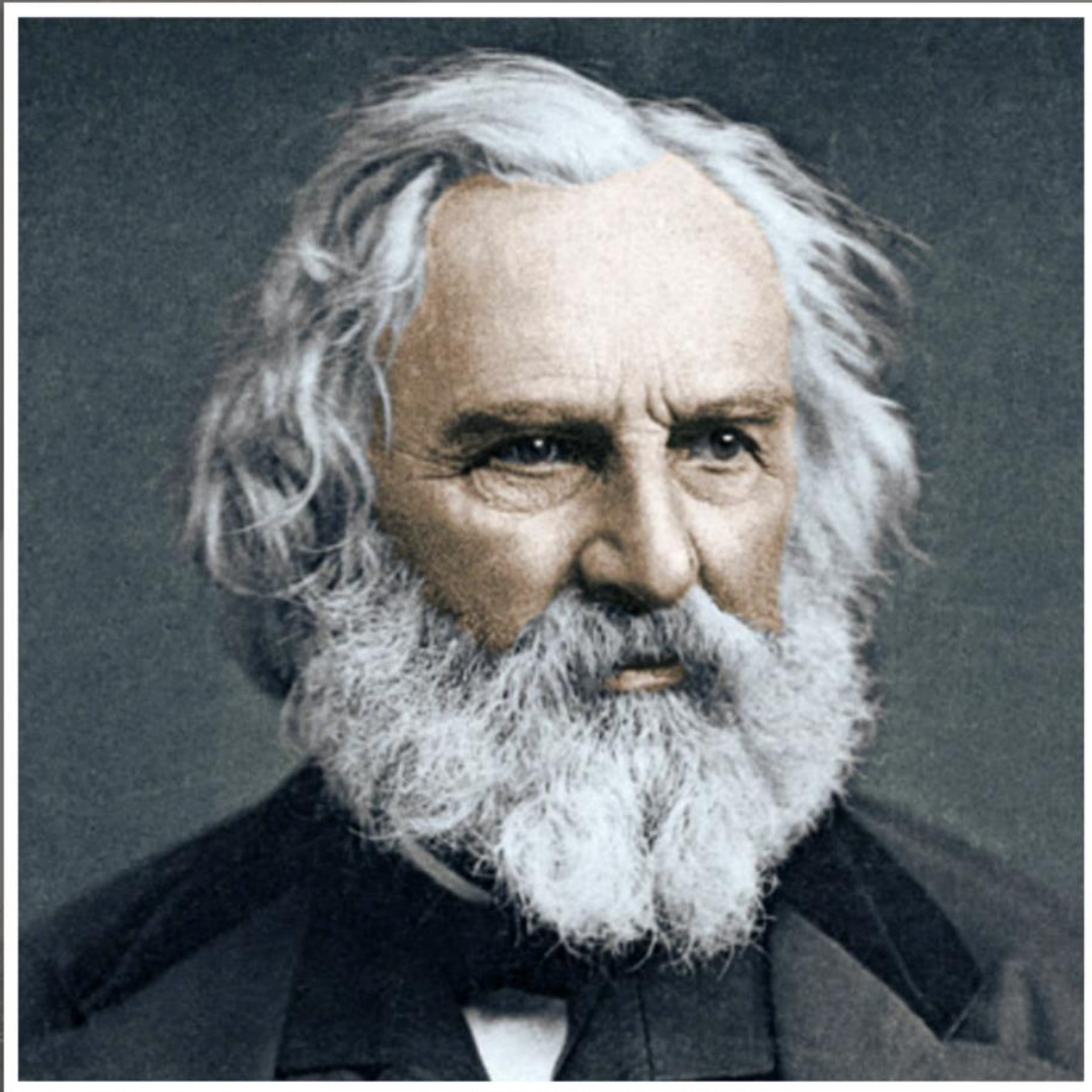




I Heard The Bells

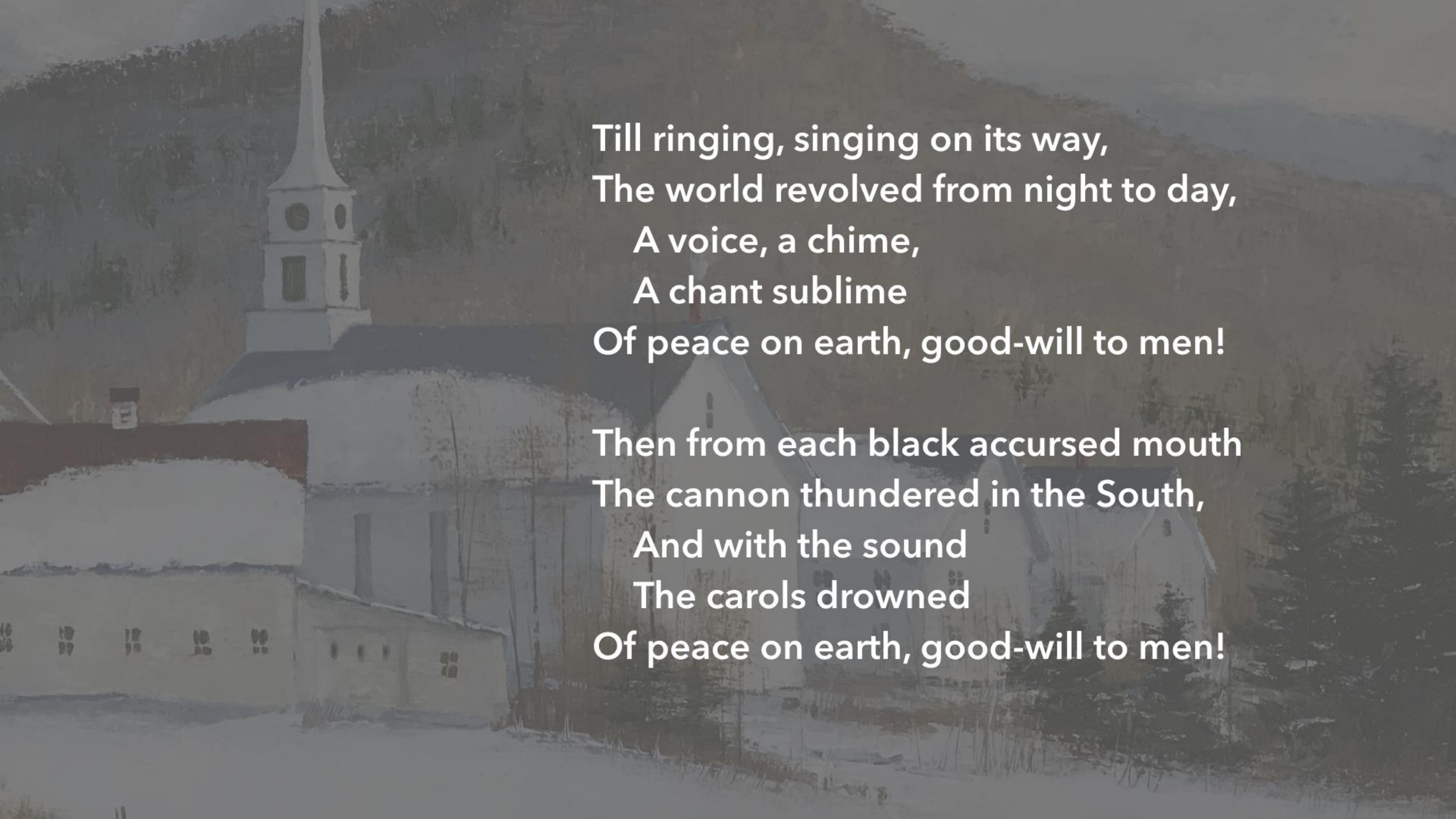


A painting of a snowy village scene. In the foreground, there's a snow-covered ground. In the middle ground, a church with a tall, white steeple is visible. The church has a dark roof and white walls. To the left of the church, there's a smaller building with a red roof. In the background, there are more houses and a hillside covered in snow. The overall tone is peaceful and wintry.

Christmas Bells

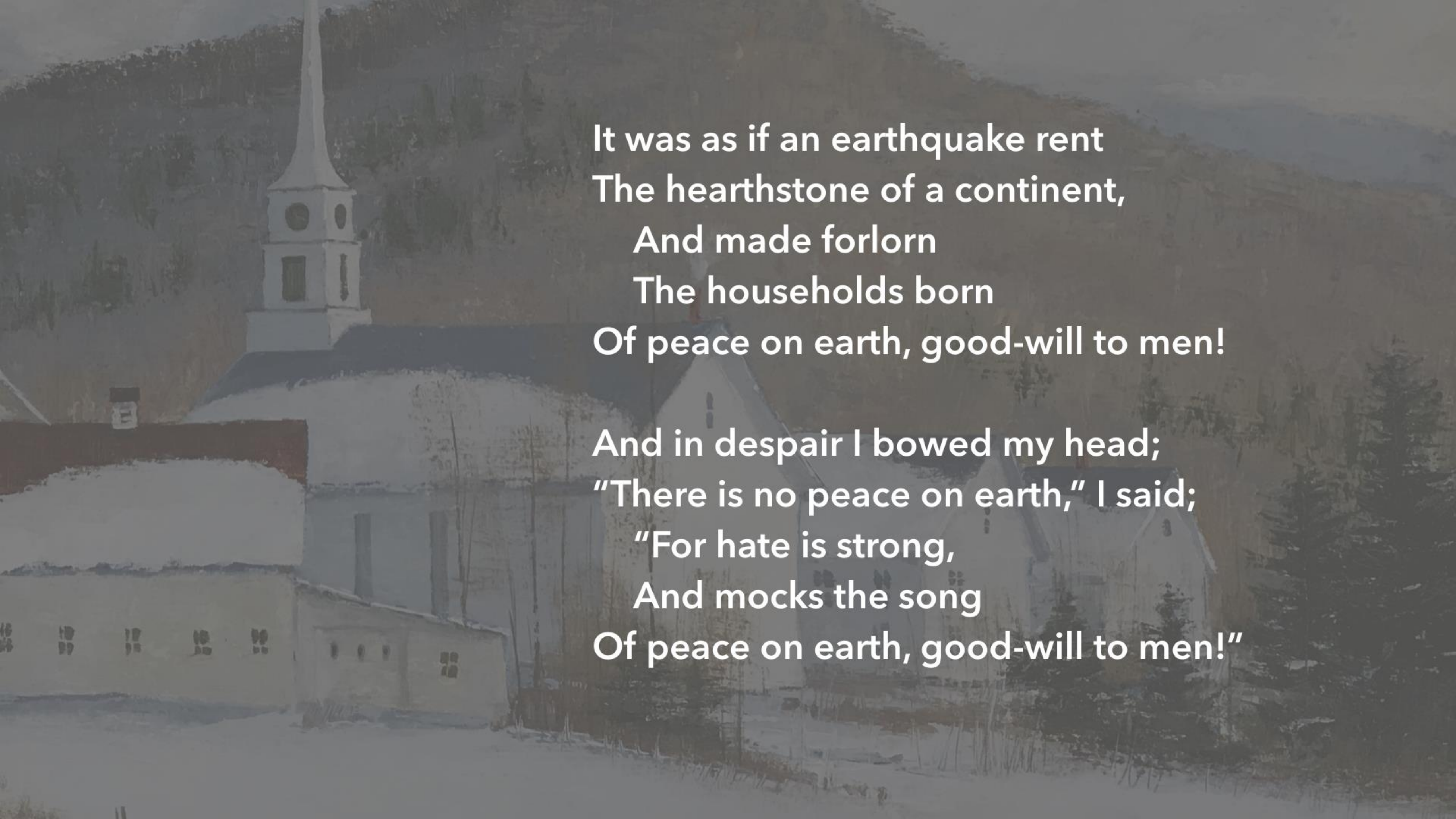
I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



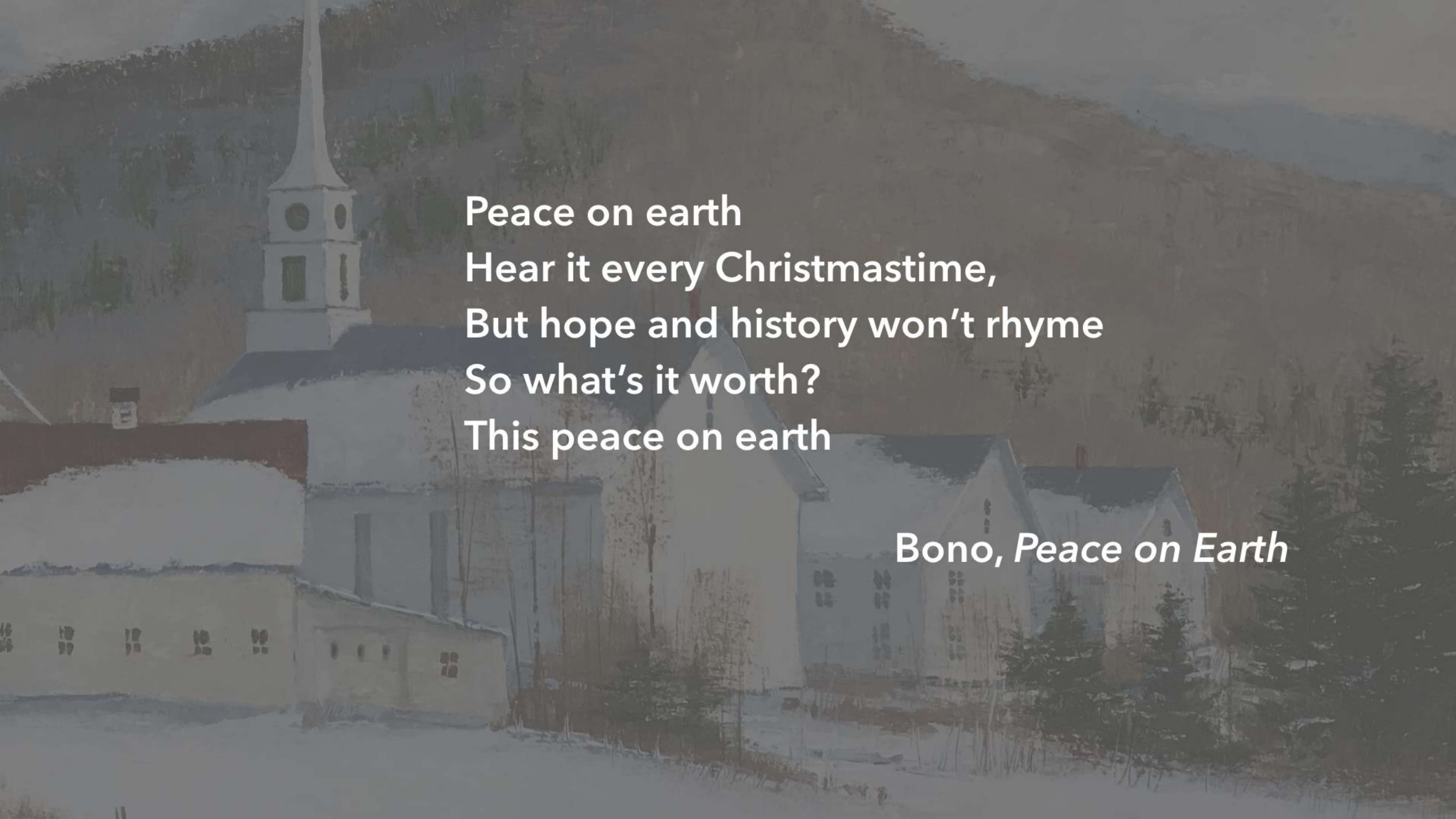
Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



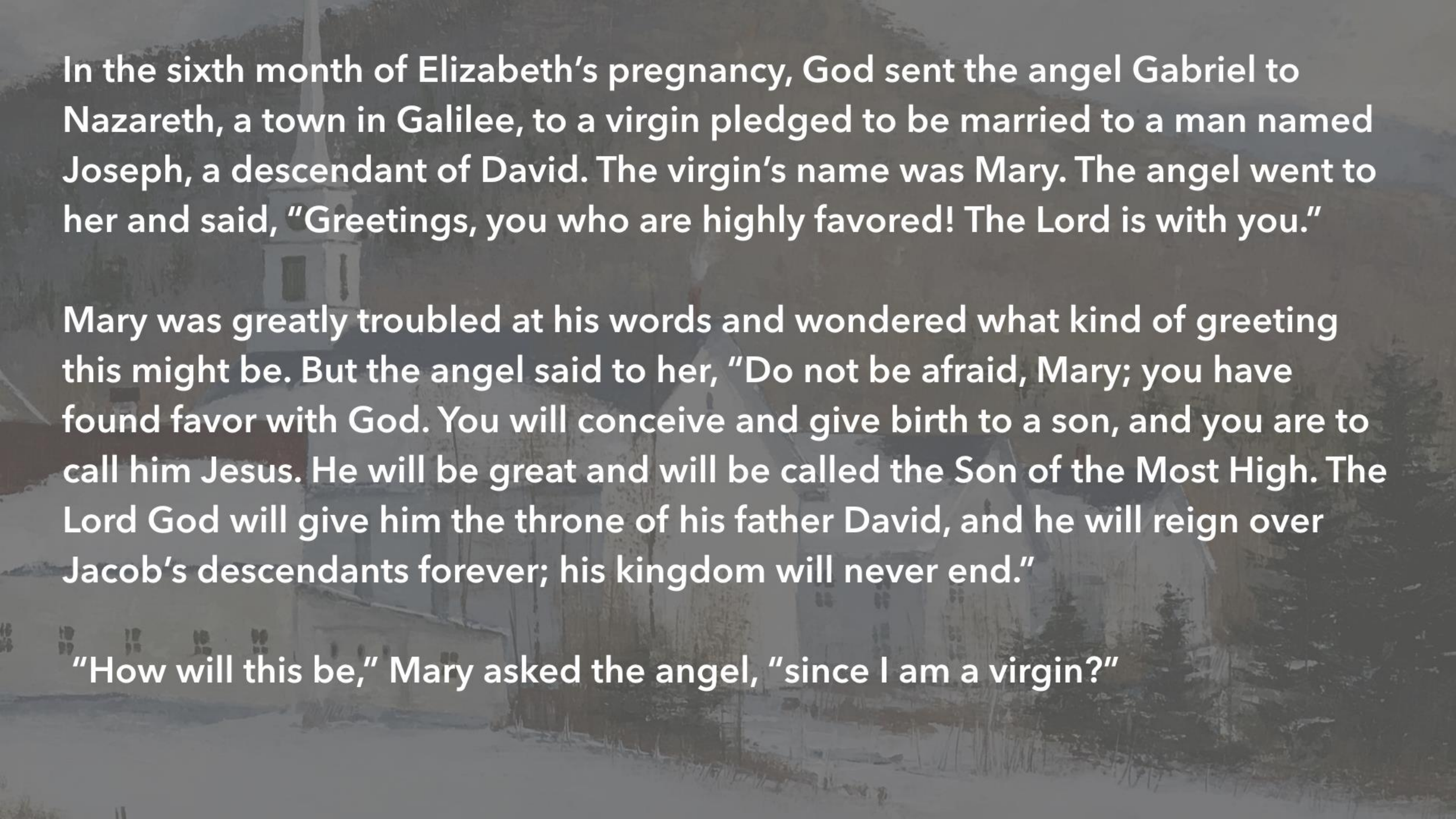
It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearthstone of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

A painting of a snowy village scene. In the foreground, there are several white houses with dark roofs and windows, some with snow on their roofs. In the background, a church with a tall, white steeple is visible. The scene is set against a backdrop of snow-covered hills and trees. The overall tone is quiet and serene.

Peace on earth
Hear it every Christmastime,
But hope and history won't rhyme
So what's it worth?
This peace on earth

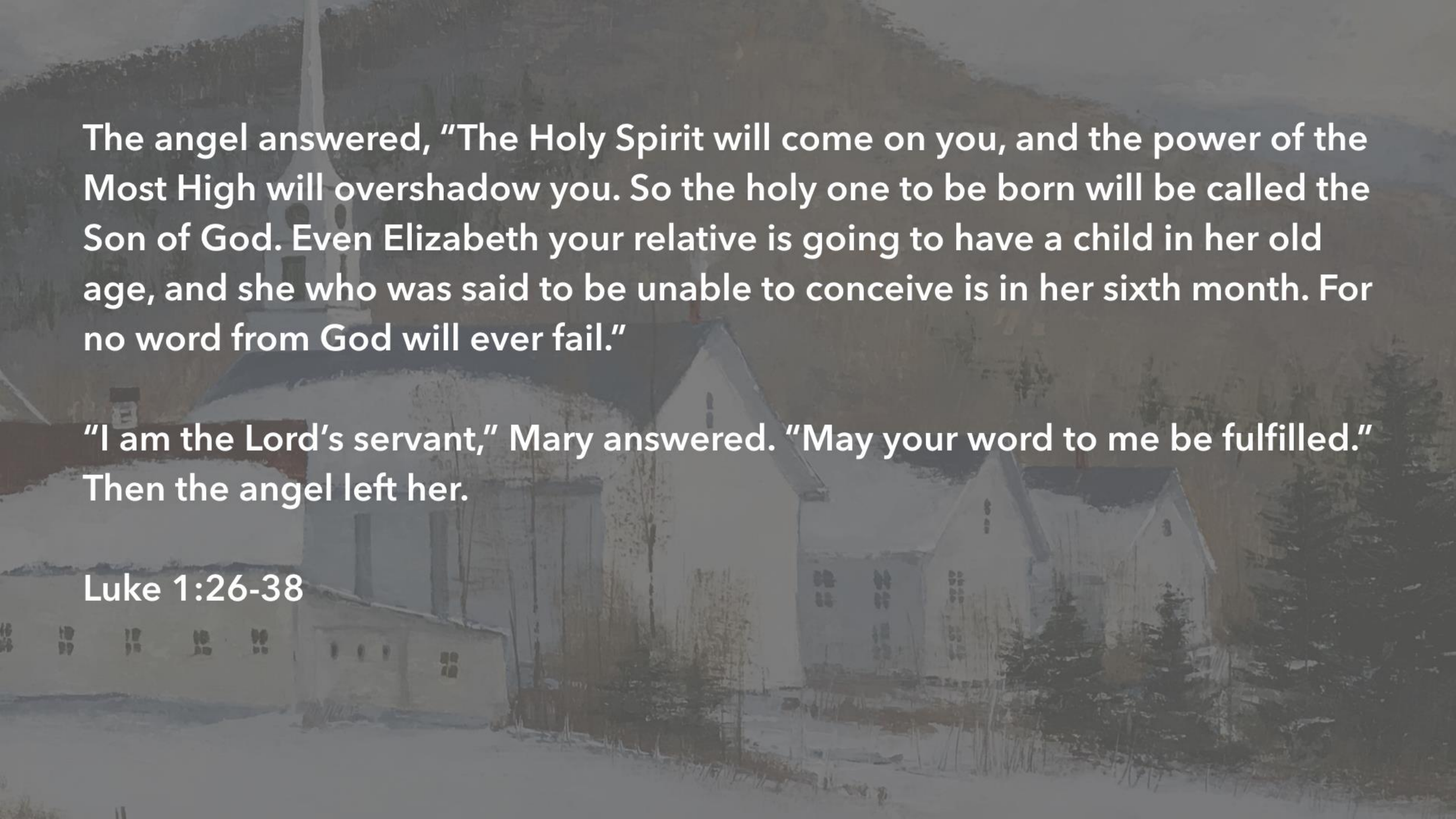
Bono, Peace on Earth



In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

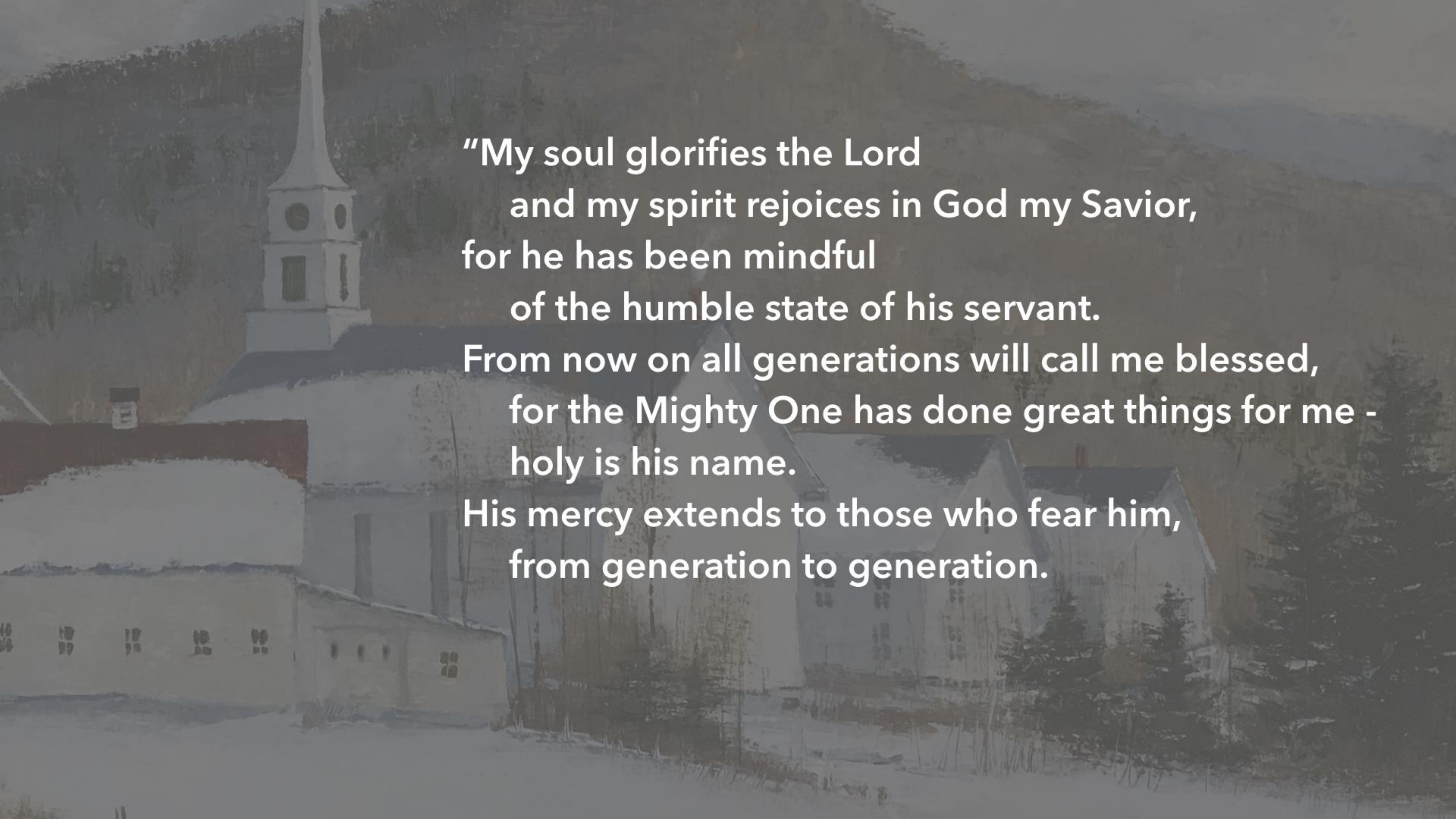
"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

A painting of a snowy village scene. In the foreground, there are several white houses with dark roofs and windows, partially covered in snow. In the background, a church with a tall steeple is visible. The scene is set in a snowy landscape with trees and hills in the distance.

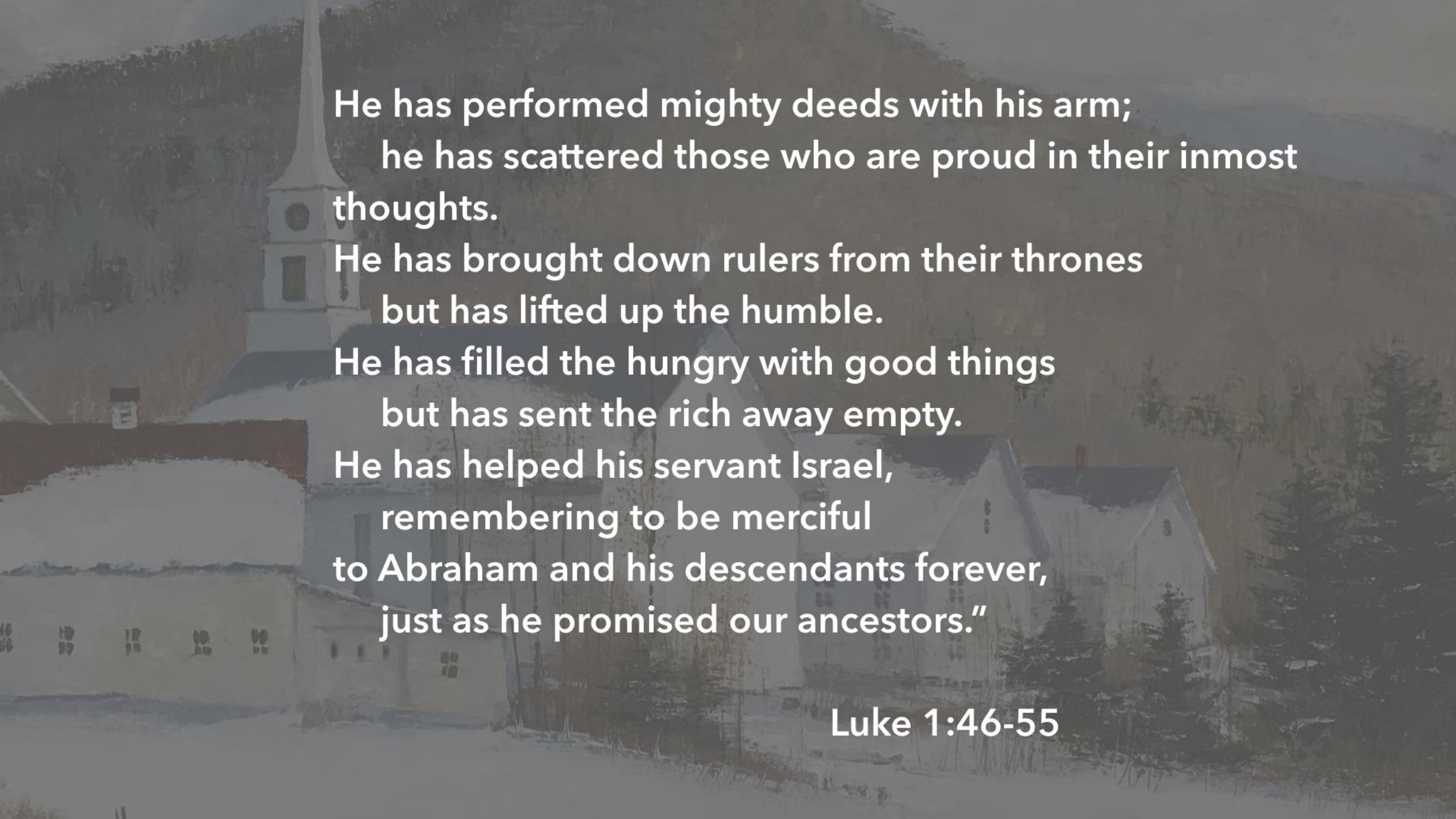
The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26-38



**"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me -
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.**

A painting of a village with a church and mountains in the background. The church has a tall, white steeple. The houses are white with dark roofs. The mountains are in the background, and there are trees in the foreground.

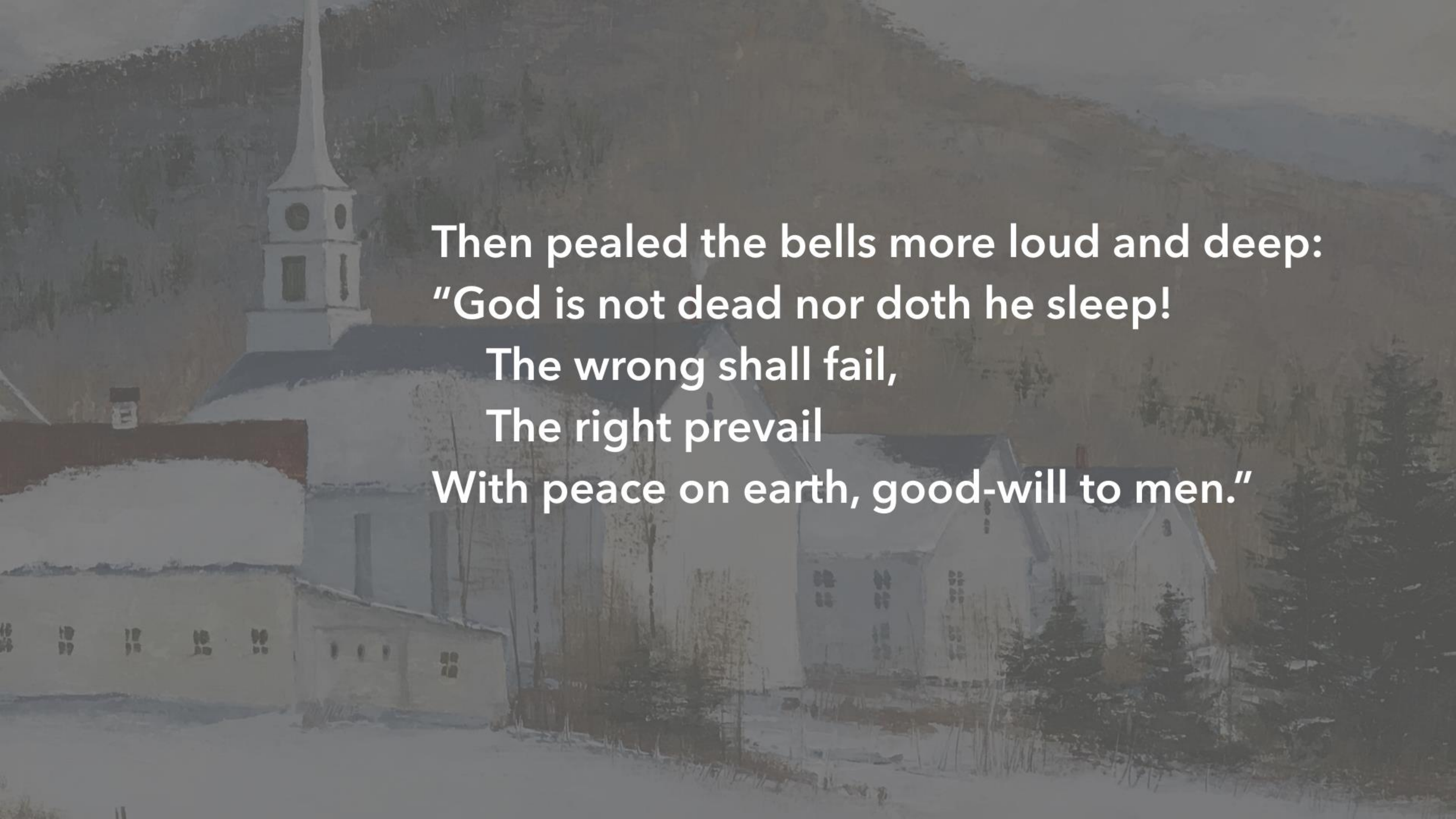
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost
thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

Luke 1:46-55



Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail,
The right prevail
With peace on earth, good-will to men."