

INTERACTIVE SERVICE OF LAMENT

Lament (a definition): n. a passionate expression of sorrow or grief; a song, hymn or poem of mourning v. to express sorrow, mourning, or regret aloud; to regret strongly.



Photo by Ahn Young-Joon

Relatives of the victims of the Sewol disaster weep during a ceremony on the eve of the one year anniversary of the ferry sinking in Jindo South Korea

Prepare: consider having a candle to light, a bowl of water, paper and writing tools, any images/ items for a worship table that are meaningful for you.

Prelude: “Death Song” Lament, Native American

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EK5UUbiVvg>

**light a candle during the prelude*

Opening Word/Call to Worship (*read through slowly, pausing after each stanza*)

O God, find me!

I am lost

In the valley of grief,

and I cannot see my way out.

My friends leave baskets of balm at my feet,

but I cannot bend to touch

the healing

to my heart.

They call me to leave
this valley,
but I cannot follow
the faint sound
of their voices.

They sing their songs
of love,
but the words fade
and vanish in the wind.

They knock,
but I cannot find the door.

They shout to me,
but I cannot find the voice
to answer.

O God, find me!
Come into this valley
and find me!

Bring me out of this land
of weeping.
O you to whom I belong,
find me!

I will wait here,
for you have never failed
to come to me.

I will wait here,
for you have always been faithful.

I will wait here,
for you are my God,
and you have promised
that you counted the hairs on my head.

*This is Lament Psalm 5 from "Psalms of Lament," Copyright 1995 Ann Weems.
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Welcome

Lament, a practice given to us by our faith tradition through the ages.

As Sarah lamented barrenness,

As Hagar lamented being cast out,

As Moses lamented his people's oppression,

As Amos lamented the fall of his people from God's covenant,

As Jesus lamented over broken systems of religion and government,

We too cry, as we experience communal trauma

and share in our sorrow for God's people and all of creation.

Lament, a practice given to us by examples of those working for equity and justice.

As Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta lamented the treatment of their fellow Mexican American farm worker,

As Bayard Rustin lamented the need for a group of angelic troublemakers,
As Audre Lorde lamented the ways in which silences do not protect the marginalized,
As Grace Lee Boggs lamented the inclusion of her people in the shaping of the society in which she lived,
Lament, a practice given to us by our own ancestors, family and friends (*take moment to remember these persons*)

We too lament.

In light of the separation, anxiety, and fear brought on by a global pandemic we gather to lament."
(*time of silence*)

Song: "Hear My Prayer" - Cover by Callie Day
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2V9nZ465Co>

Prayer of Lament: Writing a Collect

The Collect is one of the oldest forms of prayer, using a short, thematic form.
Using the following form, write your own Collect, during this time of COVID-19

1. A name for God
2. Say something more about God, God's attributes
3. Name a specific request (one line)
4. Why are you making this request (one-two lines)
5. A line of praise

Song of Lament: "A Change is Gonna Come" - Otis Redding
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyhL0ioST_U

Intercession of Healing:

Make a list in your mind and heart (and possibly on paper) of all the needs, persons, and situations you carry with you. Each time a need, person or situation comes to you dip your finger(s) in the bowl of water and touch the water to your head or heart or wherever you carry the need, person or situation within you.

Closing Prayer

God of love, God of peace,
Come and comfort all who are grieving.
Weep with those in sorrow.
Gather round the circles of remembrance.
Hear the choirs of gratitude,
and make Holy all that pours from broken hearts.
May your eternal embrace,
your forever love,
your Divine Presence that is before death,
companions through death,
and rises after death,
be the resting place -
the place of return -
where we can always find each other.
- Rev. M Barclay, enfleshed

Postlude

"We Gotta Pray" - Alicia Keys: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=174&v=ReK4t3Pfdpo&feature=emb_logo