

SERVICE OF LAMENT

Welcome | Zachs

Call to Prayer/Invocation | Pst. Paul C.

Scripture Reading - Psalm 13,14 | Pst. Paul C.

Followed by 1 minute of silence.

Psalm 13/14

LEADER: How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

ALL: Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

LEADER: But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.

ALL: Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

Scripture Reading - Psalm 6,7 | Teresa A.

Followed by 1 minute of silence.

Psalm 6/7

LEADER: Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am faint; heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long?

ALL: Turn, Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love. Among the dead no one proclaims your name. Who praises you from the grave?

LEADER: I am worn out from my groaning. All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes.

ALL: Away from me, all you who do evil, for the Lord has heard my weeping. The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer. All my enemies will be overwhelmed with shame and anguish; they will turn back and suddenly be put to shame.

ALL: I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High.

Hymn- 358- Sarah P and Teresa A.

Prayer of Lament| Zachs G.

ALL: Look and see, O Lord: Our hearts are sick, our eyes are dim.

LEADER: Lord, You are the one, true God who made the world and everything in it.

(Silence)

LEADER: For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

ALL: Lord, we lament practices, spoken and unspoken, that say that “race” or any other social factor should determine how people are welcomed and accepted in your church. We grieve that the church has failed to embrace the variety of gifts, languages, cultures, and opportunities for mutual service you have given within the one visible people of God.

(Silence)

ALL: Look and see, O Lord: heal our hearts, heal our eyes.

LEADER: Lord, you have entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, and the church is called to be a witness in our community.

ALL: Therefore, we lament any attempts to legitimize the alienation, hatred and enmity of our neighbors by appeal to the Scriptures. We grieve that rather than walking in obedience, the church has given in to prejudice, fear, and denial of the reconciling power of the gospel.

(Silence)

LEADER: Lord, your church, in following Christ, is called to stand with you against injustice and with the wronged; called to witness against all those who choose not to acknowledge and engage with all people as your Image bearer.

ALL: Therefore, we lament that the church overlooked or attempted to make legitimate forms of injustice. We grieve that the church has failed to show solidarity with sisters and brothers as they endure duress, discrimination and even violence. We lament the consequences of these sins for our own day and our own community.

As a congregation, LORD, we thank you for the progress made on our journey of racial righteousness. By your grace we choose anguish over anger, solidarity over silence, and embrace over exclusion.

(Silence)

ALL: Look and see, O Lord: Our hearts are ready for change, our eyes are ready for better vision.

Scripture Reading - Personal repentance| Pst. Karen H.

Psalm 12

LEADER: Help, Lord, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race. Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts.

ALL: May the Lord silence all flattering lips and every boastful tongue—those who say, “By our tongues we will prevail; our own lips will defend us—who is lord over us?”

LEADER: “Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the LORD. “I will protect them from those who malign them.” And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.

ALL: You, Lord, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked, who freely strut about when what is vile is honored by the human race.

Participants are allowed a few moments for silent or spoken (they can come to the mic) corporate confession of sin or to write their lament and drop it on the “altar”. Participants streaming live can text (either Teresa or I) their lament to be read on their behalf.

Words of Assurance| Pst. Karen H.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Hymn- 717- Sarah P. and Teresa A.

Exhortation- | Paul H.

Responding to God's word | David A.

LEADER: We praise you, our Father, for making your divine truth real to us in Jesus.

ALL: We ask that what we do, how we live, and the way we love, may increasingly become a worthy response to you and to our sisters and brothers experiencing exclusion, pain, racism, and all kinds of social injustices.

Reading Scripture/ Corporate repentance (Daniel 9:4-6, 17-19) | David A.

LEADER: "I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land."

"Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name.

ALL: For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name."

LEADER: O Lord, you search us and know us, and your word tests our hearts. We confess the fears and prejudices that run so deep. We confess our complacency, our despair, and our unwillingness to hear those crying for justice and true peace. In this way, we deny the power of your gospel to restore and to unite us.

ALL: Lord, we confess our failure to love sisters and brothers from all "races" and cultures. We repent of failing to confront racial injustice, and failing to "learn to do right, seek justice and defend the oppressed." Have mercy on us. In Jesus' name, we ask it.

Participants are allowed a few moments for silent or spoken (they can come to the mic) corporate confession of sin or to write their lament and drop it on the “altar”. Participants streaming live can text (either Teresa or I) their lament to be read on their behalf.

Words of Assurance (2 Corinthians 1:3-7) | Jill H.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

Pastoral Prayers for victims of Racial Injustice| Pst. Steve

Closing Remarks | Pst. Steve.

Charge and benediction | Pst. Steve