

BETHANY BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION



NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 12 PART-14

KJV

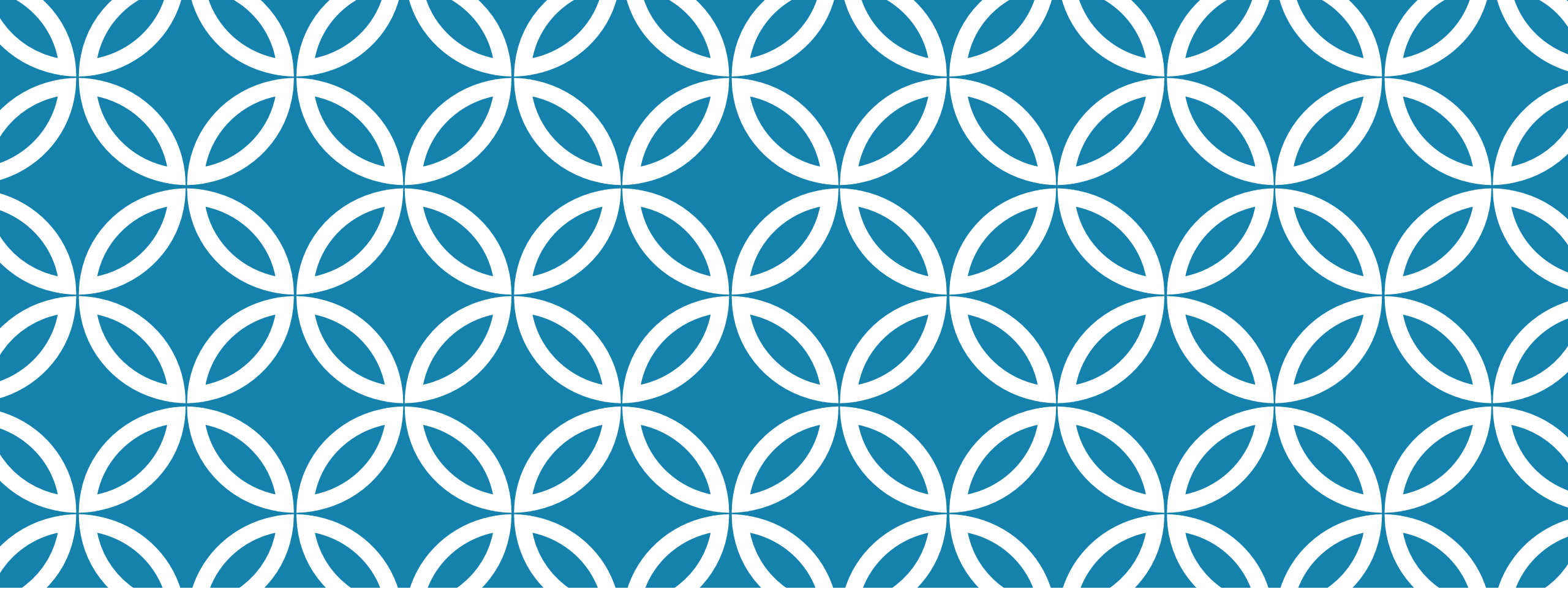
10.15.2025

THE DEDICATION OF JERUSALEM WALLS

PURIFICATION (27-30): Why was it important to hold a dedication service? What is the significance of dedication? Why were the Levites invited from surrounding areas? What role did the Levites play in the temple? What did they cleanse? Why is cleansing important? How can sinners approach a holy God?

WALL DEDICATION WORSHIP SERVICE(31-47): Who all participated in the worship? What are some notable observations from the worship service? What was the source of joy? What followed the worship service? How did people express their generosity and duty?

REFLECTIONS

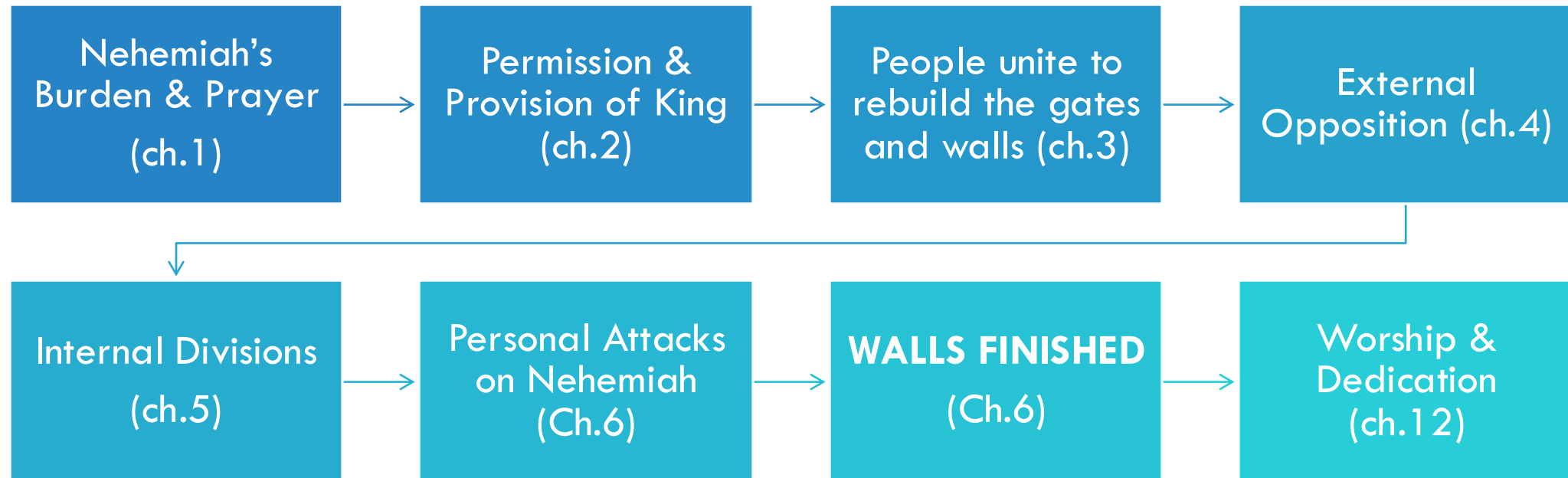


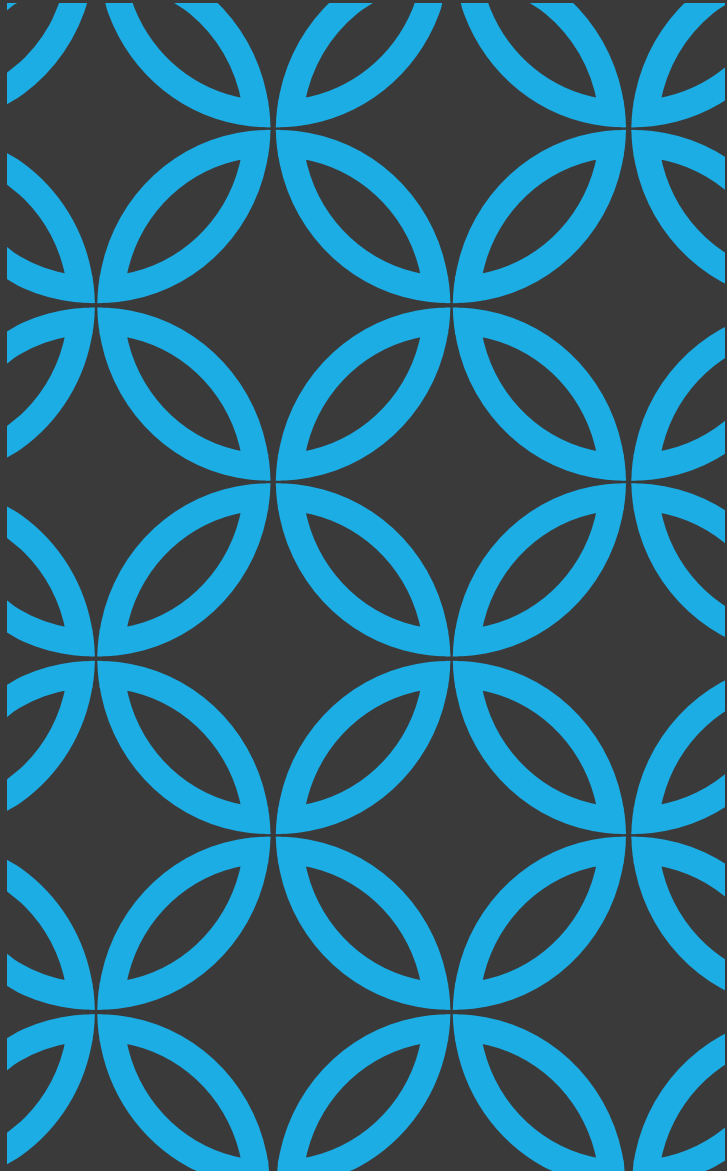
THE DEDICATION OF WALLS

Chapter 12, Part-14

October 15, 2025

NEHEMIAH'S VISION & PASSION + GOD'S GRACE LEAD TO THE BUILDING OF WALLS OF JERUSALEM IN 52-DAYS

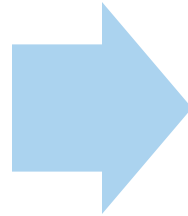




WALLS FINISHED, TIME TO
WORSHIP & CELEBRATE

DEDICATION SERVICE

PURIFICATION



WORSHIP

PURIFICATION OF PRIEST, PEOPLE, & PLACE,

27-30

²⁷ And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.

²⁸ And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain country round about Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi;

²⁹ Also from the house of Gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth: for the singers had builded them villages round about Jerusalem.

³⁰ And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, and the gates, and the wall.

GATHERING OF LEVITES TO JERUSALEM

Dedication Service — to be kept with gladness, thanksgiving, and singing

Levites (especially singers) sought internally and from surrounding areas. Levites commissioned by God and were gifted in music.

Worshipped with songs and musical instruments (cymbals, psalteries, and harps).

PURIFICATION OF PRIESTS & PREMISES & PEOPLE

Purification could be of clothes, of bodies, and dedication to God

Numbers 8:21 And the Levites were purified, and they washed their clothes;

Leviticus 22:5 Or whosoever toucheth any creeping thing, whereby he may be made unclean, or a man of whom he may take uncleanness, whatsoever uncleanness he hath; ⁶ The soul which hath touched any such shall be unclean until even, and shall not eat of the holy things, unless he wash his flesh with water.

PURIFICATION OF PRIESTS & PREMISES & PEOPLE

³⁰ And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, and the gates, and the wall.

After cleansing themselves, priests and Levites dedicated and purified the people, the gates, and the wall itself.

Purification of premises and environment contributes to a more meaningful worship

Broader Principle: We must separate ourselves from the noise, sin, and filth of this world to enjoy true communion with God.

Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

WHO CAN ENTER INTO THE HOLY PRESENCE OF GOD?

Psalms 24:3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴ He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Revelation 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. ⁵ He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels

WHO CAN ENTER INTO THE HOLY PRESENCE OF GOD?

We have **boldness to enter**, despite our fallen state, due to the finished work on the cross.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Isaiah 61:10 he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness

PURIFICATION MUST PRECEDE OUR SERVING GOD

HEBREWS 9:14 HOW MUCH MORE
SHALL THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, WHO
THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT
OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT SPOT TO
GOD, PURGE YOUR CONSCIENCE FROM
DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING
GOD?

CLEANSE YOURSELF BEFORE SACRIFICING

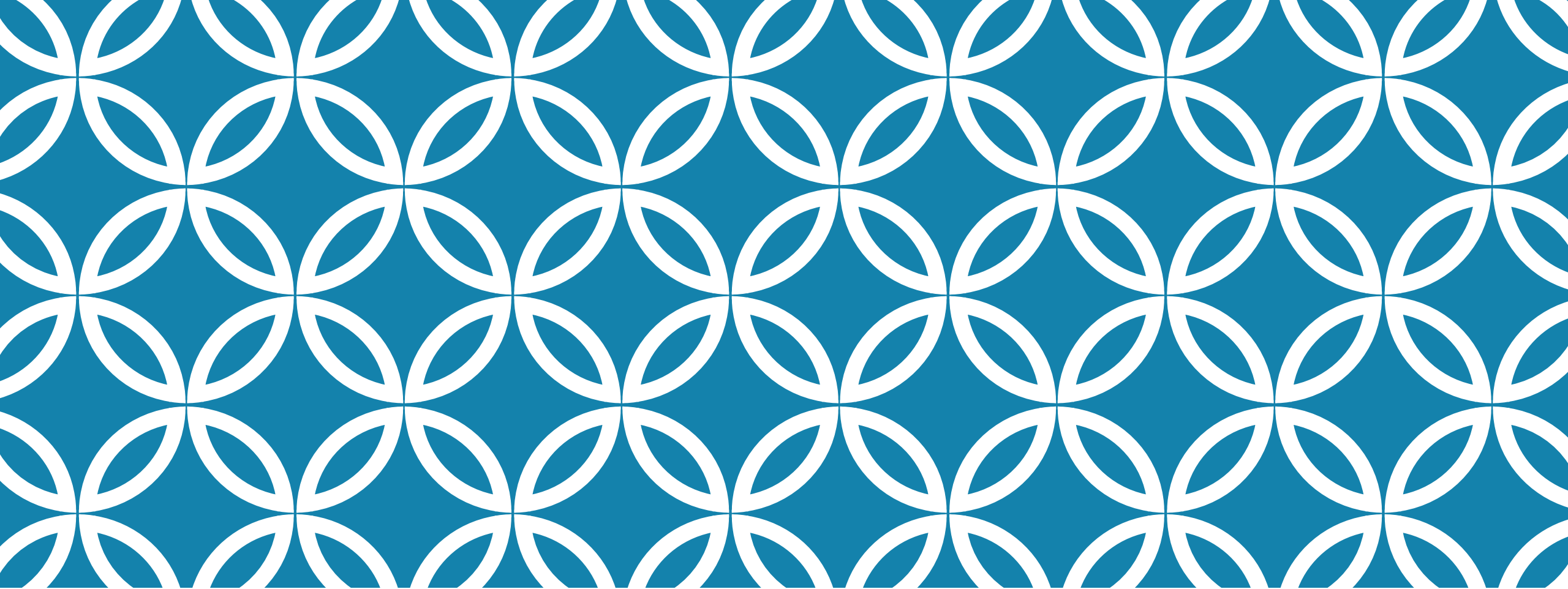
EZRA 6:20 For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

CLEANSE YOURSELF BEFORE CLEANSING THE HOUSE OF GOD

II Chronicles 29:15 And they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came, according to the commandment of the king, by the words of the Lord, to cleanse the house of the Lord.

CLEANSE YOURSELF BEFORE SERVING IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

NEHEMIAH 13:22 And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day.



WALL DEDICATION WORSHIP SERVICE

31-47

JOYFUL WORSHIP SERVICE PROCESSION

³¹ Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great companies of them that gave thanks, whereof one went on the right hand upon the wall toward the dung gate: ³² And after them went Hoshaiiah, and half of the princes of Judah, ³³ And Azariah, Ezra, and Meshullam, ⁴ Judah, and Benjamin, and Shemaiah, and Jeremiah, ³⁵ And certain of the priests' sons with trumpets; namely, Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph: ³⁶ And his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azarael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God, and Ezra the scribe before them.

³⁷ And at the fountain gate, which was over against them, they went up by the stairs of the city of David, at the going up of the wall, above the house of David, even unto the water gate eastward.

³⁸ And the other company of them that gave thanks went over against them, and I after them, and the half of the people upon the wall, from beyond the tower of the furnaces even unto the broad wall; ³⁹ And from above the gate of Ephraim, and above the old gate, and above the fish gate, and the tower of Hananeel, and the tower of Meah, even unto the sheep gate: and they stood still in the prison gate.

JOYFUL WORSHIP SERVICE PROCESSION



Lead by Two Thanksgiving
Choirs



Group 1 under Ezra's
Leadership



Group 2 under Nehemiah's
Leadership

ROUTE OF THE TWO GROUPS

Group 1 (31-37) under Ezra leadership, to walk south towards the dung gate. Play and sing while walking. Passed over the Dung gate (31), the Fountain gate, the steps that lead to the city or house of David, and the Water gate (37)

Group 2 lead by Nehemiah walked in opposite direction (38-39) They marched over the Tower of the Ovens, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hannanel, The Tower of the Hundred, and the Sheep Gate (39)

ROUTE OF THE TWO GROUPS

The two groups headed in different directions around the wall

The groups met at temple.

Worship service held at the temple.

... singers in front; people followed behind their leaders

(similar to open air gospel procession!)

ROUTE OF THE TWO GROUPS ... UPON THE WALL

Did they walk by the side of the wall or upon the wall or both?

“princes of Judah upon the wall” (31) “half of the people upon the wall” (38) ... suggesting broad walls!

(contrast with mocking in by Tobiah in 4:3 Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall)

Walking would have given a fresh appreciation of God’s grace in completing the walls, despite opposition and mockery!

MEMBERS AT THE SERVICE

⁴⁰ So stood the two companies of them that gave thanks in the house of God, and I, and the half of the rulers with me:

⁴¹ And the priests; Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;

⁴² And Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Eleazar, and Uzzi, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang loud, with Jezrahiah their overseer.

WHAT FOLLOWED WORSHIP?

⁴³ ALSO THAT DAY THEY OFFERED GREAT SACRIFICES, AND REJOICED: FOR GOD HAD MADE THEM REJOICE WITH GREAT JOY: THE WIVES ALSO AND THE CHILDREN REJOICED: SO THAT THE JOY OF JERUSALEM WAS HEARD EVEN AFAR OFF.

Great Sacrifices

REJOICED WITH GREAT JOY

(Source of Joy: GOD)

All Rejoiced (including wives and children)

Joyful sound of Jerusalem **HEARD AFAR!**

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR JOY?

Is our worship heard afar?

44-47

⁴⁴ And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited.

⁴⁵ And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son.

⁴⁶ For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God.

⁴⁷ And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of Aaron.

WHAT FOLLOWED WORSHIP?

ORDER & FAITHFULNESS IN THE HOUSE OF GOD



Men appointed to oversee collection of the offerings, the first fruits, and the tithes for the support of the priests and Levites as per the law



People contributed joyfully satisfied and grateful for the service of Levites



Priests and Levites performed their duties



Singers and gatekeepers faithfully completed the service as outlined by David & Solomon



**DIVINE ORDER OF GOD + FAITHFULNESS OF PEOPLE
= A BLESSED HOUSE OF GOD**

BLESSINGS OF CONTRIBUTION TO LEVITES (TITHING)

EZEKIEL 44:28 And it shall be unto them for an inheritance: I am their inheritance: and ye shall give them no possession in Israel: I am their possession.

²⁹ They shall eat the meat offering, and the sin offering, and the trespass offering: and every dedicated thing in Israel shall be theirs.

³⁰ And the first of all the firstfruits of all things, and every oblation of all, of every sort of your oblations, shall be the priest's: ye shall also give unto the priest the first of your dough, that he may cause the **blessing to rest in thine house**.

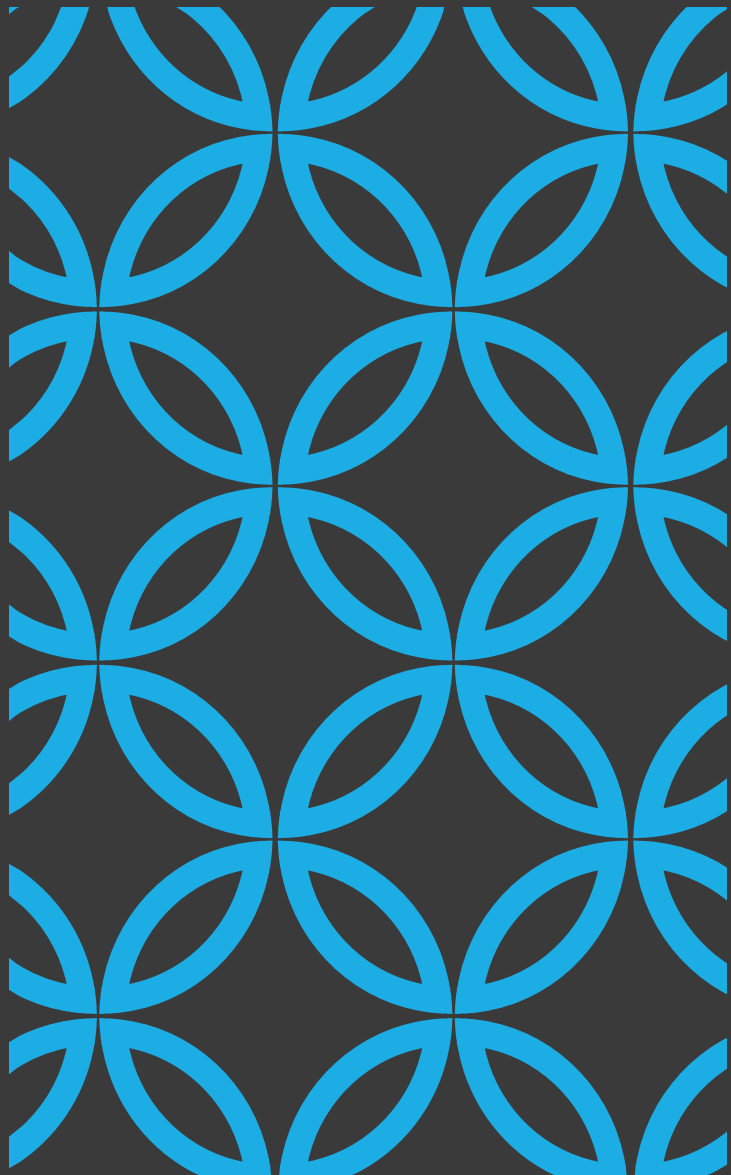
IMPORTANCE OF DEDICATION SERVICE

Brought the community of people together

Directed praise & glory to God for completed work

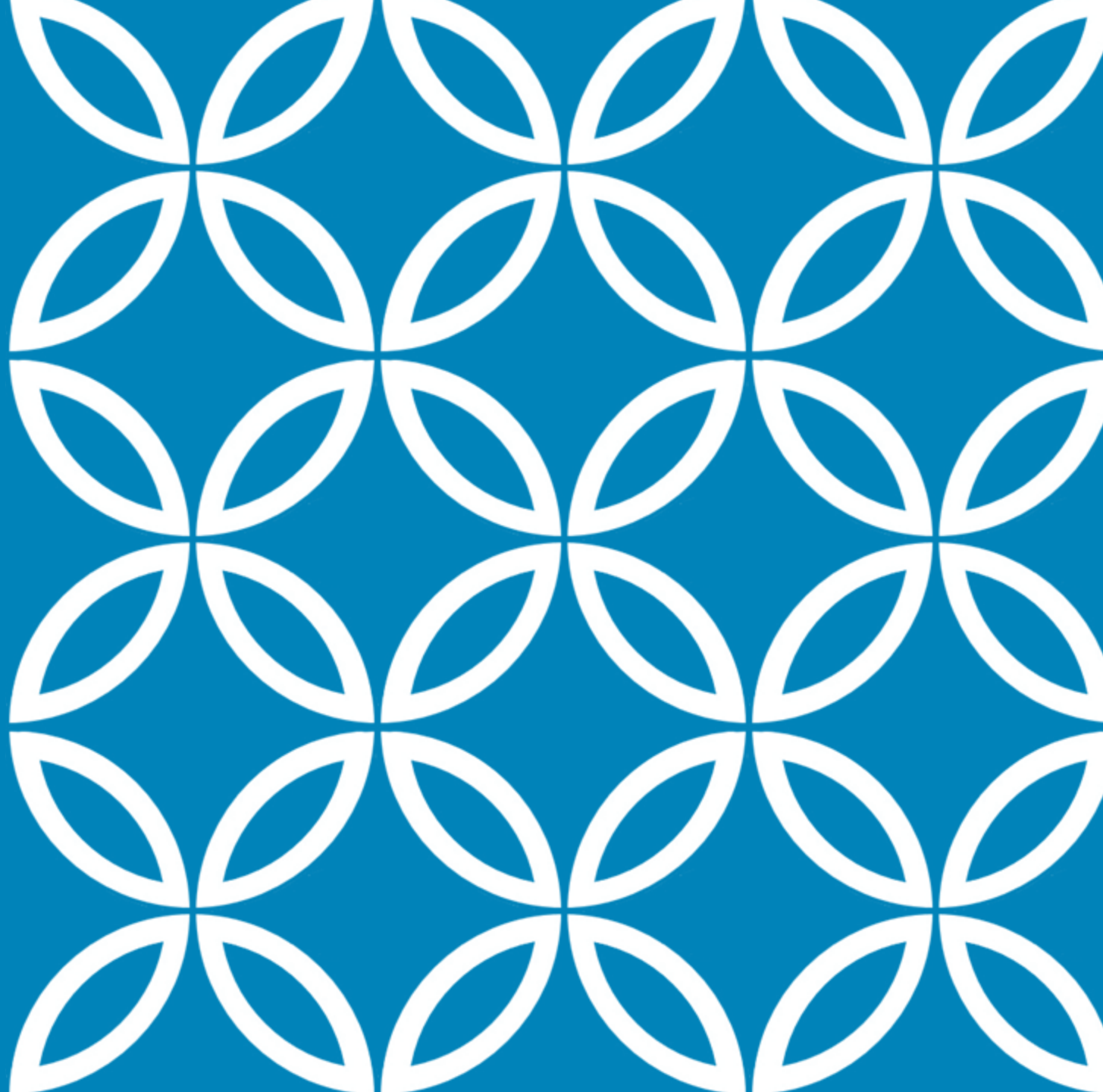
Focused on the true reason for joy

Seek God's continued favor and Protection

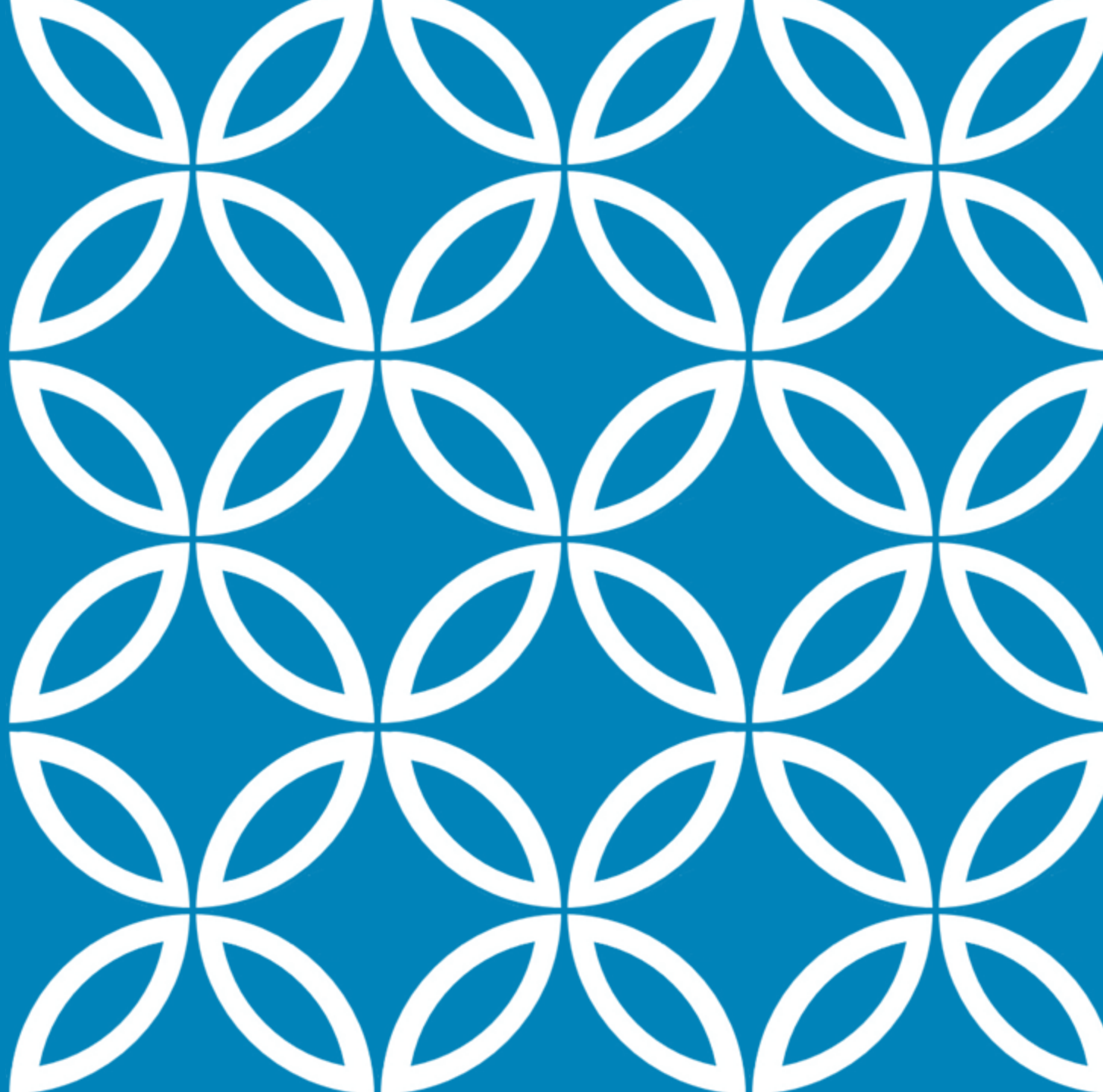


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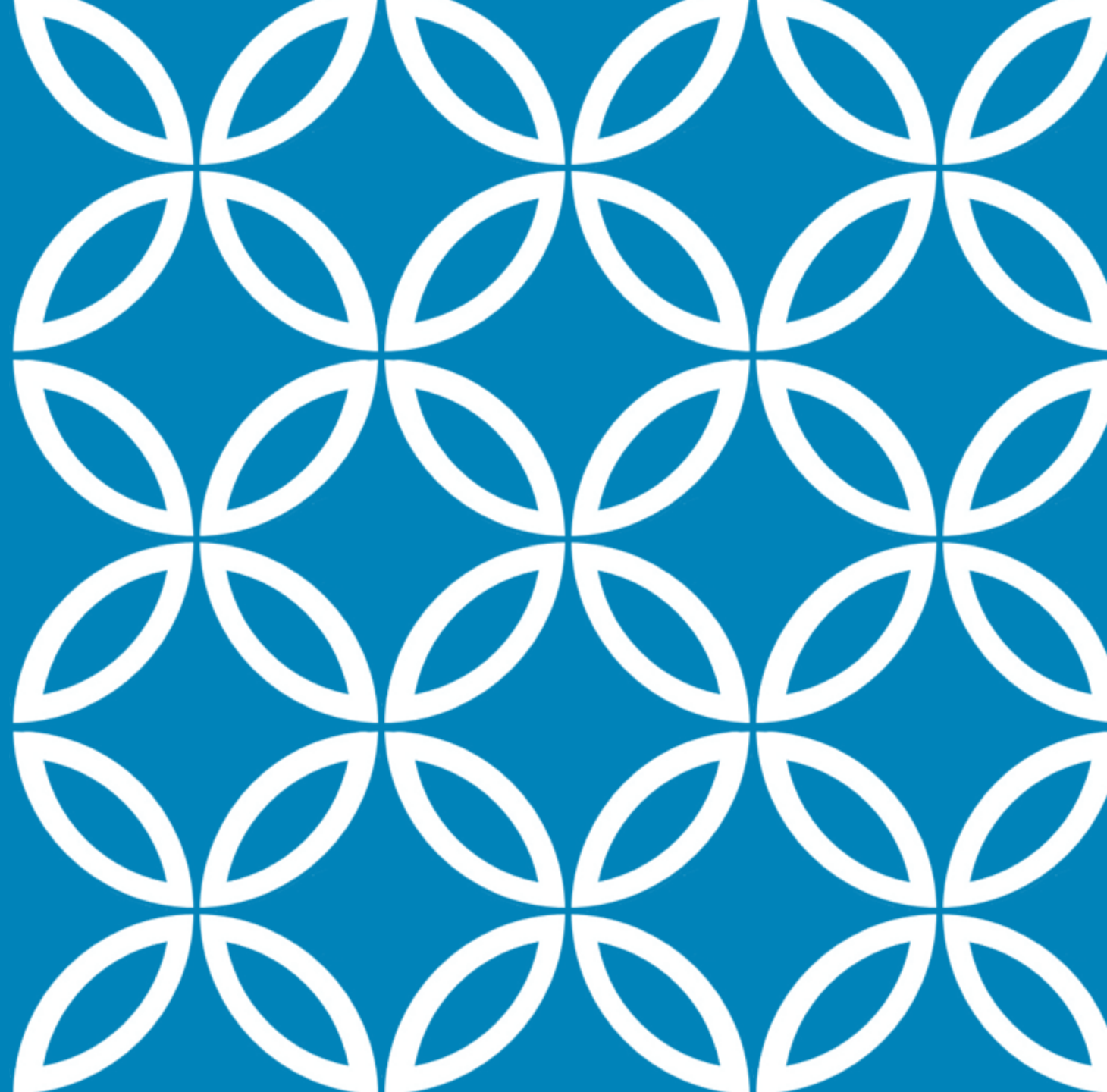
#1
PURIFICATION MUST
PRECEDE OUR
WORSHIP AND
SERVICE TO THE
LORD



#2
COMPLETED WORKS
MUST BE FOLLOWED
BY PRAISE &
THANKSGIVING

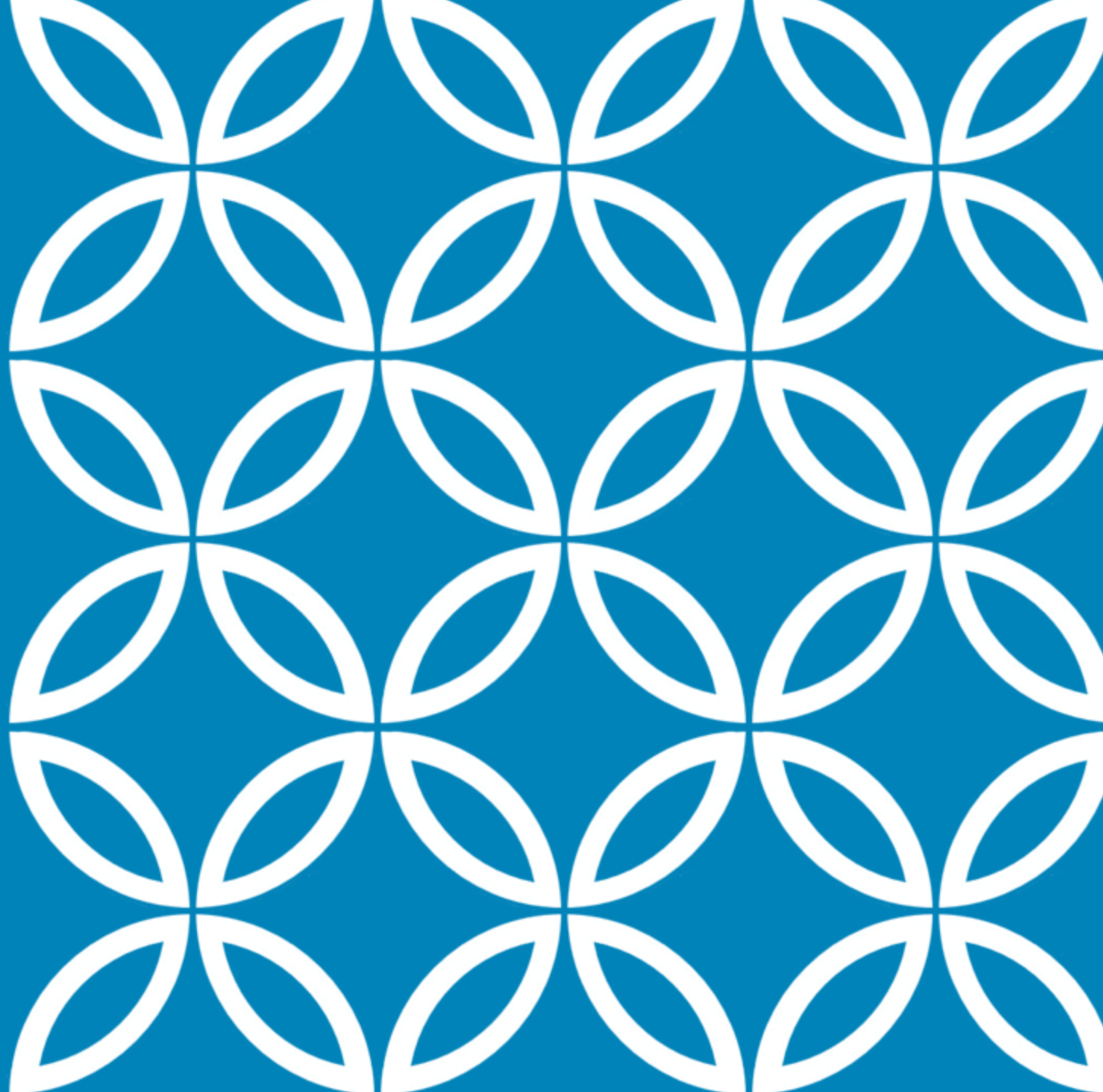


#3
GOD IS THE SOURCE
AND REASON FOR
OUR JOY



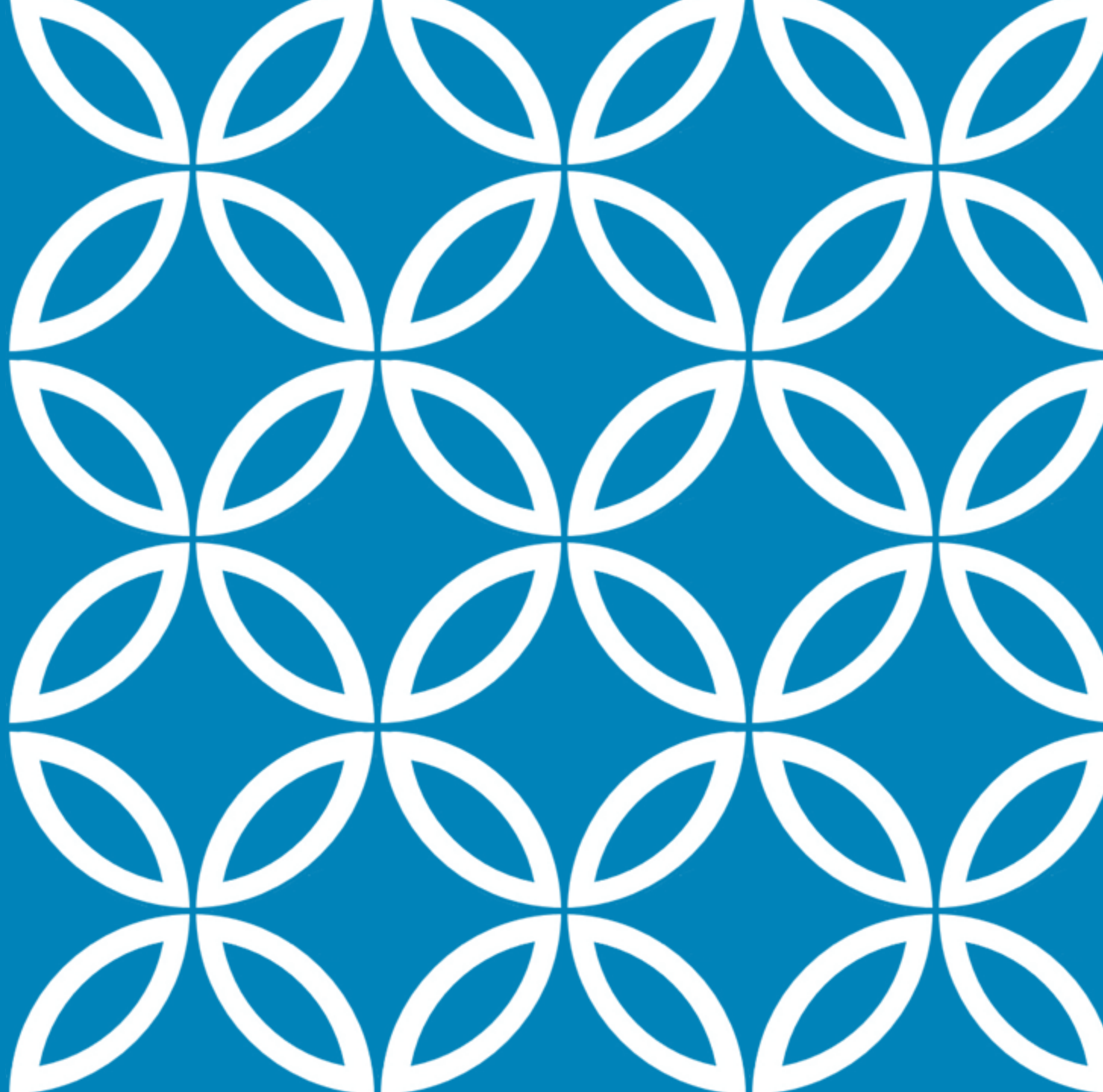
#4

A HEALTHY CHURCH
FINDS REASONS TO
COME TOGETHER AS
A COMMUNITY



#5

HOUSE OF GOD
BLESSED BY DIVINE
ORDER AND
FAITHFULNES OF
PEOPLE





#6 MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS WERE PART
OF WORSHIP SERVICE
(BUT EXERCISE DISCERNMENT)