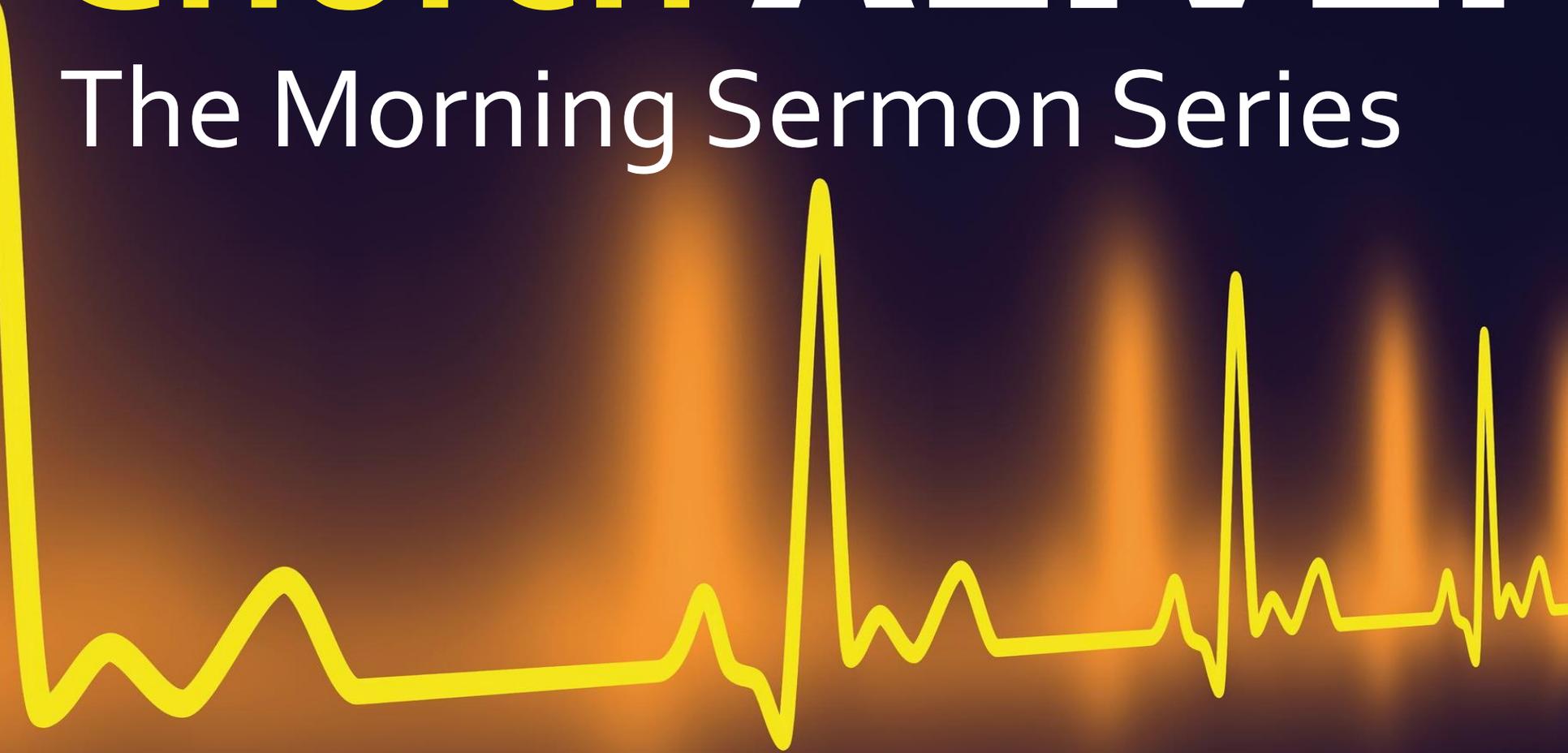


Church **ALIVE!**

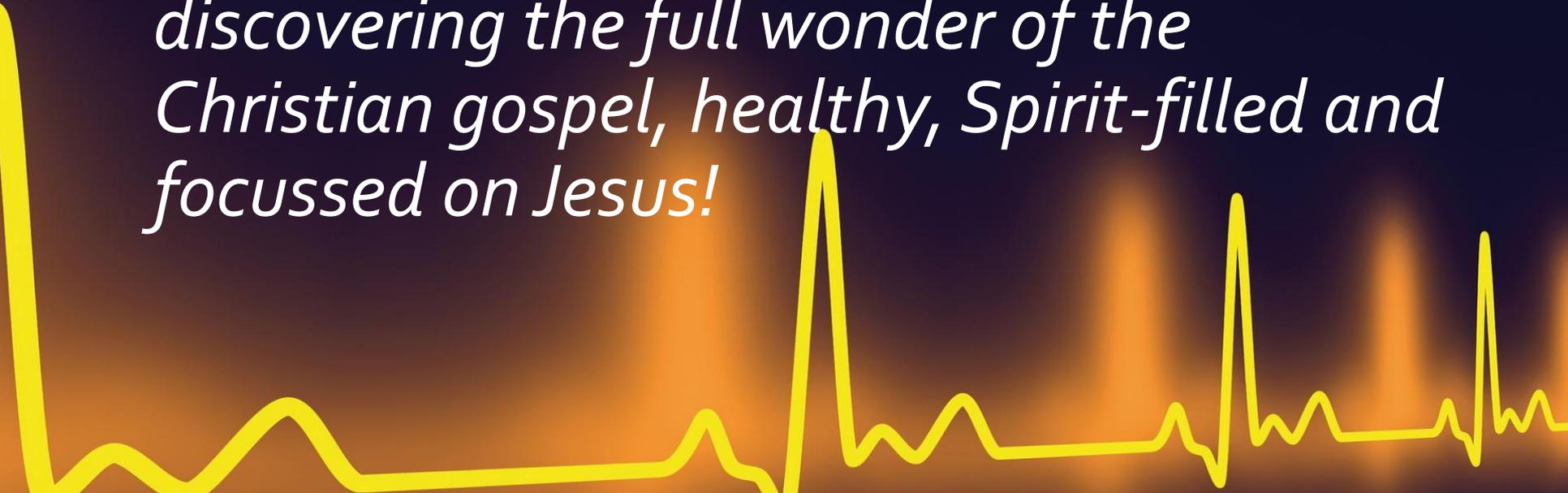
The Morning Sermon Series



Autumn 2015

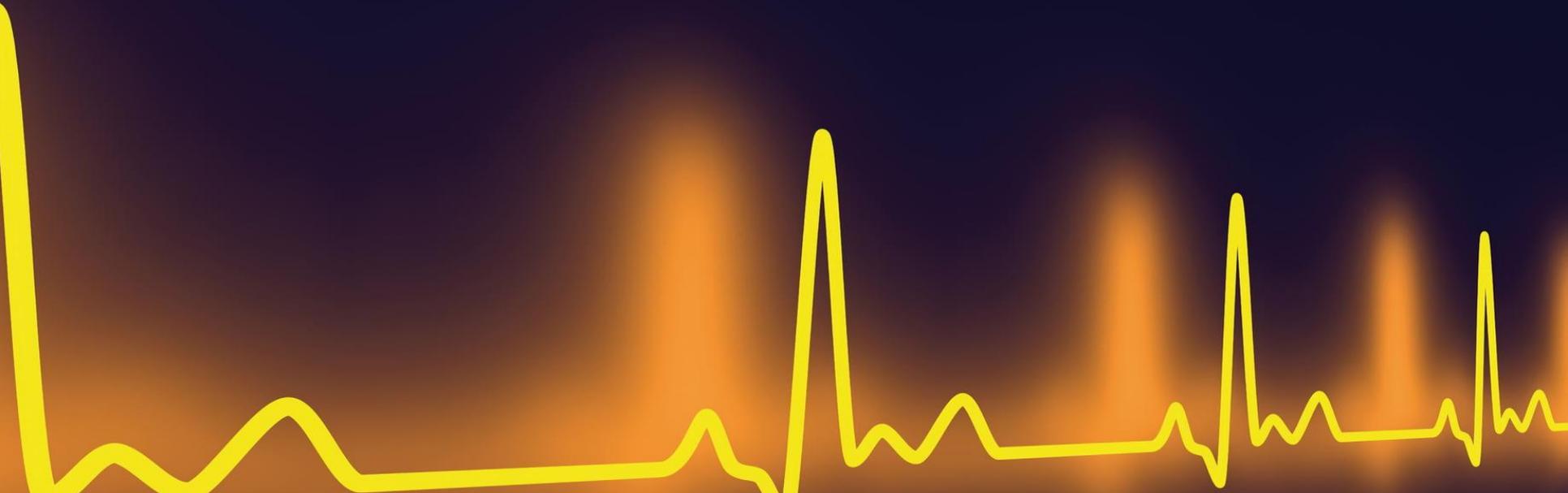
Church Alive!

- *The church is very much alive, and we want to explore more of being alive with faith, hope and love, and being a visionary, prayerful, welcoming, church which is involved in our community, discovering the full wonder of the Christian gospel, healthy, Spirit-filled and focussed on Jesus!*



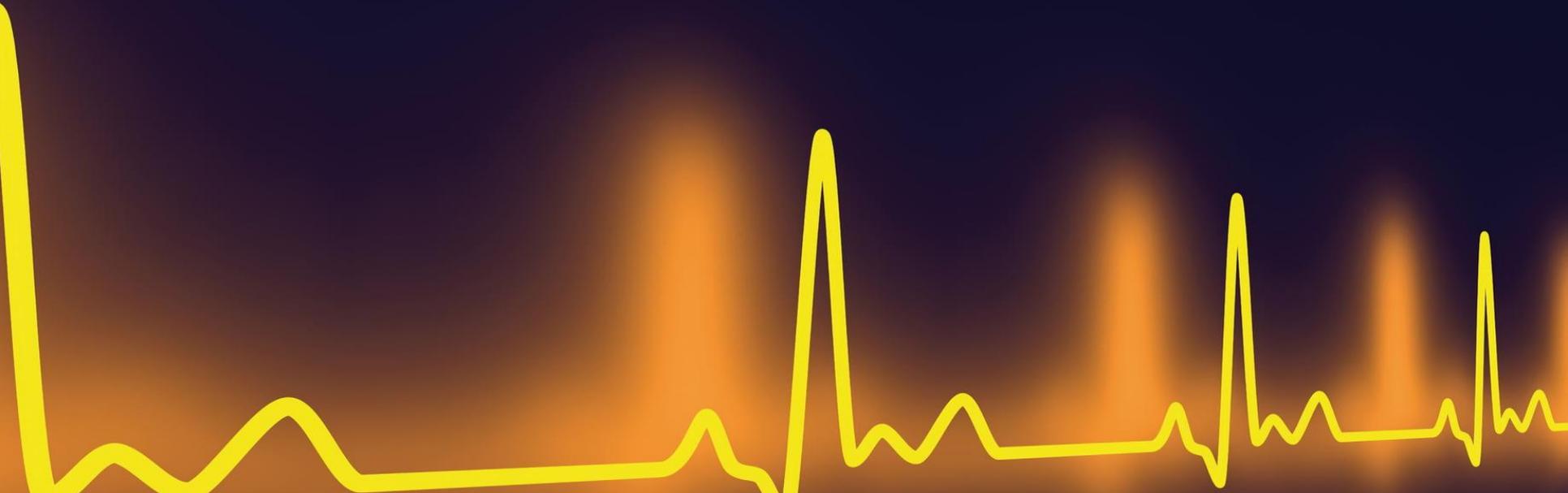
Alive with Hope

- Isaiah 60:1-9
- 'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.'



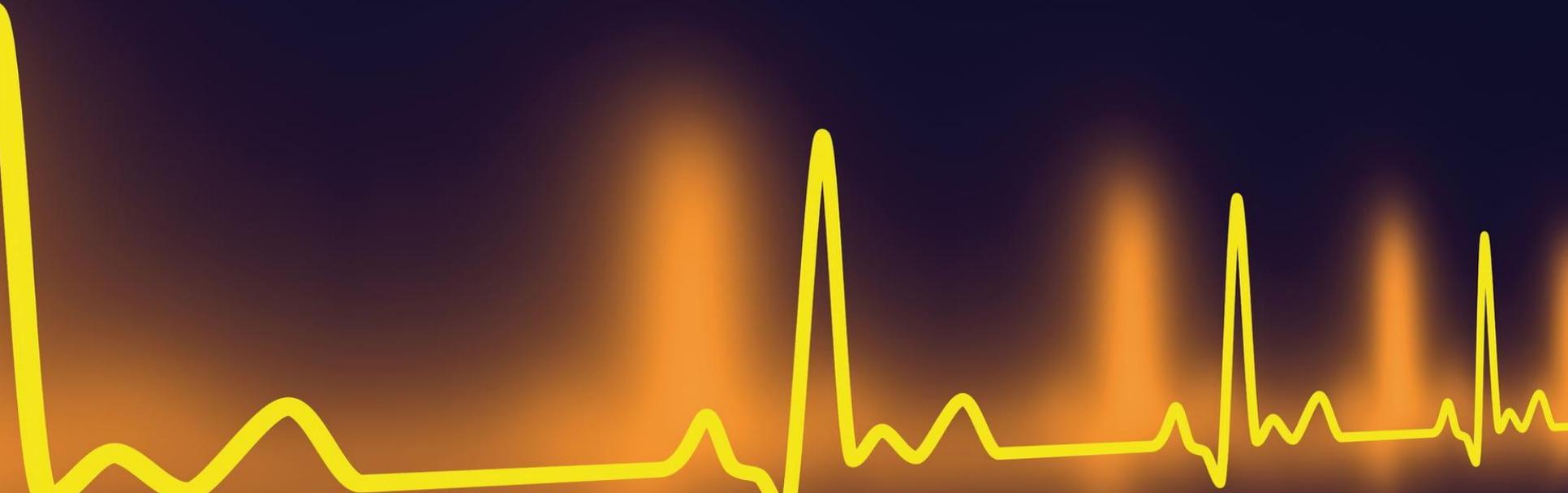
What does the word 'hope' mean?

- *'I looked through my papers in the hope that I might find some information'*
- *'My only hope is surgery'*
- *'I do see some hope for the future'*



What does the word 'hope' mean?

- *'I hope it doesn't rain'*
- *'I'm hoping to address all these issues'*
- Optimist, pessimist or realist.



What does the word 'hope' mean?

- *'Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.'*
- Emily Dickinson (1830 – 1886)



What does the word 'hope' mean?

- *'We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.'*
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.**
(1929-1968)



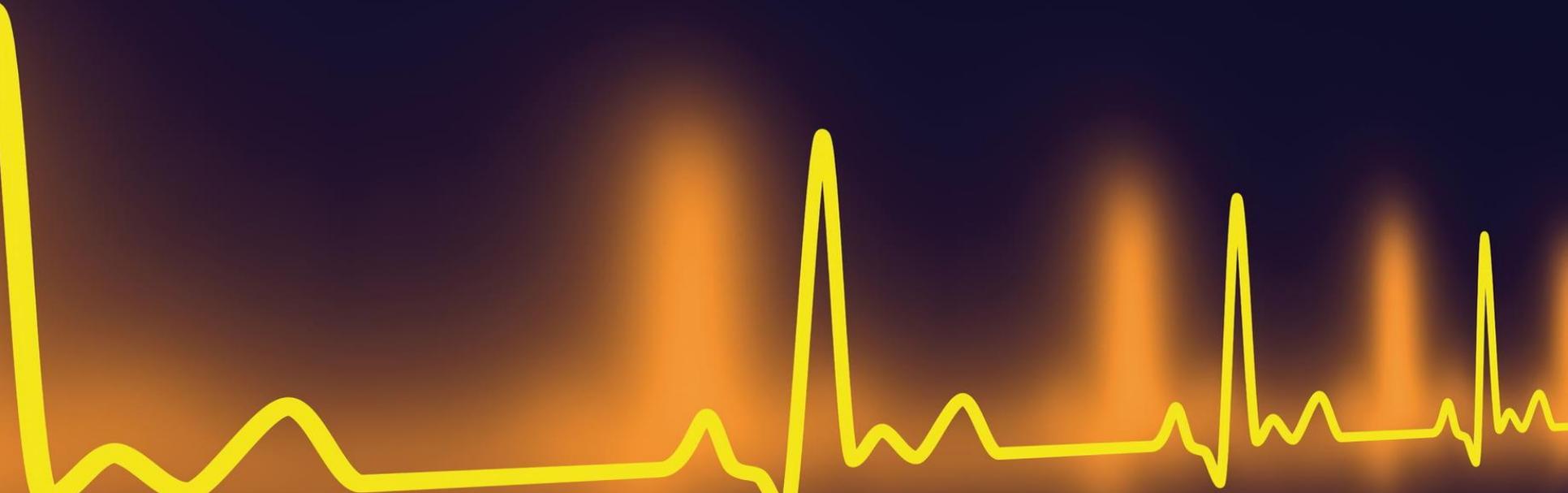
What does the word 'hope' mean?

- 'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.'
- Desmond Tutu (born 1931....)



What does the word 'hope' mean?

- Our Christian understanding of hope is an expectant waiting for the fulfilment of the promises of God - that is absolutely amazing.



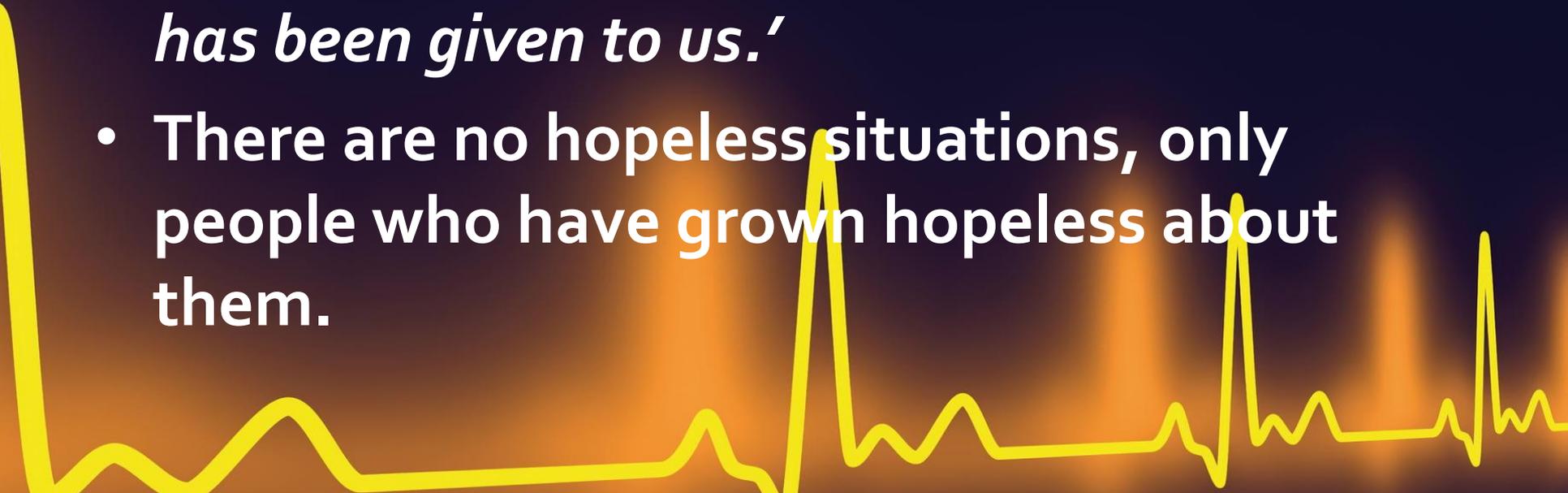
Hope in the Bible

- God is himself a God of hope, and with Jesus there is always hope!
- Christian hope begins with God
- Romans 15:13 – *'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.'*



Hope in the Bible

- Christian hope does not depend on circumstances
- Romans 5:5 – *'Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.'*
- There are no hopeless situations, only people who have grown hopeless about them.

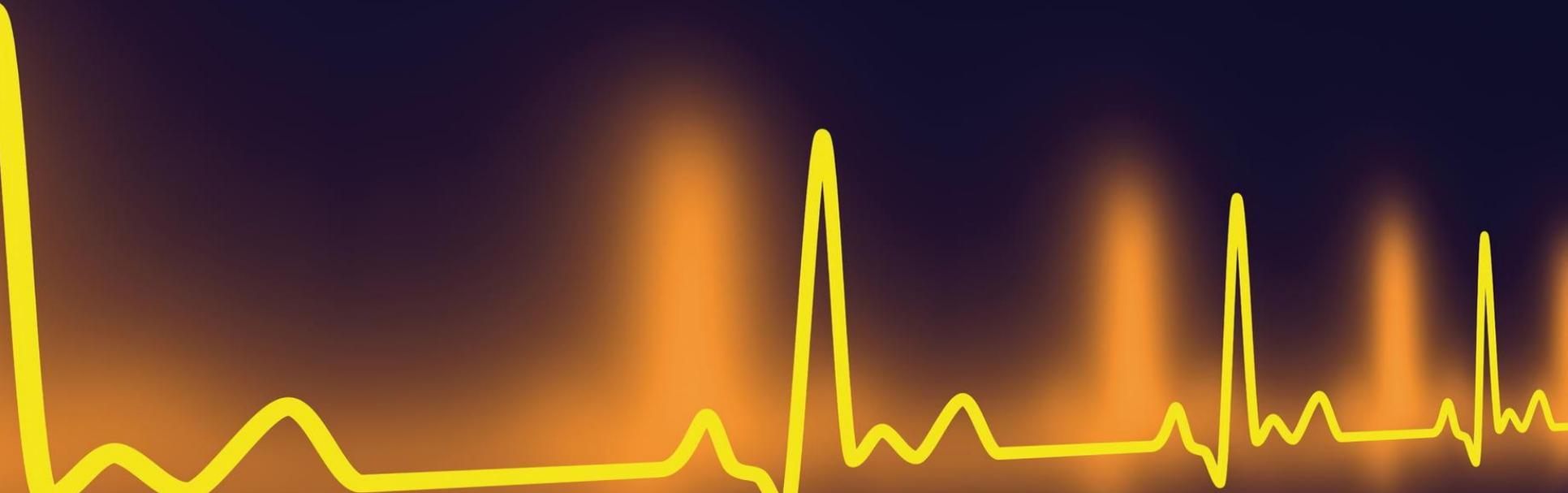


Hope in the Bible



Hope in the Bible

- Christian hope is guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus
- **1 Corinthians 15:20** – *'But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.'*

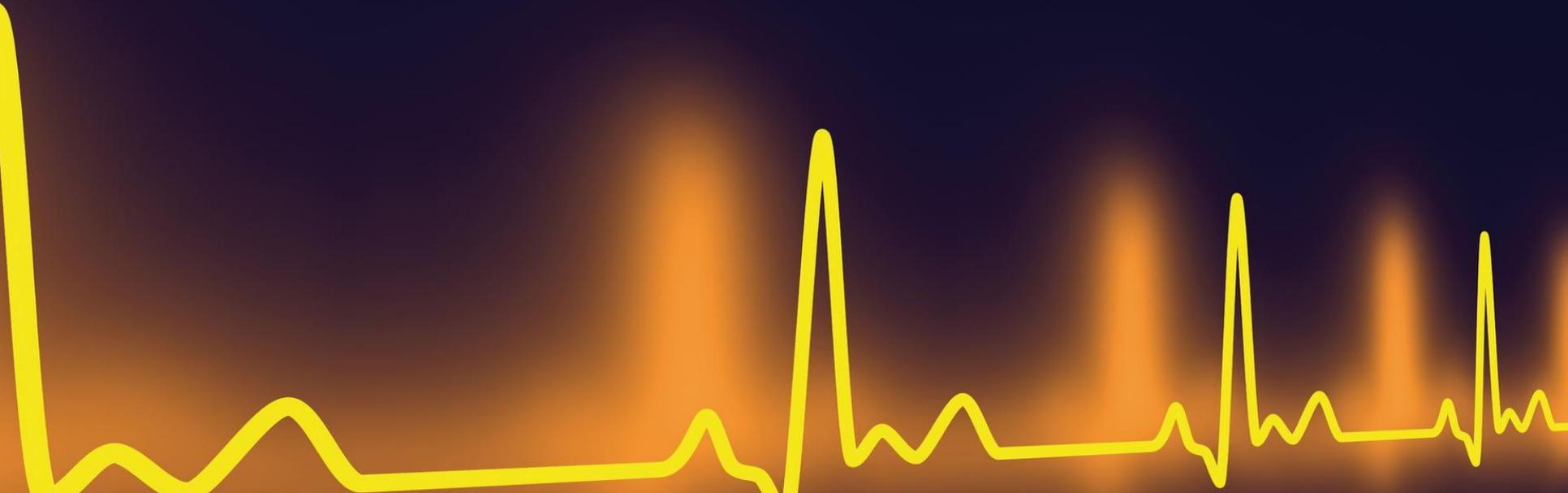


Hope in the Bible



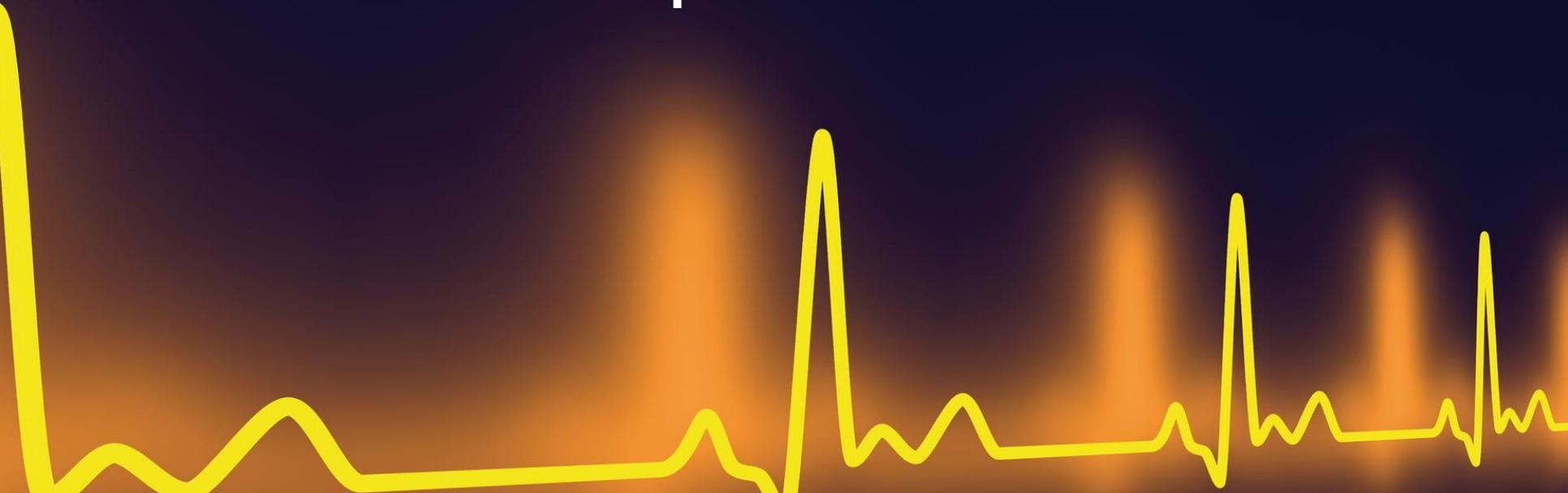
Hope in the Bible

- Christian hope brings unquenchable optimism
- Romans 15:13 – ‘so that you may overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit’



Hope in the Bible

- Christian hope belongs to the present and the future
- It is about what God is doing now and what he will do in time to come.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**



Arise and shine today!

- 'Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.



Arise and shine today!

- People of Israel – get a vision of hope!
- People of Shirley – get a vision of hope today!
- We have the greatest message of all
- We are the most confident people of all
- We are the most positive people of all



Arise and shine today!

- We should be the most godly people of all in this world today
- We should be a church that is really alive!
- Our hope is in Jesus Christ!

