



# JCoR GLOBAL COMMUNITY HOUR

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JANUARY 2022



# FOR THE PANDEMIC PORTAL, BEGINNING, AND BELL TOWER OF A NEW YEAR

PRAYER BY TERESA BLUMENSTEIN

FEATURING WORK OF ARUNDHATI ROY, JOHN  
O'DONOHUE, AND RAINER MARIA RILKE



## Reader 1:

*“Coronavirus has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt. And in the midst of this terrible despair, it offers us a chance to rethink the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves.*

*Nothing could be worse than a return to normality.*

*Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.*



## Reader 1:

*We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our  
prejudice and hatred,  
our avarice, our data banks, and dead ideas,  
our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us.  
Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage,  
ready to imagine another world.  
And ready to fight for it.”*



*-Arundhati Roy*

Leader:



Let us hold a space of silence for the luggage we want to leave behind in the year that has just ended, in the world before our new beginning.



**ALL:**

Give us the courage to let go.

Give us the hope to begin again.



**TODAS y TODOS:**

Danos el valor para rendirnos.

Danos la esperanza para empezar de nuevo.

## Reader 2:

*“In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where [our] thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until [we] were ready to emerge.*

*For a long time, it has watched [our] desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside [us],  
Noticing how [we] willed [ourselves] on,  
Still unable to leave what [we] had outgrown.”*



Leader:

Let us hold a space of silence for the hunger and emptiness that has grown in us over the last year.



**ALL:**

Give us the courage to let go.

Give us the hope to begin again.



**TODAS y TODOS:**

Danos el valor para rendirnos.

Danos la esperanza para empezar de nuevo.

### Reader 3:

*“It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.”*



Leader:



Let us hold a space of silence for the temptation to remain in familiar routines and ideas.

**ALL:**

Give us the courage to let go.

Give us the hope to begin again.



**TODAS y TODOS:**

Danos el valor para rendirnos.

Danos la esperanza para empezar de nuevo.

#### Reader 4:

*“Then the delight, when [our] courage kindled,  
And out [we] stepped onto new ground,  
[Our] eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before [us].*

*Though [our] destination is not yet clear  
[We] can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl [ourselves] into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with [our] life's desire.”*





Leader:



Let us hold a space of silence for the promise of a new sunrise and a new invitation to be the love we were created to be.

**ALL:**

Give us the courage to let go.

Give us the hope to begin again.



**TODAS y TODOS:**

Danos el valor para rendirnos.

Danos la esperanza para empezar de nuevo.

## Reader 5:

*“Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.”*

*-John O’Donohue*



Leader:



Let us hold a space of silence for the risks we feel called to take and the fear we must put aside to take them.

**ALL:**

Give us the courage to let go.

Give us the hope to begin again.



**TODAS y TODOS:**

Danos el valor para rendirnos.

Danos la esperanza para empezar de nuevo.



## Reader 6:

*“Quiet friend[s] who [have] come so far,  
feel how [our] breathing makes more space around [us].  
Let this darkness be a bell tower  
and [us] the bell.*

*As [we] ring,  
what batters [us] becomes [our] strength.  
Move back and forth into the change.”*



Leader:



Let us hold a space of silence for the tower of darkness we have felt surrounding us and the songs of change that tower can send reverberating across the earth.

**ALL:**

Give us the courage to let go.

Give us the hope to begin again.



**TODAS y TODOS:**

Danos el valor para rendirnos.

Danos la esperanza para empezar de nuevo.

## Reader 7:

*“In this uncontainable night,  
be the mystery at the crossroads of your senses,  
the meaning discovered there.*

*And if the world has ceased to hear you,  
say to the silent earth: I flow.  
To the rushing water, speak: I am.”*

*-Rainer Maria Rilke  
(translation by Joanna Macy)*



Leader:

Let us hold a space of silence for the earth,  
the waters,  
the God

who are always listening—always hearing—the deepest longings of our being;

who are not swayed by the doubts of the human world;

who are miracle and good will and invitation to ring in a new world.





**ALL:**

Give us the courage to let go.

Give us the hope to begin again.



**TODAS y TODOS:**

Danos el valor para rendirnos.

Danos la esperanza para empezar de nuevo.

# WE HOLD A SPACE OF SILENCE FOR EACH OTHER'S INTENTIONS...



- more open communication among our ministries
- gender justice, especially in response to gender-based violence in our Church community
- personal changes in favor of healthier environment and an end to pandemic
- education in critical areas, such as peace, for our development as a human community
- military violence against poor, church people, indigenous peoples in the Philippines
- legislation to defend and expand rights of undocumented migrants in Spain and beyond
- national implementation of new UN Resolution to end homelessness

*Give us the courage to let go.*

*Give us the hope to begin again.*