

OITC Sunday Lectio
20th Sunday of the Year
17.8.25

Leader : We live in a divided world, the internal organs of our planet are ruptured. The reality of the divisions, of which Jesus speaks in today's gospel, are on the front pages of our newspapers every day.

Cain kills Abel in our towns,
in our cities and across the
nations.
And Jewish people are sent
to Autchwitz.



Music: Theme from Schindler's List
- John Williams





As we begin our liturgy let us listen to the word of Jesus spoken in our hearts in the silence, and accept his invitation to be bringers of the fire of the spirit in peace.



Let us be still
and lift up
our broken
world in prayer.

Pause

A pair of hands is shown holding a glowing, translucent globe of the Earth. The globe is centered on the Americas, with North and South America visible in shades of green and yellow. The oceans are a deep blue, and there are wisps of white clouds. The hands are positioned at the bottom and sides of the globe, with fingers gently cupping it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Let us call to mind the times when we have caused division and pray for healing in all of our broken relationships.
Let us resolve to make every effort towards reconciliation.

Pause

We live in a divided world. We lift up our broken world in prayer.



WORLD'S MAJOR ONGOING WARS 2025



June 2025
Estimated death toll

Russia/Ukraine
170,500

Gaza/Israel
61,000

Myanmar
82,000

Sudan
150,000

Maghreb Insurgency
23,300

There are people being killed all around us ...

..... children being
killed with a knife
in the playground.



..... families destroyed by drones falling from the sky





The innocent being gunned down in the streets.

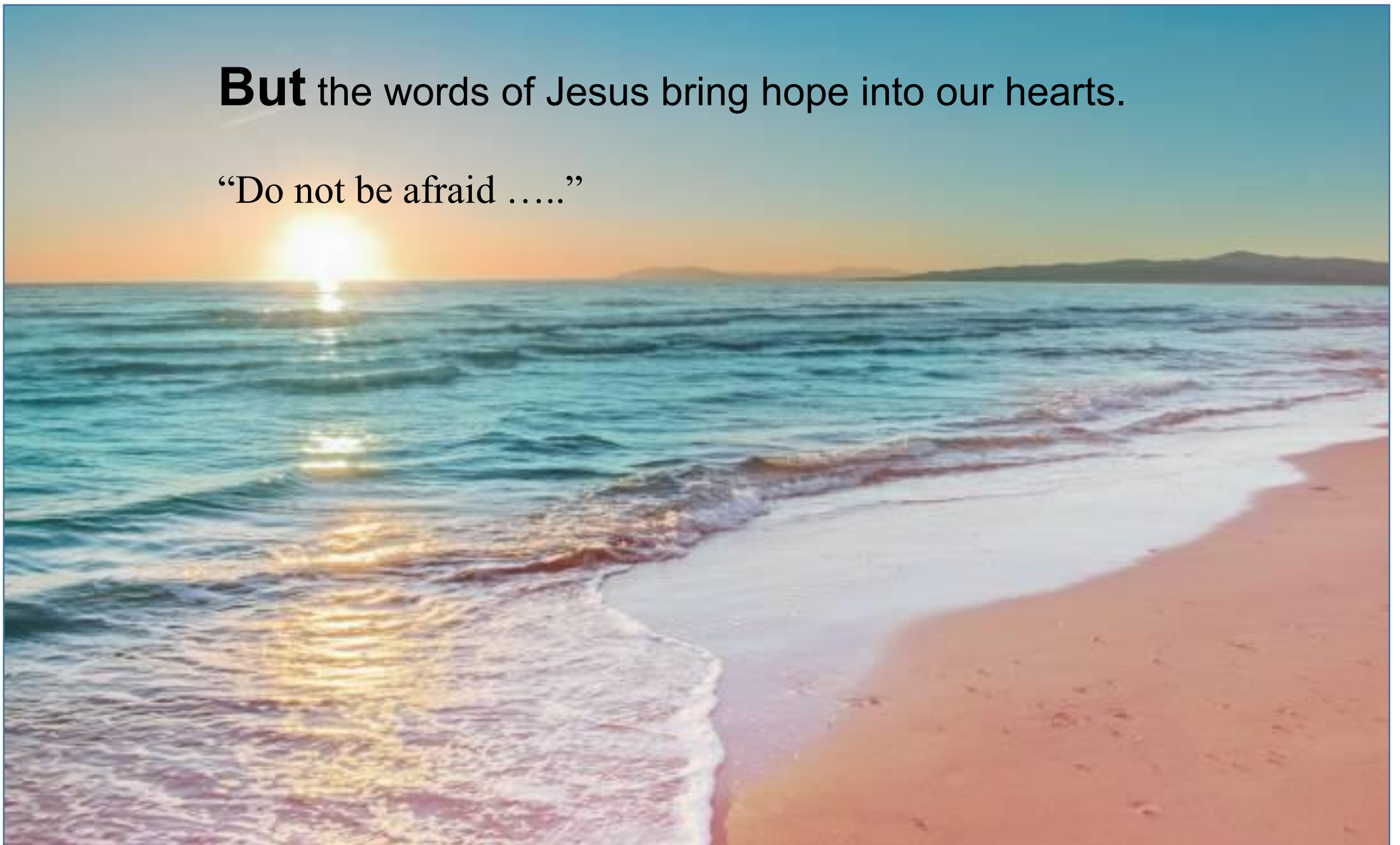


This is what
our world has
become.



But the words of Jesus bring hope into our hearts.

“Do not be afraid



But the words of Jesus bring hope into our hearts.

“Do not be afraid



Music: Do not be afraid, For I have redeemed you – Gerald Markland



Leader:

In our Gospel today Jesus expresses his deep desire to cast fire on the earth. In the imagery of the Old Testament, fire is a symbol of God's powerful presence.

The fire of Jesus burns, at least potentially, within each of us.

It's our secret, of which the secular world has no understanding, or conception.

Gospel Reading Luke 12 :v49 to 53

'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! 'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on, a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; father opposed to son, son to father, mother to daughter, daughter to mother, mother-in-law to daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law to mother-in-law.'

The word of the Lord.

A moment of silent reflection

Lectio

Part 1. A word or phrase.

Participation



Part 2. Where do you find the Good News in our Gospel today?

Participation

[Psalm 40:2, 3, 4, 18](#)

I waited, I waited for the LORD,
and he stooped down to me.
He heard my cry.
He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock;
made my footsteps firm.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the LORD.
Blessed the man who has placed,
his trust in the Lord.
And has not gone over to the proud,
Who follow false gods.
How many are the wonders and designs,
That you have worked for us O Lord my God?
You have no recall.
Should I wish to proclaim or speak of them,
They would be more than I can tell.



Music: Psalm40 Gregorian
Chant

A time to pray

Concluding reflection from Desert Fathers (4th - 6th c)

You can become all fire

Abba Paul went to see Abba Basil and said, "Abba, as far as I can, I say my little office, I fast a little, I read and meditate, I live in peace and as far as I can, I purify my thoughts. What else can I do?"

Then the old man stood up and stretched his hands towards heaven. His fingers became like ten lamps of fire and he responded, "If you will, you can become all fire.

You cannot be a monk unless you become like a consuming fire."

Few minutes for reflection

Prayers for our broken world from the participants.

- **For Israel and Palestine:**

Father, we lift up to you the ongoing conflict between your children, particularly the recent escalation in Gaza. Lord soften the hearts of those who spread violence.

We pray for peace.

Lord hear us “AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For Yemen:**

Father we lift up to you the continuing civil war among your children. Shine the light of your love upon your children so that all will turn away from war and work for peace.

Lord hear us“AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For Syria:**

For those involved in the civil war, which began in 2011, and is still ongoing, causing a major humanitarian crisis. Father send your spirit to bring peace for all your children.

Lord hear us“AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For Other conflicts among your children:**

And for other conflicts that are active in the region, including those in Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Turkey, and Western Sahara. Bring peace to our world.

Lord hear us“AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For Sudan:**

For those suffering because of the civil war between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces that has caused a major humanitarian crisis. Father let your children create a new age of peace.

Lord hear us“AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For the Democratic Republic of Congo:**

For the ongoing conflict in the eastern part of the country, with various armed groups involved. Father we pray for peace.

Lord hear us “AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For the Sahel Region:**

For the insurgencies and conflicts that persist in countries like Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali, leading to widespread displacement and humanitarian needs. Father, may we see peace in your world.

Lord hear us“AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For Ethiopia:**

For this country that is facing internal conflicts, particularly in the Amhara region, and tensions with Eritrea. Loving Father bring peace.

Lord hear us“AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For Other conflicts among your children:**

Also the ongoing conflicts in Somalia and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Father soften the hearts of all who call for war.

Lord hear us“AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For Ukraine:**

For the war between Russia and Ukraine that continues to be a major conflict with huge loss of life on both sides. Father let the world know that yours is a way of peace and not of war. Comfort the mothers and the wives who have lost their loved ones in this war.

Lord hear us“AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For Myanmar:**

For this country that is experiencing a civil war following a military coup, with various ethnic and political groups involved. Father let your children know that love and not war is your message to all.

Lord hear us“AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For the Kurdish-Turkish conflict:**

For an end to the conflict that continues in Turkey and surrounding areas. Father hear our prayer for peace.

Lord hear us“AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”

- **For Insurgencies in various other countries:**

For the many countries across the globe that are facing internal conflicts and insurgencies. We pray for peace.

Lord hear us “AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.”



Music: Make me a channel of your
peace- Sebastian Temple



The Lord's Prayer A personal translation by Kieran

God whom we know as a loving father or mother,
who is present in all places near and far,
come and teach us to reverence your name, as it sings out to us through all of your creation.

May peace and justice reign in your world,
and may your purpose for each of us be fulfilled. Give us only what we need for today.

Forgive us for what we have done,
or neglected to do for others, as we strive to forgive those who have caused us pain.

Help us to draw back from the lure of materialism which abuses your creation
and neglects the needs of the poor.

Strengthen us that we will reach out in hope to all that is good, and rise above the ugly realities around us.

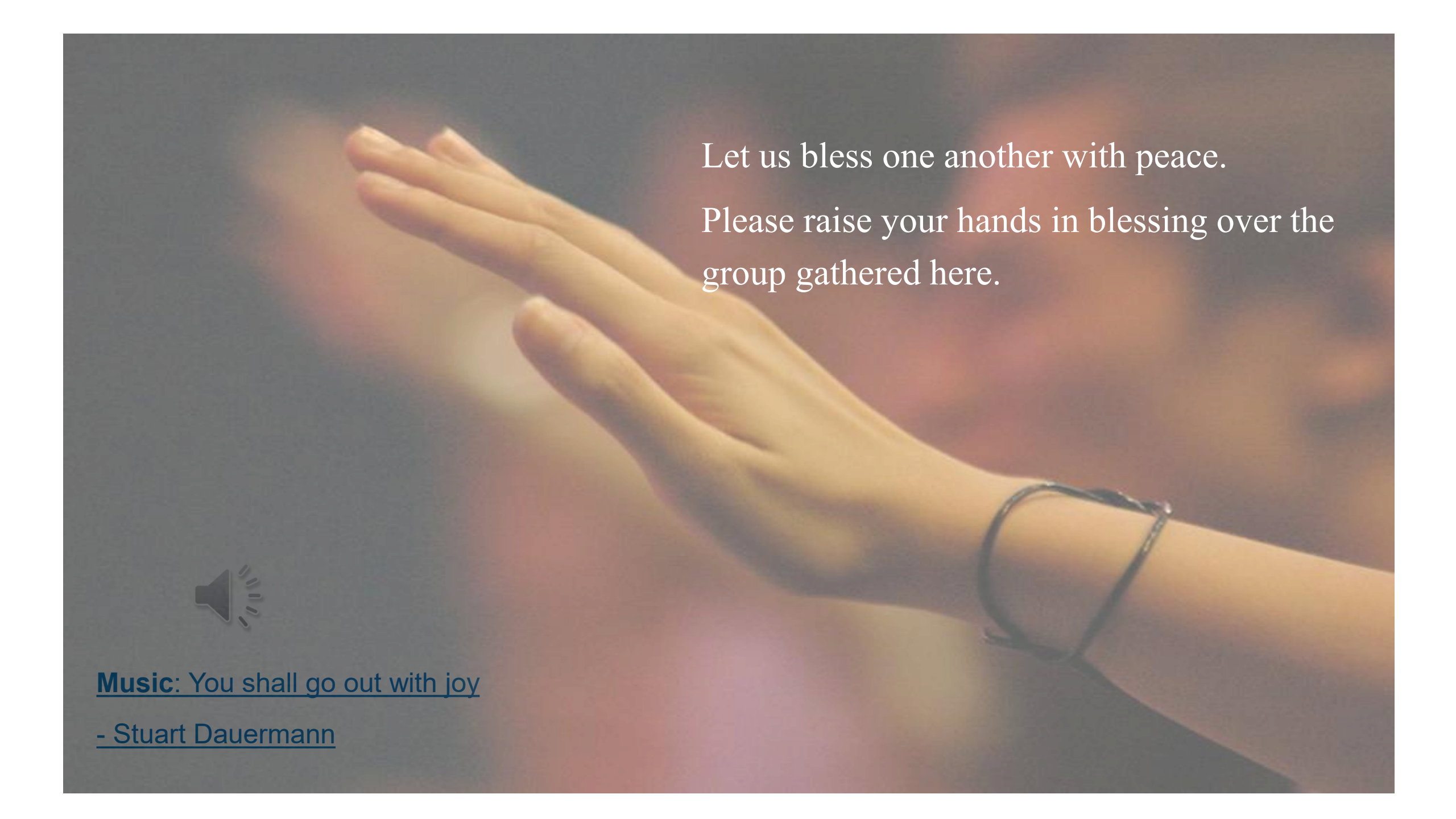
In times of trial and sadness, help us to be strong.
When life is overwhelming, help us to endure.

For yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.
And in you alone is life's richness, life's power. Amen



Let us bless one another with peace.

Please raise your hands in blessing over
the group gathered here.



Let us bless one another with peace.
Please raise your hands in blessing over the
group gathered here.



Music: You shall go out with joy

- Stuart Dauermann



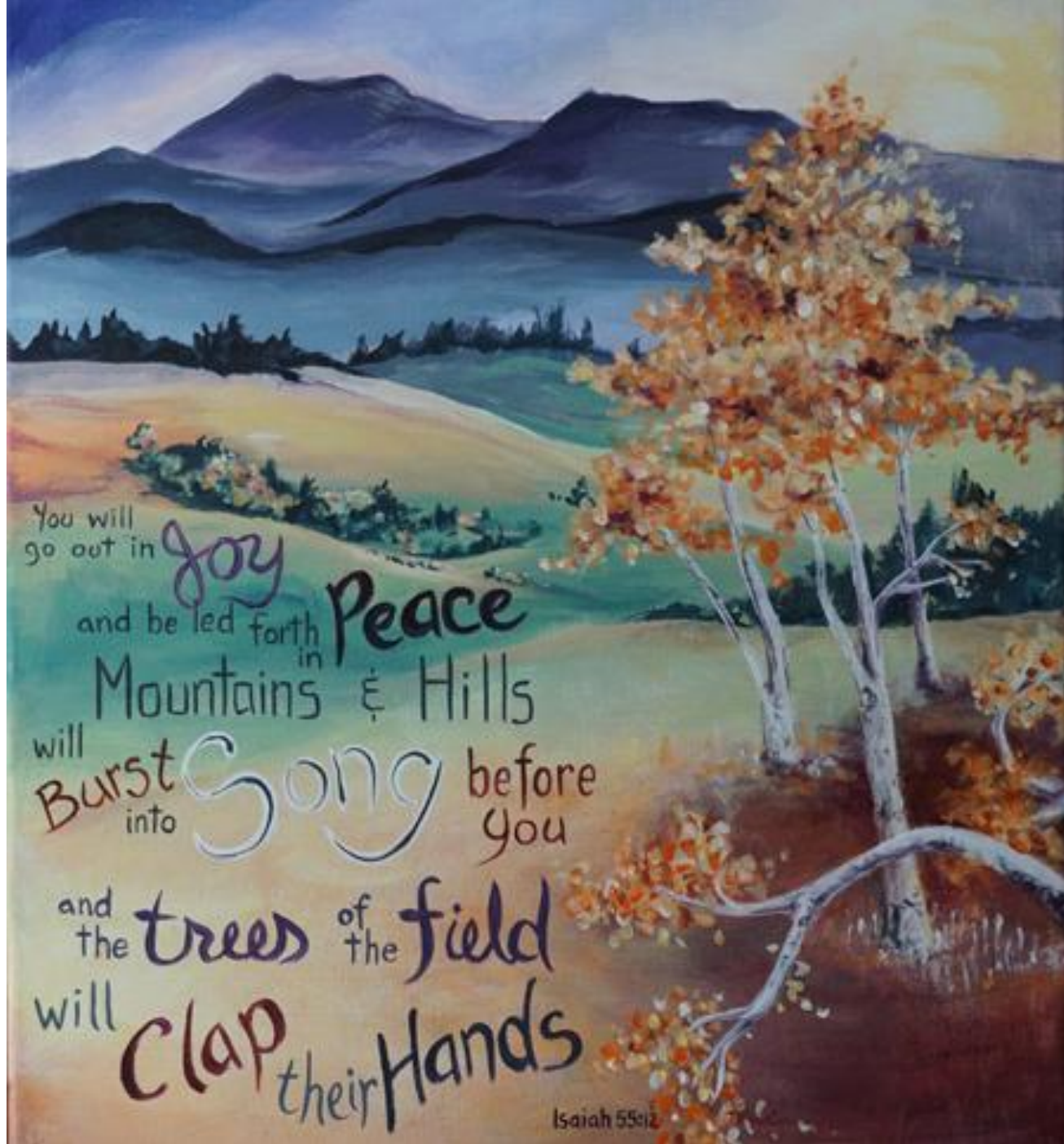






good!





You will go out in **joy**
and be led forth in **Peace**
Mountains & Hills
will **Burst** into **Song** before you
and the **trees** of the field
will **Clap** their **Hands**

Isaiah 55:12









