

Monday Quotes



Grain

Now I've been smiling lately,
Thinkin' about the good things to come
And I believe it could be,
Something good has begun.
– “Peace Train” by Yusuf Islam (aka Cat Stevens)

Field

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob and raise shouts for the chief of the nations... See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble... Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

Jeremiah 31: 7-9, 13

Thoughts by LOPPW Hunger Advocacy Fellow Kyle Minden

As we wrap up Christmas and quickly approach the new year, it seems fitting that this passage from Jeremiah is in the lectionary for this week. In Jeremiah chapter 31, God is calling his people back from exile. All people: men, women, the blind, those with children; they all come back, weeping, into the loving embrace of their community. For too long they had to live with the hope for a better day, and they finally have a reason to celebrate. God has straightened the path for them and turned their mourning into joy.

As we go into the new year, I feel as though God is slowly calling us home. Like the time in exile, the last year for us has been dim and full of loss. But as we approach January 1, we must all stumble bravely into a new year with the scars born of grief and stress from this past year. But as I read this passage and contemplate on what lies ahead, I now see a faint light at the end of the tunnel. We have millions of vaccines being distributed to frontline workers and those most vulnerable. With that said, I will not pretend that everything is okay. Thousands of people continue dying daily from Covid-19 and millions are experiencing food insecurity. We have serious work to do to protect those most vulnerable and recoup what we have lost. But I still feel there is a glimmer of hope in the air, even if we are still engulfed in tragedy and loss. Like those in exile in Jeremiah, I hope that God is slowly turning our mourning into joy. Giving us gladness for sorrow. Comforting us as we weather this tragedy. My hope, my prayer, is that you also have hope that God is slowly and surely making our paths just a little bit straighter. Happy Monday!

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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