

World Day of Peace

January 2024 Prayer

Ambiance for Prayer: Prepare your space for prayer to be near the Holy Family or other devotional image. Invite people to wear blue to represent peace and or to bring something to the circle that brings them peace. Have everyone sit in a circle and read the following:

Gathering: The Vatican has published Pope Francis' Message¹ for the 57th World Day of Peace, to be celebrated on January 1, 2024, with the theme "**Artificial Intelligence and Peace.**"



In the message of His Holiness Pope Francis he stated, "I hope that the foregoing reflection will encourage efforts to ensure that progress in developing forms of artificial intelligence will ultimately serve the cause of human fraternity and peace. It is not the responsibility of a few but of the entire human family. For peace is the fruit of relationships that recognize and welcome others in their inalienable dignity, and of cooperation and commitment in

seeking the integral development of all individuals and peoples.

It is my prayer at the start of the New Year that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today's world but will help put an end to wars and conflicts and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family. May Christian believers, followers of various religions and men and women of good will work together in harmony to embrace the opportunities and

¹ [Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 57th World Day of Peace – Artificial Intelligence and Peace](#)

confront the challenges posed by the digital revolution and thus hand on to future generations a world of greater solidarity, justice and peace.”



We must make sure that Artificial Intelligence is put at the service of peace in the world, rather than being a threat, and that it make a beneficial contribution on humanity future. I have dedicated the Message for the World Day of Peace to this. #WDP2024 @vaticanIHD

Take a moment to reflect on His Holiness' message.

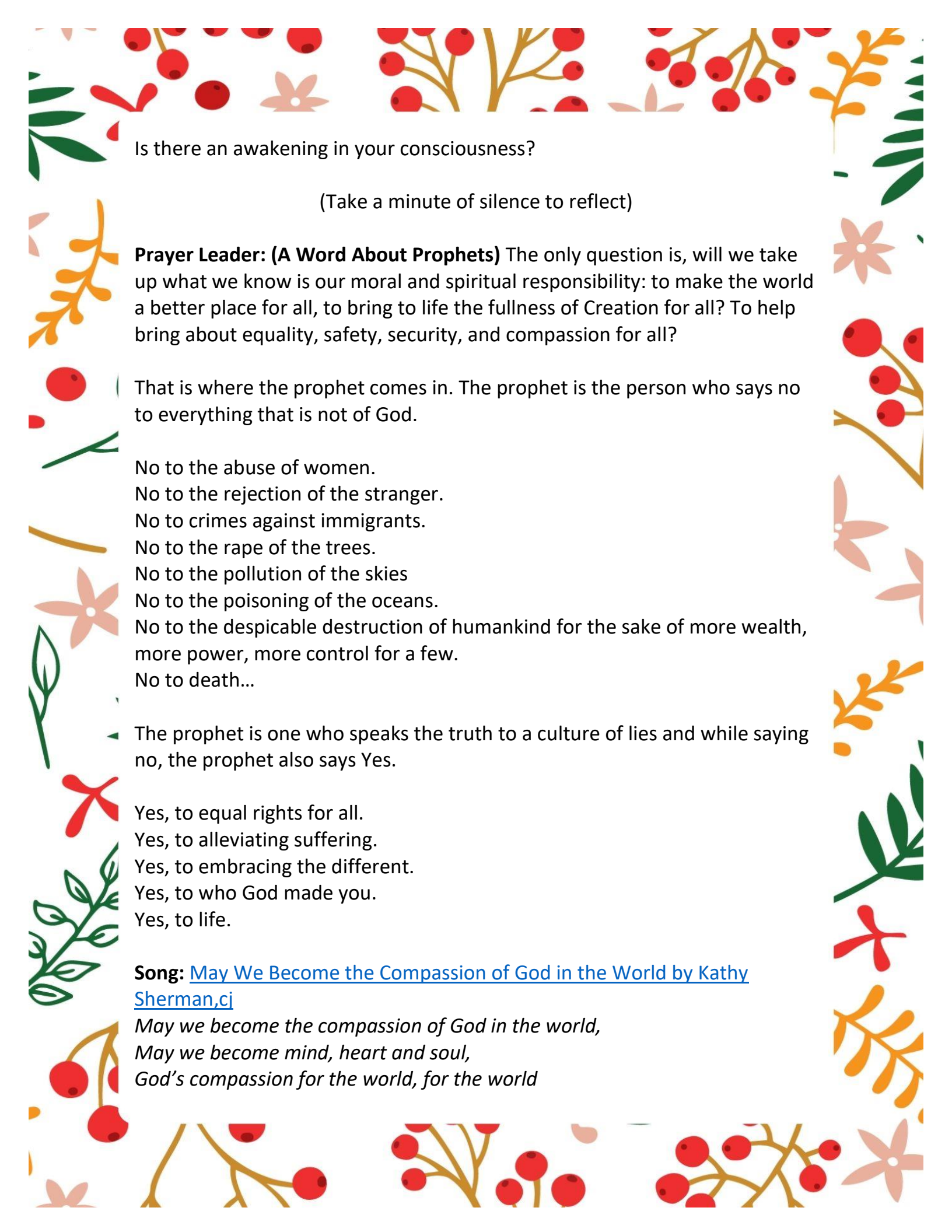
Prayer Leader: A reading from the Awakening to Sacred Presence - Holy Mystery, "The Gift of Compassion." Compassion is a thread that binds together the deepest centers of life beyond borders of race, gender, religion, tribe, or creature.

Awareness. Attitude. Action. These three essentials comprise the movement of compassion. While much of the world's suffering is observable, a portion lies tightly concealed. Unless and until we become aware of suffering, we cannot respond to it compassionately... Compassion also requires a certain attitude, that of recognizing the inviolable oneness we have with all of life. We exist in a world of interconnectedness... the suffering of one affects the suffering of all... This attitude of a common bond underlies each compassionate action. With our awareness of suffering and an attitude of wanting to alleviate it, we then choose to act in a positive way for the benefits of all beings. (pg. 42)

Reflection:

Knowing that the suffering of one affects the suffering of all – is there an awareness of suffering you would like to pray for?

(Take a few moments to reflect and pray for those suffering around the world today)



Is there an awakening in your consciousness?

(Take a minute of silence to reflect)

Prayer Leader: (A Word About Prophets) The only question is, will we take up what we know is our moral and spiritual responsibility: to make the world a better place for all, to bring to life the fullness of Creation for all? To help bring about equality, safety, security, and compassion for all?

That is where the prophet comes in. The prophet is the person who says no to everything that is not of God.

No to the abuse of women.

No to the rejection of the stranger.

No to crimes against immigrants.

No to the rape of the trees.

No to the pollution of the skies

No to the poisoning of the oceans.

No to the despicable destruction of humankind for the sake of more wealth, more power, more control for a few.

No to death...

The prophet is one who speaks the truth to a culture of lies and while saying no, the prophet also says Yes.

Yes, to equal rights for all.

Yes, to alleviating suffering.

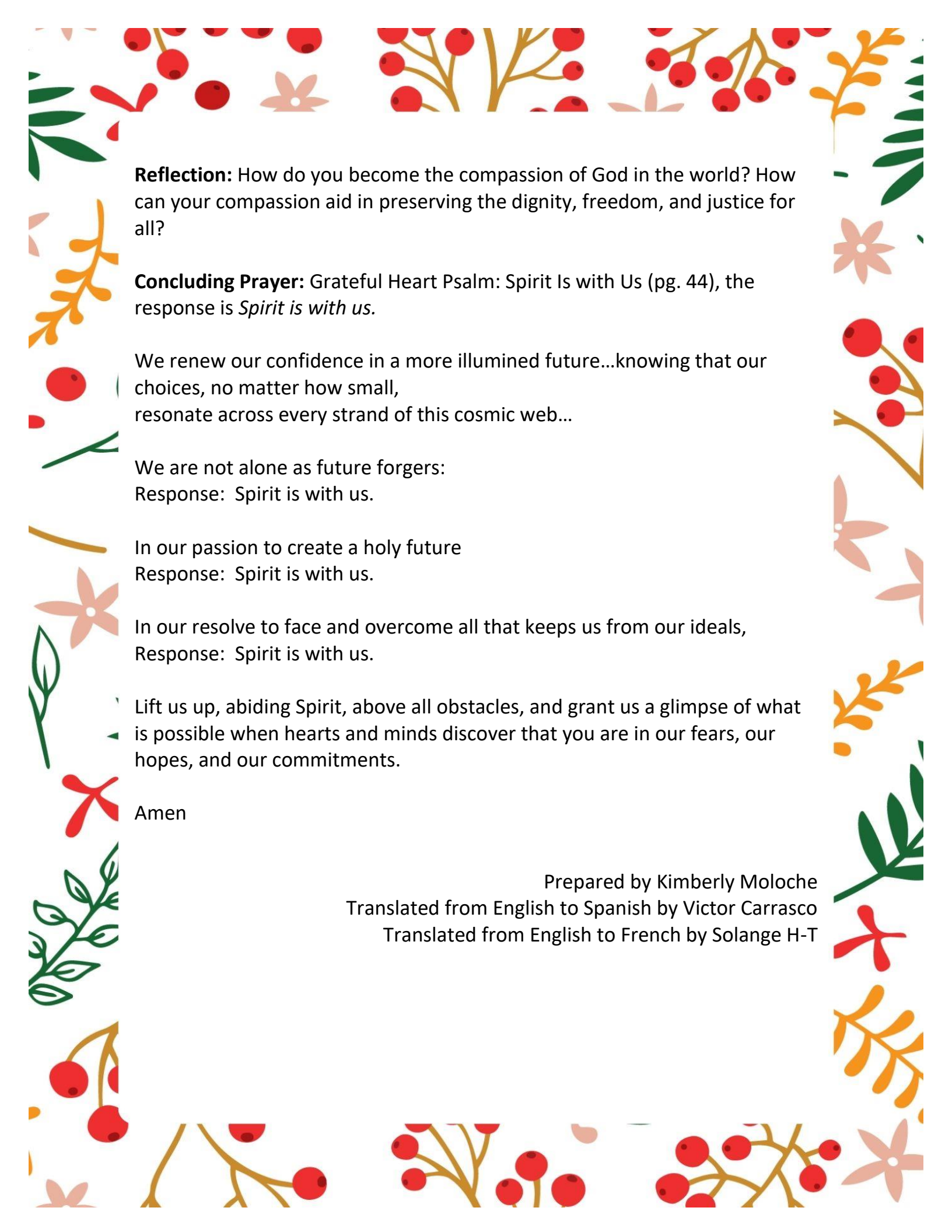
Yes, to embracing the different.

Yes, to who God made you.

Yes, to life.

Song: [May We Become the Compassion of God in the World by Kathy Sherman,cj](#)

*May we become the compassion of God in the world,
May we become mind, heart and soul,
God's compassion for the world, for the world*



Reflection: How do you become the compassion of God in the world? How can your compassion aid in preserving the dignity, freedom, and justice for all?

Concluding Prayer: Grateful Heart Psalm: Spirit Is with Us (pg. 44), the response is *Spirit is with us*.

We renew our confidence in a more illumined future...knowing that our choices, no matter how small, resonate across every strand of this cosmic web...

We are not alone as future forgers:
Response: Spirit is with us.

In our passion to create a holy future
Response: Spirit is with us.

In our resolve to face and overcome all that keeps us from our ideals,
Response: Spirit is with us.

Lift us up, abiding Spirit, above all obstacles, and grant us a glimpse of what is possible when hearts and minds discover that you are in our fears, our hopes, and our commitments.

Amen

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