

CLOSING & EVALUATION

This curriculum was designed for groups, teams, and leaders to pick and choose from as you see fit. Evaluation and reflection is an important feminist practice, and one our groups struggle to hold in balance; often, we go too deeply internal and analyze everything, or we totally neglect honest, rigorous evaluation. Below is a list of some closing exercises you might choose from as you land this arc with your people. There are many others out there, and no doubt the closing you design will be tailored to the group you now know well. You may not know what is needed until you get there. *What is still open (an altar, a wound, a question) that needs to be tended or closed? What would ceremonially mark the transition from this season of learning and growing to the next? How can you say thank you?*

CLOSING PRACTICES

- **Review of Feminist Leadership Module:** Have people lift up their practices and commitments. Write them up somewhere and set calendar reminder to review.
- **Blessing exercise** in Embodiment and Liberation
- **Rose, Bud, Thorn** collective process. You can use the worksheet in the Appendix (p. 136)
- **Letter from the Future:** All members of the group write themselves a letter from the future, describing their future feminist self to their current self. You can send them or distribute them in a year from now!

SIGNING OFF

At the time of first publication of this curriculum it is summer 2020. **All of us – and the workings of empire – have literally been brought to a halt because of the global pandemic COVID-19.** The final closing convening for Auburn Seminary's amazing cohort of leaders from red states in March 2020 had to be cancelled. We send love and gratitude to those leaders who inspired, tested, critiqued, and grappled with the live-action version of this curriculum, and who are continuing to hold work and community down in their homeplaces through these acute crises.

To date, 90,000 people in the United States have lost their lives needlessly. The United States, the wealthiest country in the world with just 3% of the global population, has over half of the world's confirmed cases, a statistic that lays bare a stark reality for all to see and grapple with (and one that working-class people, Black and people of color communities, LGBTQ communities, and more have known forever): **this system was designed to protect some at the expense of others.**

The content within these pages remains relevant and timely, even as we all scramble to take care of ourselves and each other, grieve and rage under quarantine, and work to organize. These building blocks – of how to work together, fight together, and be together – remain vitally important as we navigate relationships mediated through technology as never before and battle with loneliness, loss, and uncertainty far from our beloveds. Cut off as we are from the hearth of relationship, confronted with the need to sustain ourselves and our spirits inside unfolding turmoil, we also long for each other. Most especially, **we find ourselves at yet another crossroads here in the heart of empire; can we galvanize the vision and will to build a new world inside this rubble, while the 1% works to enact their vision of the world? We can, we will, we must.**