


The image features five lit candles of different colors: two purple, one white, one pink, and one purple. They are arranged in a row on a green, textured base. The word "LOVE" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the top right of the image. The background is black, and the candles are lit, with their flames visible.

LOVE

LOVE





I can't believe in
the Christmas story—
and a distant God.

A black and white photograph of a city street at night. In the foreground, a bus stop shelter is visible on the left, with a bench and a motorcycle parked inside. A vintage-style car is parked at the bus stop. In the background, a large truck is parked on the right side of the street. The street is illuminated by streetlights, and the overall atmosphere is dark and moody. The text "Christmas is proof that God showed up first." is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**Christmas is proof that
God showed up first.**



Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 1:21-23

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."



**Love isn't an emotion.
It's a location.
And when we love people,
we show up for them.**



John 3:16

**For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only
begotten Son, that whoever
believes in Him shall not
perish, but have eternal life.**

so loved



great love



1 John 3:1-3

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.



1. See what

2. we know

3. this hope

1.

Look

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us”

2.

we know

3.

this hope



1. Look

2. Believe

“But we know that when Christ appears,¹¹
we shall be like Him”

3. this hope

1. Look
2. Believe
3. Experience

“All who have this hope in Him”



Charles Wesley

May 21, 1738; Charles Wesley's Journal

"At midnight I gave myself to Christ, assured that I was safe, whether sleeping or waking. I had the continual experience of His power to overcome all temptation, and I confessed with joy and surprise that He was able to do exceedingly abundantly for me above what I can ask or think."



May 21, 1738; Charles Wesley's Journal

**"I now found myself at peace with God,
and rejoiced in hope of loving Christ.
I saw that by faith I stood."**

Later that day he wrote a hymn:

A black and white photograph of a street scene. In the foreground, a vintage car is parked on the left side of the street. In the background, a large truck is parked on the right side. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an overcast day or early morning. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

And Can It Be

**And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood;
Died He for me, who caused His pain;
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

A dark, grainy black and white photograph of a street scene. In the foreground, a vintage car is parked on the left. In the background, a large truck is visible on the right. The scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and mysterious atmosphere. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

And Can It Be

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?

In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love Divine!

'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

A black and white photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, a person is seated in a wheelchair, facing away from the camera. The wheelchair has a license plate that reads '5510-8843'. In the background, a person is riding a bicycle. The scene is set on a city street with buildings and a utility pole visible. The overall atmosphere is somber and contemplative.

And Can It Be

He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free
For, O my God, it found out me!
Amazing love! how can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?



And Can It Be

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

A black and white photograph of a street scene. In the foreground, a person is seated in a wheelchair, positioned at a bus stop. The background shows a street with a bus, a person walking, and some utility poles. The overall atmosphere is somber and contemplative.

And Can It Be

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!**

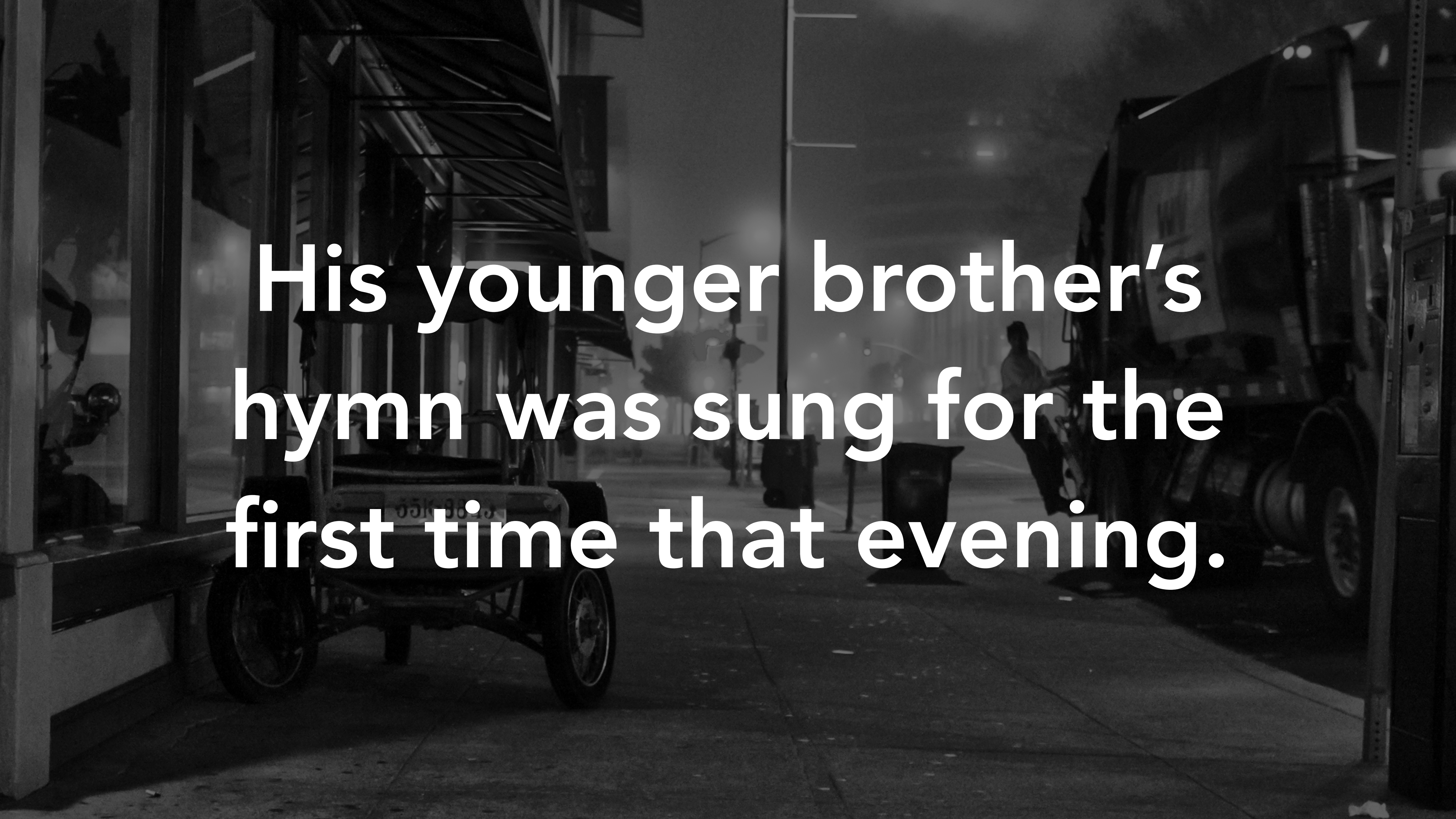
**Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine.**

**Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.**

**Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

May 24, 1738; John Wesley's Journal

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."



His younger brother's
hymn was sung for the
first time that evening.

But because of His great love for us, God,
who is rich in mercy, made us alive with
Christ even when we were dead in
transgressions—it is by
grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5

