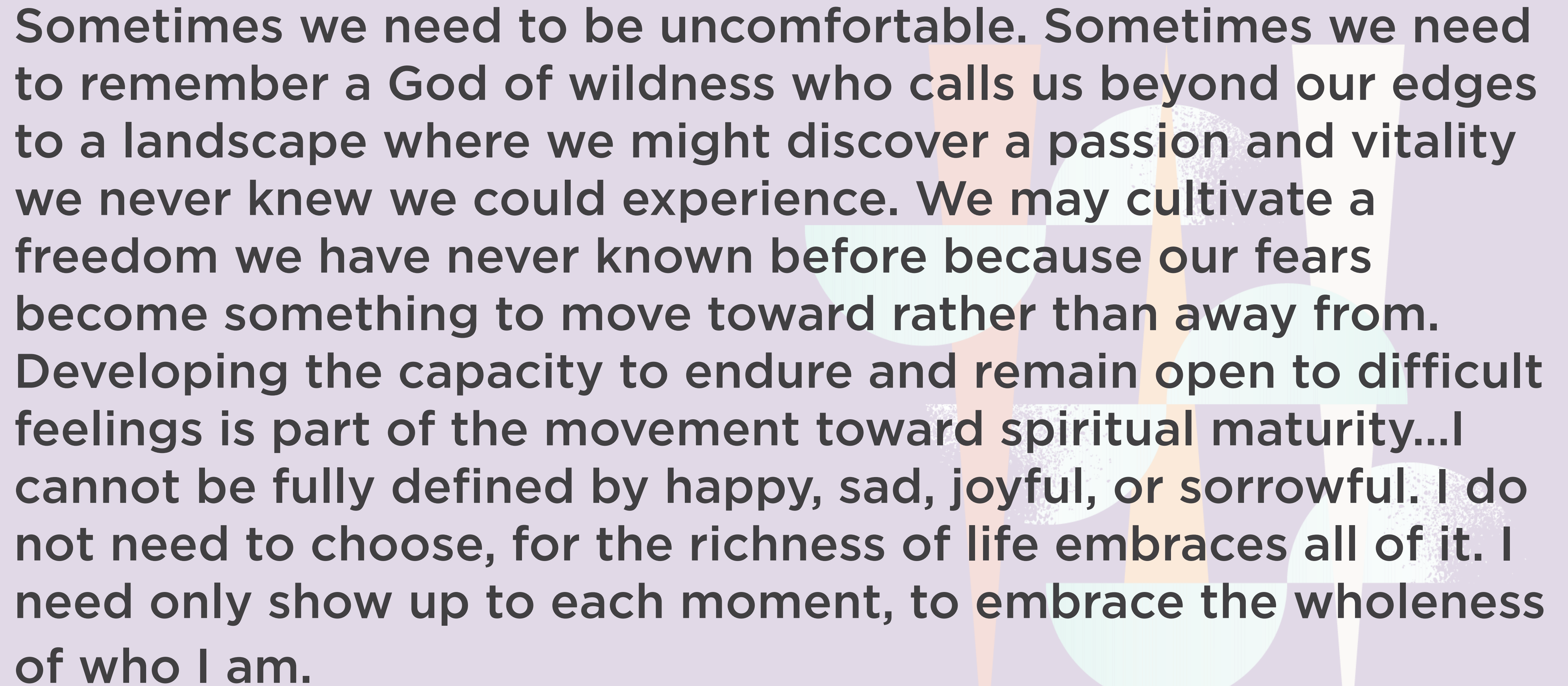
Grief is love's souvenir. It's our proof that we once loved.

Glennon Doyle

Jesus goes to the depths with all who find themselves there.







Sometimes we need to be uncomfortable. Sometimes we need to remember a God of wildness who calls us beyond our edges to a landscape where we might discover a passion and vitality we never knew we could experience. We may cultivate a freedom we have never known before because our fears become something to move toward rather than away from. Developing the capacity to endure and remain open to difficult feelings is part of the movement toward spiritual maturity...I cannot be fully defined by happy, sad, joyful, or sorrowful. I do not need to choose, for the richness of life embraces all of it. I need only show up to each moment, to embrace the wholeness of who I am.

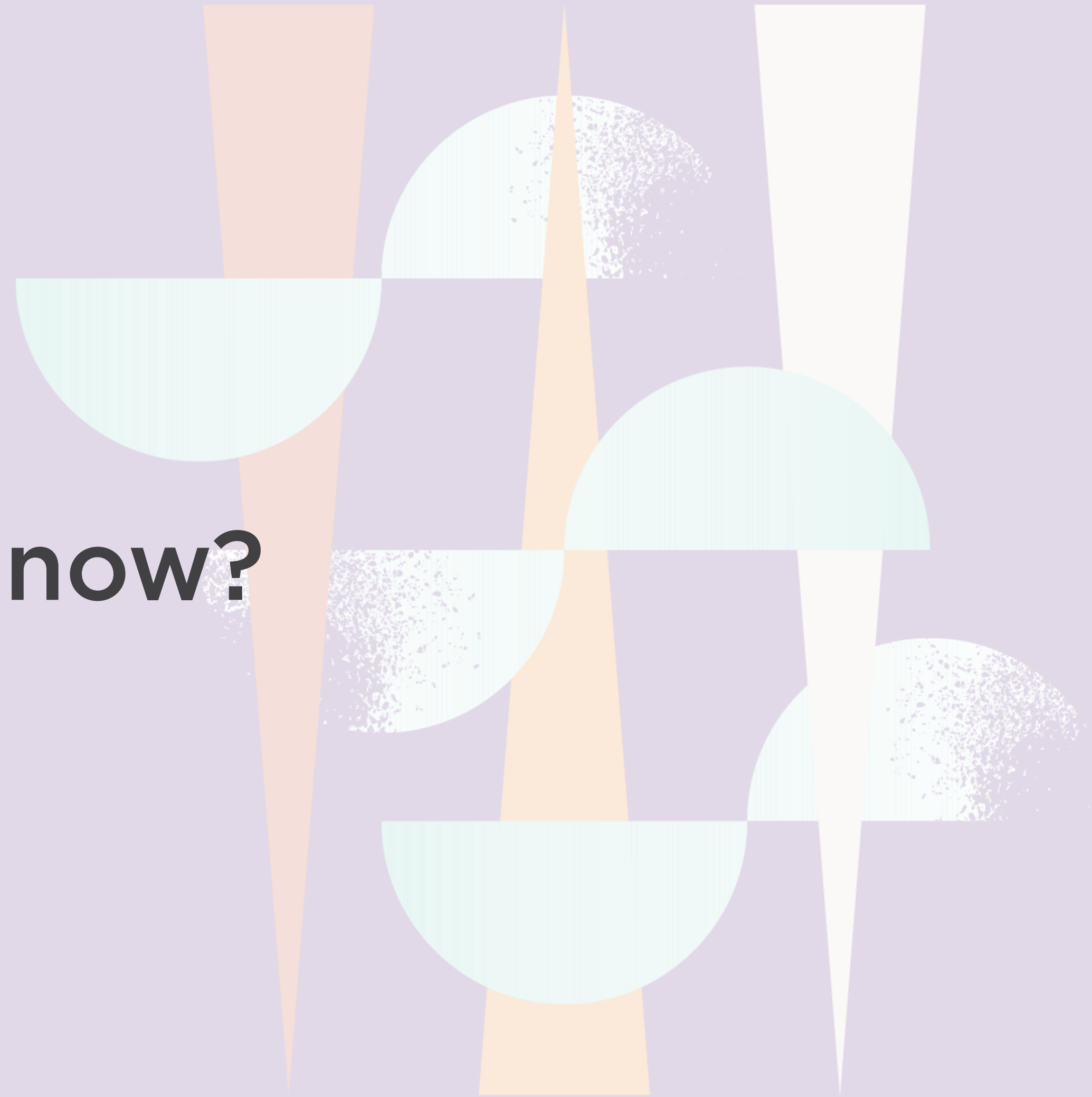
Christine Valters Paintner



the heights



Why these texts? Why now?





eucatastrophe – a “good” catastrophe, a sudden, joyous turn



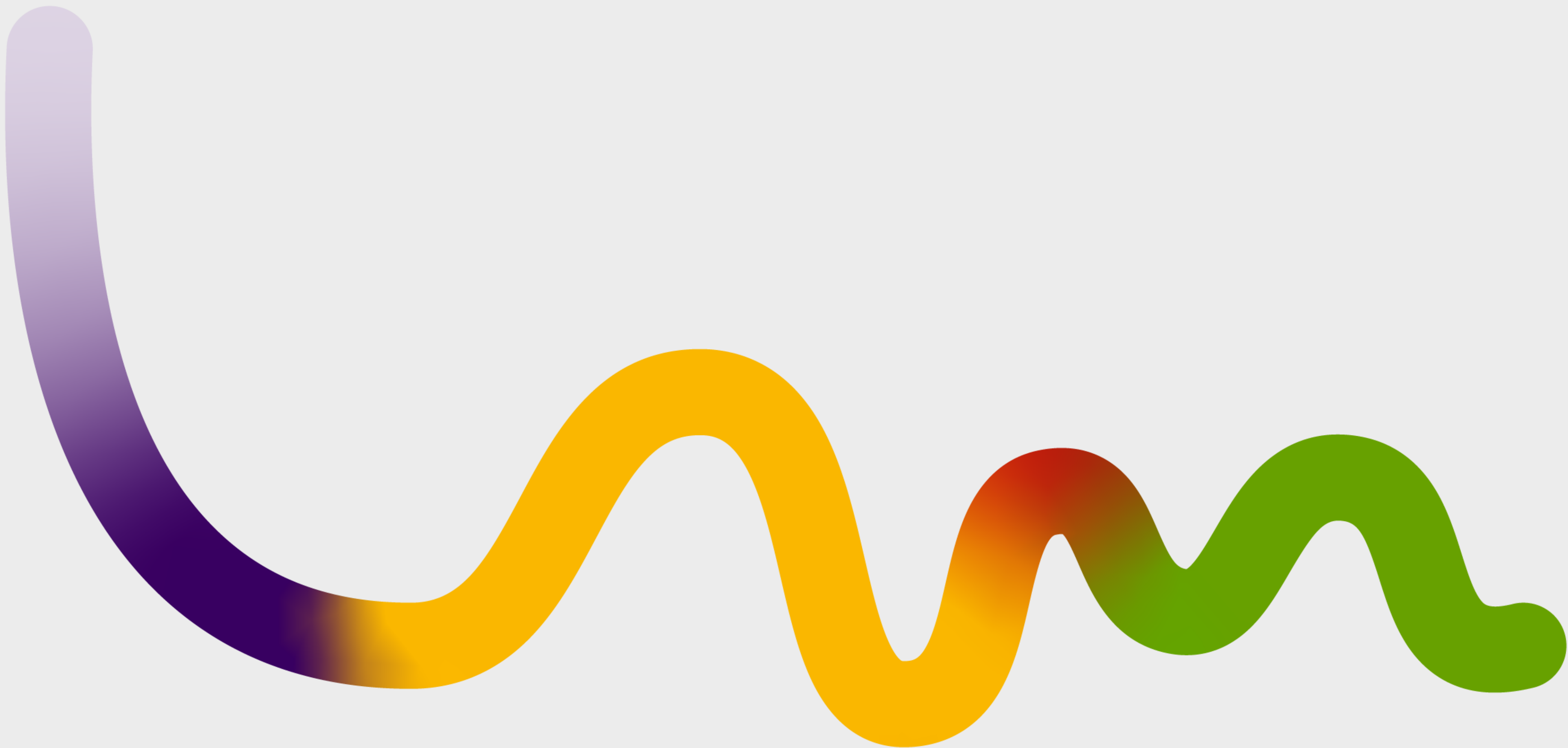
The grace to imagine differently

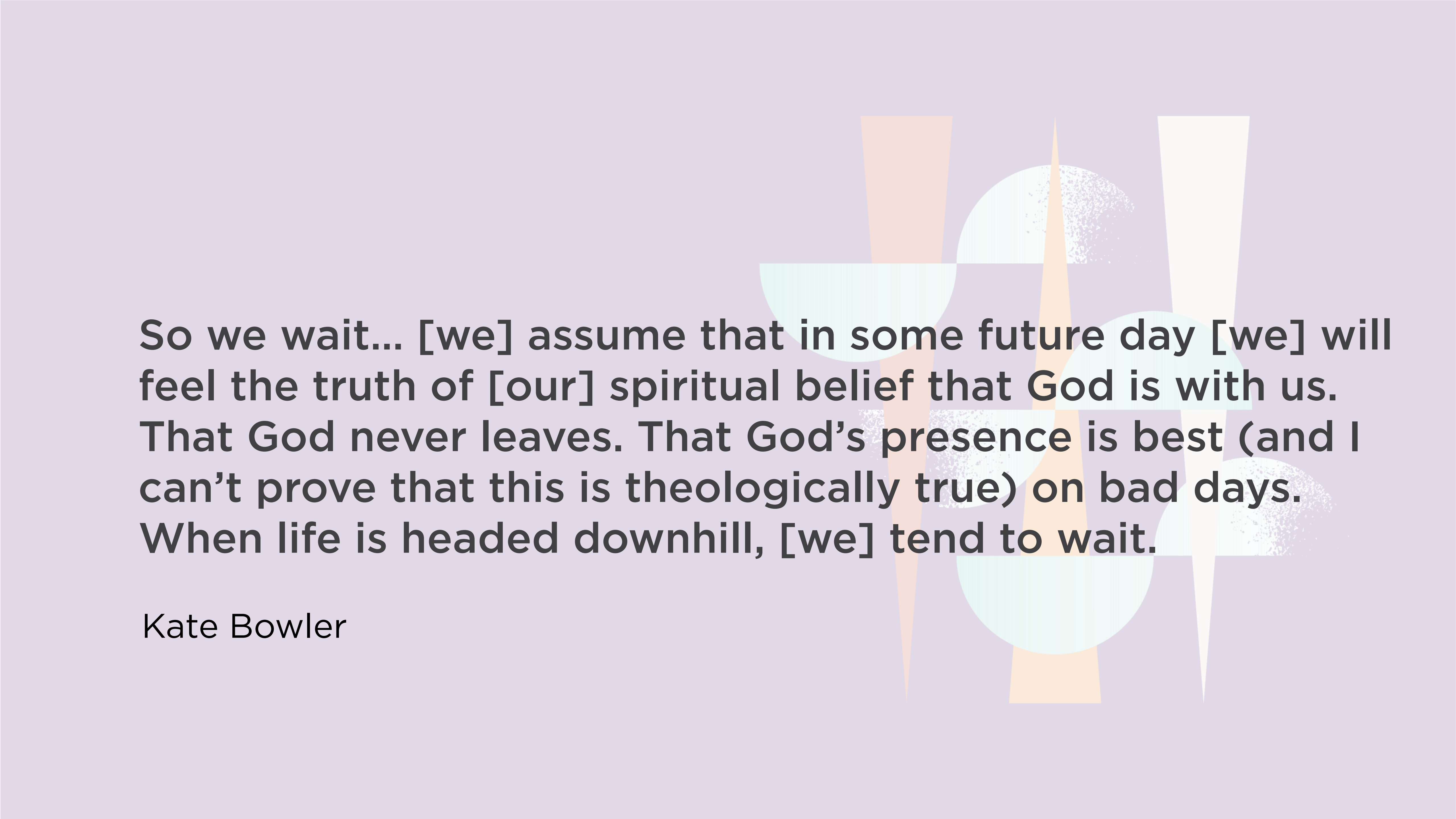


When we are not happy, something good may be happening.

Dr. Henry Cloud







So we wait... [we] assume that in some future day [we] will feel the truth of [our] spiritual belief that God is with us. That God never leaves. That God's presence is best (and I can't prove that this is theologically true) on bad days. When life is headed downhill, [we] tend to wait.

Kate Bowler