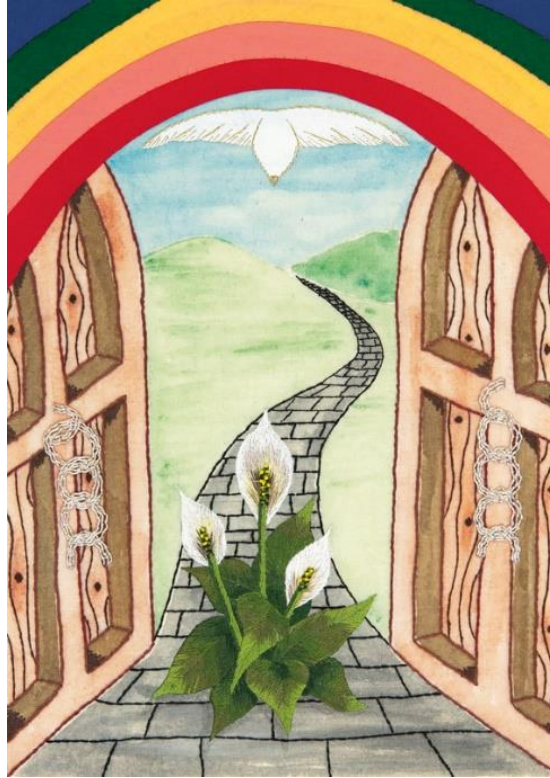


I Know the Plans I Have for You



Introduction

*The artwork, created by Angie Fox using a combination of embroidery, appliqué and metalwork, depicts key words such as, **Freedom**, represented as an open door to a pathway across an endless open vista; **Justice**, represented by broken chains; **God's Peace and Forgiveness**, represented by the dove of peace and a peace lily breaking through the pavement. Over all, a rainbow which has come to represent all these things from the story of Noah through to the modern day. It is a symbol of the overreaching love of God.*

Prayer

Let us pray,
God of providence and care,
be with us as we gather.
Help us to acknowledge difficulties in our world
that affect women and children in particular.
May we reach out to them with love and respect,
Giving them hope and light in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Testimony

["I still can't believe I'm here,"](#) said Iryna Vasylevska, who had just left her husband in Berdychiv, a small town in Ukraine's besieged north. Now on her own, with two children, 9 and 10, she said she had been so stressed that she had not slept for two days nor had she been able to swallow much food.

"Everything is blocked," she said, holding a shaking hand up to her neck.

Reading

Jeremiah 29:10-11

“As soon as Babylon’s seventy years are up and not a day before, I’ll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.

Testimony

The overnight train from Kyiv, via Lviv, pulled in carrying Europe's new refugees. They arrived at the 19th Century train station at Przemysl, which is now a modern-day reception centre.

"It took us 52 hours to get here," said Kateryna Leontieva, who had travelled from Kharkiv with her teenage daughter. Clutching their Ukrainian passports, and carrying a rucksack of belongings, they stepped out into eastern Poland - and safety. When I asked how it felt to be here, Kateryna welled up with emotion. "I don't know yet - the tears are just coming," she said. "I didn't feel anything - but now I'm starting to realise. I hope it's just a short trip and we'll be back soon."

Thandekile (Zimbabwe)

‘Being a young widow is a challenge but I will soldier on.
I will always do my best for my family’.

Trócaire

‘in lifting the pain of others, may goodness always find you’
‘For believing in a better world, may love light all your days’

Reading

Jeremiah 29:12-14

¹² “When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen.

¹³⁻¹⁴ “When you come looking for me, you’ll find me.

“Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I’ll make sure you won’t be disappointed.”

Concluding Prayer

Let us pray,
God of hope and consolation.
Give light to those who suffer today
Cherish women for their bravery and compassion
Empower them to use their unique gifts for the good of all.
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

