

Kildare
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Closing Prayer



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Leader:

We must learn to live in new times.

*What we have always known is no longer enough
to answer the questions that arise in us.*

*We find ourselves facing a new history,
and therefore facing a new word from God...*

*We may not cling to the truth we have always known,
but seek in truth the desires of God active in these times.*

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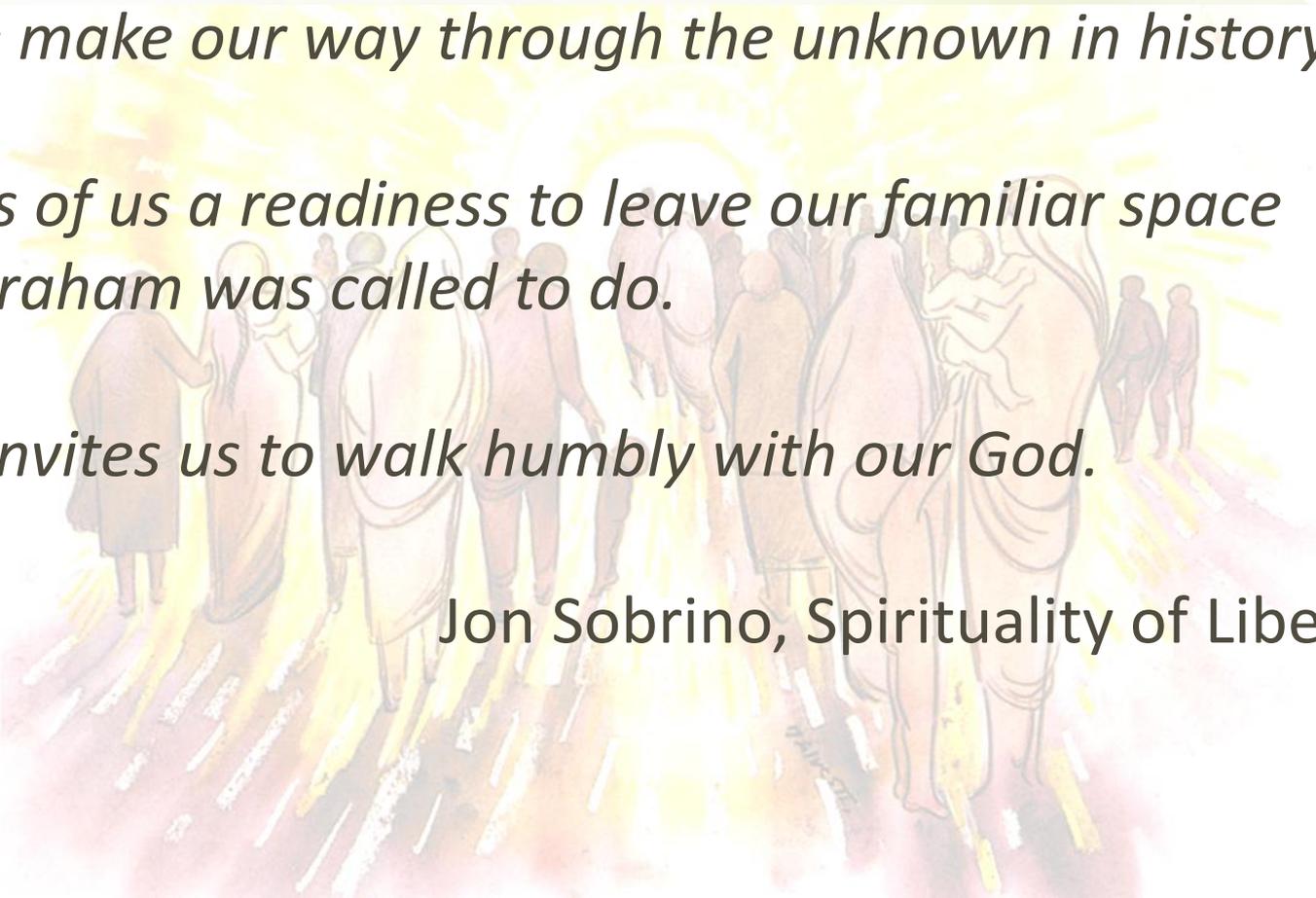
Leader:

*This calls for fidelity to God
as we make our way through the unknown in history.*

*It asks of us a readiness to leave our familiar space
as Abraham was called to do.*

As it invites us to walk humbly with our God.

Jon Sobrino, Spirituality of Liberation



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Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.



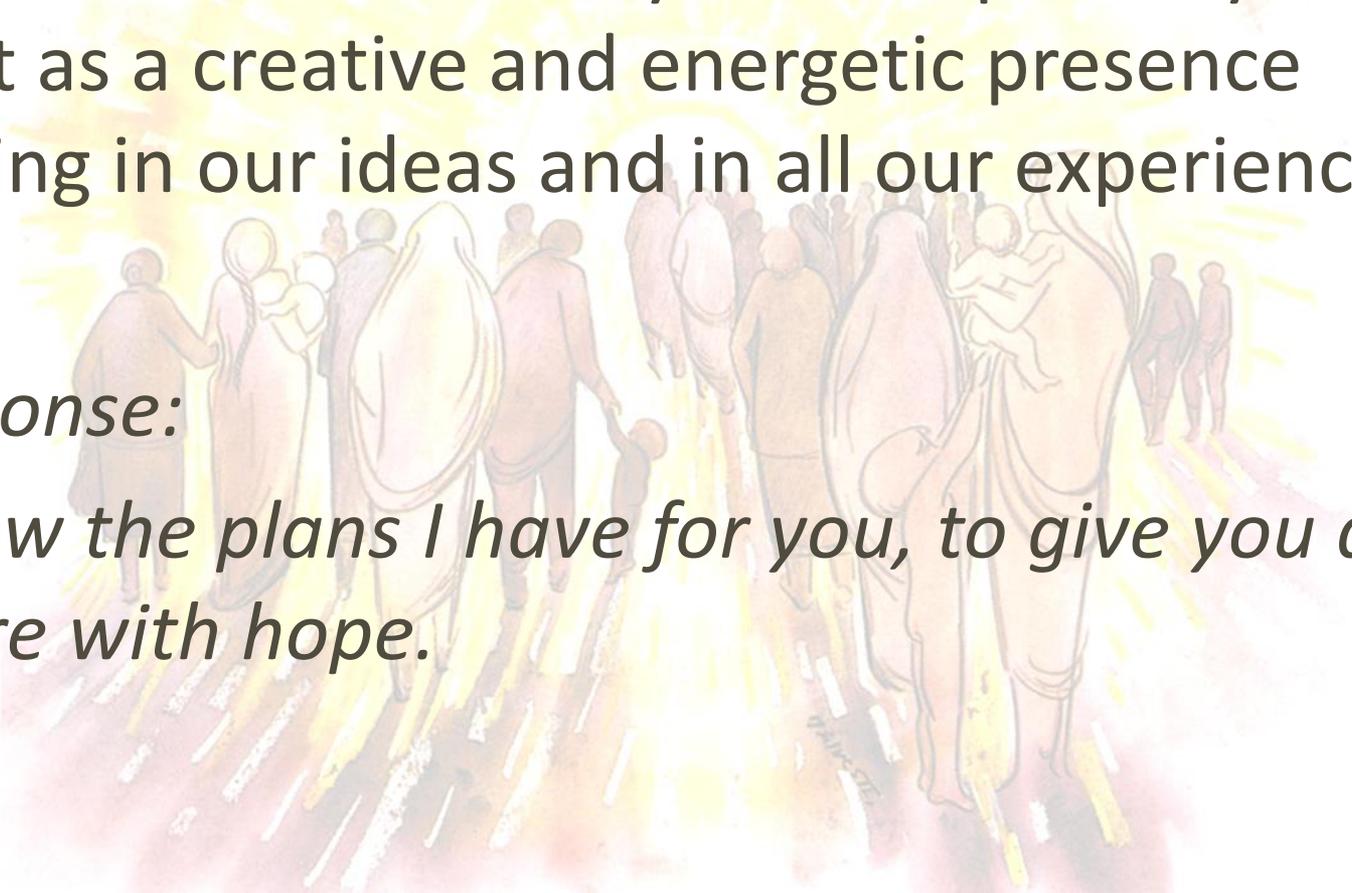
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God of time and change, be with us as we explore the future. May we be open to your Spirit as a creative and energetic presence moving in our ideas and in all our experience.

Response:

I know the plans I have for you, to give you a future with hope.



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Give us patience with partial plans and fragments of the future glimpsed imperfectly in hopeful words. Help us to sense your Spirit drawing us toward your tomorrow, even if it takes us away from comfortable patterns and from our own pet projects.

Response:

I know the plans I have for you, to give you a future with hope.

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Teach us to plan for a reality rooted in the gospel. Like humble servants of resources not our own, may we be able to bring out of our hopes and experiences things both old and new, in service of the people of today.

Response:

I know the plans I have for you, to give you a future with hope.

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As we build our plans, help us to remember that we are just servants of a community in which we are privileged to serve. Open us up to the Spirit and to the task of building your reign in the hearts of all people. Enliven our hope in your vision of a better world.

Response:

I know the plans I have for you, to give you a future with hope.

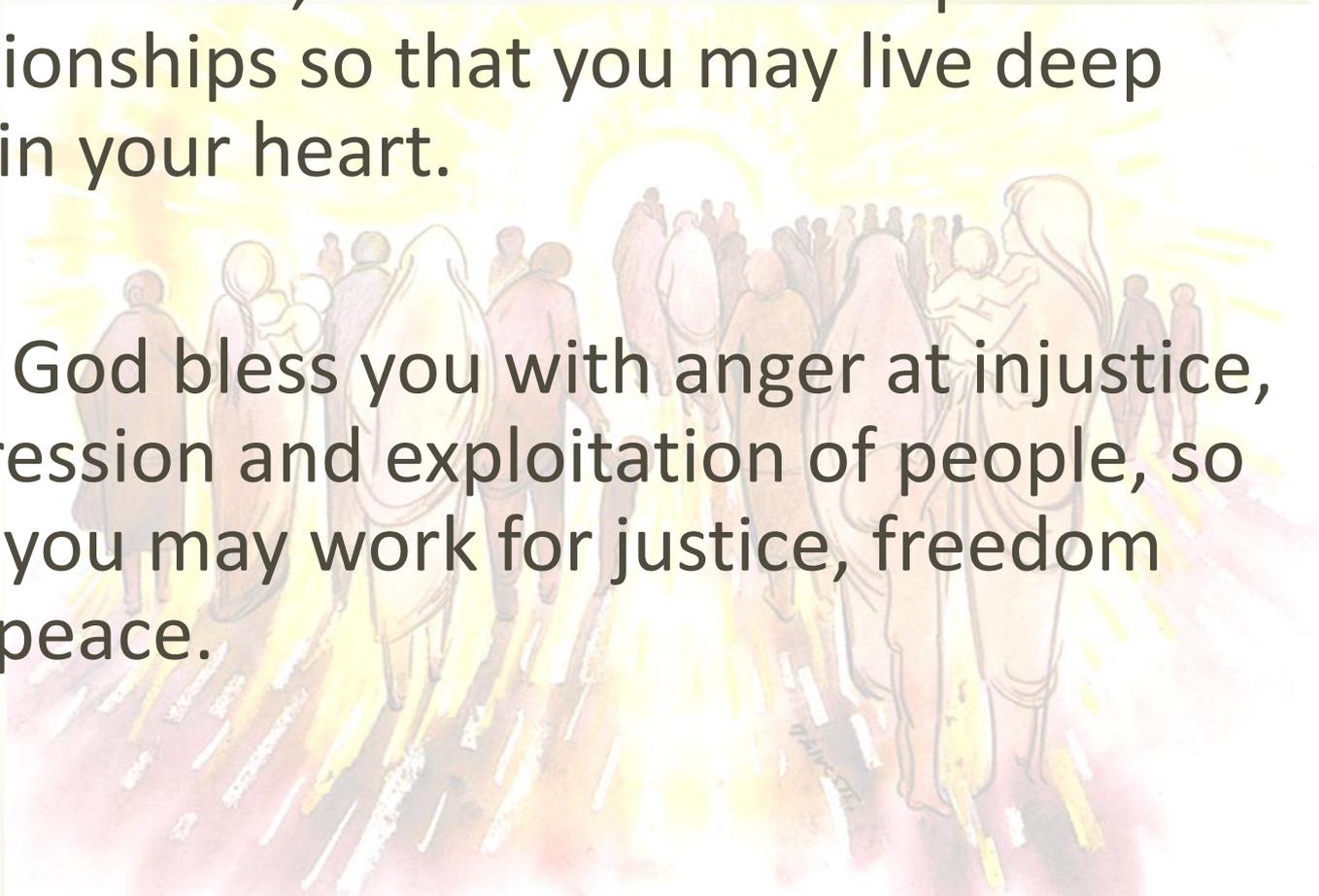


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Final blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.



Final blessing



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May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to the poor and suffering.

Final blessing



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And may you be blessed always with the sense of our God's abundant presence in your life.

Amen.

