



A Holy Monday Prayer Service  
*A Prayer Service for Anxious Times*

## About this Service

*Tonight you will be invited to take a prayer flag: green for lament, blue for grief, yellow for hope and to write your prayer upon it.*

*These prayers may be personal or communal, heavy or fragile.*

*Toward the end of the service we will take these signs of our prayers and hang them outside these church walls to become a visible witness of our prayers. They will be entrusted to the wind of the Spirit, and offered for the healing of ourselves, our neighbors and the world.*

## Opening/Gathering Music

Leader: This night we gather across our diocese and with others gathering throughout the country and across the church. We know that Holy Week does not rush past sorrow, we lament; it does not deny grief, we grieve; and it does not settle or end in despair, for we have hope. Let us enter this time with tenderness toward ourselves and one another, and with confidence in the mercy of Christ, who walks this path with us.

*Silence*

### The Collect

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Almighty God, whose beloved Son walked the way of the cross and remains present with us always: Give us courage to speak the truth of what is broken, to bear the weight of love in a wounded world, and to trust in your love that never fails; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## LAMENT

*Lament is the courage to tell the truth before God. It is the language of the Psalms, and the cry of the prophets. Lament names what is broken in our lives, in our Church, in our world.*

### Scripture - Psalm 13

- 1 How long, O LORD?  
will you forget me for ever? \*  
how long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,  
and grief in my heart, day after day? \*  
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; \*  
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
- 4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," \*  
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

## **Meditation**

Lament is the cry of those who believe that the world is not as it should be. It is an act of bold faith. For in lament we address God directly.

We do not complain about God; we complain to God.

Lament refuses both denial and despair. It insists that suffering be named, and that God be summoned into the pain of it.

*Walter Brueggemann (slightly adapted for liturgical reading): The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), pp. 52–53.*

## **Green Prayer Flags**

*Pass out green flags with sharpies or writing implements and have people write their lament. You can ask the question below. We suggest meditative singing while this is happening.*

Leader: What feels broken, unjust, burdening or weighing you down, in our Church, in our world? Please write your prayer on your green flags

Music Suggestion - “O Lord Hear my Prayer” (Taize)

## **GRIEF**

*Grief is love's response to loss. It is the ache beneath the words, the silence after the tears, the weight we have been carrying, sometimes quietly, for a long time.*

### **Scripture: John 11:32–36**

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”

Jesus began to weep.

So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

## **Meditation**

“No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear.  
I am not afraid, but the sensation is like being afraid.

The same fluttering in the stomach, the same restlessness, the yawning. I keep on swallowing.” — C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed* (1961), Chapter 1.

## **Blue Prayer Flags**

*Pass out blue flags with sharpies or writing implements and have people write their grief. You can ask the question below. We suggest meditative singing while this is happening.*

Leader: What sorrow needs to be placed in God’s hands? Write your prayer on your blue flag.

Music -

## **A Litany of Longing**

*Leader:* Having named our brokenness. Having offered our grief. Let us offer our prayers to God.

For a world where power dominates, fear is weaponized, and truth is distorted;  
May mercy prevail, may cruelty die, and compassion reign.

**Holy One, make your presence known.**

**Holy One, show us your face.**

**Holy One, hear our prayers.**

For nations divided against themselves, for leaders who sow suspicion and contempt,  
for policies that harm, for laws that wound

May mercy prevail, may cruelty die, and compassion reign

**Holy One, make your presence known.**

**Holy One, show us your face.**

**Holy One, hear our prayers.**

For immigrants, refugees and targeted communities;

May mercy prevail, may cruelty die, and compassion reign

**Holy One, make your presence known.**

**Holy One, show us your face.**

**Holy One, hear our prayers.**

For a Church tempted to complacency and silence in the face of injustice,  
that we may speak boldly and act courageously, with humility and love

May mercy prevail, may cruelty die, and compassion reign

**Holy One, make your presence known.**

**Holy One, show us your face.**

**Holy One, hear our prayers.**

For those exhausted by the noise and fearful for our future;  
That hope will take root and love will prove stronger than hate.  
May mercy prevail, may cruelty die, and compassion reign

**Holy One, make your presence known.**

**Holy One, show us your face.**

**Holy One, hear our prayers.**

*I invite you to offer your prayers and longings, either silently or aloud.*

May mercy prevail, may cruelty die, and compassion reign

**Holy One, make your presence known.**

**Holy One, show us your face.**

**Holy One, hear our prayers.**

Music-

## HOPE

*Hope is the stubborn trust that God is not finished. That even in the shadow of the cross, God is already at work, bringing life out of death.*

### Scripture Reading - Isaiah 42:5-9

Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
    who gives breath to the people upon it  
    and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,  
    I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
    a light to the nations,  
    to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
    from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
I am the Lord, that is my name;  
    my glory I give to no other,  
    nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

### **Meditation**

“Goodness is stronger than evil;  
love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness;  
life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.”  
— Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream* (2004)

### **Yellow Prayer Flags**

*Pass out yellow flags with sharpies or writing implements and have people write their hope. You can ask the question below. We suggest meditative singing while this is happening.*

Leader: I now invite you to take a yellow flag and name something you hope for:  
What are you asking God to make new?

Music -

Lift up your hearts,  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Lift up your voices,  
**We lift them in prayer.**  
Lift up your eyes  
**We lift them in faith.**  
Open your ears,  
**We lift them in hope.**  
Lift up your hands,  
**We lift them in love.**  
Let us go forth in peace.  
**In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

Music

*As the congregation processes outside, prayer flags may be displayed as appropriate to the local context. After the procession, the congregation regathers and the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.*

## The Lord's Prayer

### An Option for Blessing:

The world now is too dangerous  
and too beautiful for anything but love.  
May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone.  
Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.  
May your hands be so blessed  
that everything you touch is a sacrament.  
Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love.  
May your feet be so blessed you run  
to those who need you.  
And may your heart be so opened,  
so set on fire, that your love,  
your love, changes everything.  
*- A Black Rock Prayer Book, written by the Rev. Brian Baker*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### Musical Suggestions

God Be In My Head 1982 694,  
Bless The Lord My Soul Taize,  
Bendigo al Señor Taize,  
The Lord Is My Light LEVS 58,  
Lead Me Guide Me LEVS 194,  
My Faith Looks Up To Thee 1982 690,  
We Are Marching/Siyahamba, WLP  
Woyaye (We Are Going)  
Now Thank We All Our God 1982 396,397  
The Kingdom of God Taize,  
\*The Kingdom of God Taize,  
Nada Te Turbe, Don't Be Afraid (John Bell, Iona Community),  
God Be In My Head 1982 694,  
Bless The Lord My Soul (Taize Spanish option),  
Come And Fill Our Hearts With Your Peace (Taize English and Latin option)  
Have you Heard God's Voice? Composer Frederick Chatfield  
Somebody's Knockin' At Your Door LEVS 100,  
O Lord Hear My Prayer Taize  
Lord listen to your children praying..  
Social Hashtags: #HolyMonday #LitanyforAnxiousTimes #HolyMondayTEC #PrayerforAnxious