## 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)

We thank you so much then, Jesus, for your actions and for your words—for love and the promise of nearness, which are our strength and our riches. Amen.

#### **30**

We are tired, Lord,
weary of the long night without rest.
We grow complaining and bitter.
We grieve for ourselves
as we grow hardened to the pain of others.
Another death leaves us unmoved.
A widow's tears fall unnoticed.
Our children know only the bitterness
already possessing their parents.
Our violent words explode into violent acts,
bringing destruction without thought or reason.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lead us to repentance, that we may forgive and be forgiven. Amen.

Taken from Worship Sourcebook, (CRC Publications, Grand Rapids, MI: 2004), pp. 232-234

## Hope Remembered - Psalm 77:11-20

- 1. **When** will I fit the reading of God's Word into my day? What can I change to make it fit?
- 2. **Where** at home or work will I read and begin my meditations and prayers? Where can I make some quiet and solitude? If you want it you can make it.

3. **How** will I read my Bible this year? Will I read a chapter a day? Will I use a Daily Reading plan that many others use? Will I use a devotional help?