

WGBC Reflective Service - 12/27/20

Guide for the Lament of the Disoriented - Psalm 77:1-10

1. What is something that has been very disorienting to you this year?

2. How will you set aside time and space to allow the core of your hearts disorientation to rise to the surface in prayer before God?

Example Prayers

27

God of life, God of comfort:
alone,
afraid,
in fear,
in loss,
we cry out:
“Why, O Lord, why?”
“How long, O Lord, how long?”
We cling to you in hope
even as we grasp for hope.
So grasp us in your loving embrace
through Jesus Christ,
who endured the cross for our sake. Amen.

28

God of love, God of mercy, God of all power!
Why do you let your people die—
your people whom you have redeemed?
Why do you let the earth suffer—
the earth you have created in your sovereign power?
Lord, look and see the misery of the famine that is ravaging your people;
look and see these children, these women and men
who are dying of hunger and who cry to you in their need.
Give them, we pray, according to your grace
and according to their need, to the glory of your name. Amen.

29 Each section of this prayer may be followed by a sung refrain, such as “Don’t Be Afraid” (Iona Community) or a Kyrie eleison.

O God, your people have always had their fears.

So we come to you in humility and with honesty, naming our own.

Lord, we fear the future. What is coming next?

“Will there be a place for me when I’m done with high school or college?” we young people ask.

“Will there be safe places for our children?” we parents ask.

“Will I die in peace and with dignity?” we seniors ask.

Lord, we fear the pain that comes with illness and broken bones and aging.

Some of us wonder how we’re going to make it through more treatment and medication.

Some of us wonder how we can possibly face chronic illness.

Some of us wonder if prayers for healing even reach your throne.

Physical pain frightens us.

Lord, as a church, we wonder about our ministries and programs.

What if they don’t “work”?

What if outreach and faith nurture don’t happen?

We fear the dependence we have to have on your Spirit to be the one to breathe life into Christians and non-Christians.

Lord, we are afraid of people who are different from us:

those more powerful than us, those poorer than us,

those of a different color or creed, those smarter than us,

those with different personalities.

How do we talk to these people, O God?

How do we make peace with them?

Lord, we have acquaintances, friends and family members whom we deeply love but who do not know you.

We are afraid for their salvation.

We admit, O God, that we’re fearful of stillness and quiet.

It seems as if the last thing we want to do

is slow down and be attentive to you.

Help us not to shy away from quiet times, from the simplicity of prayer, Scripture, and your presence.

It seems, O God, that, in the busyness of countless invitations to parties and activities we are afraid to say no.

And for all those fears for which we cannot name, we come to you, O God.

Those we cannot name because they’re either unknown or unspeakable, receive them in our silence.

We are fearful so often, O Lord, because in our encounters with sin and evil

we find ourselves weak and poor. *(continued on the next page)*

