

Prayer of Lament

Leader:

God of compassion,
we come before you
with hearts heavy for our world.
Like Jeremiah, our joy is gone,
grief is upon us, our hearts are sick.
We do not come with quick answers,
but with tears as testimony.

(silence)

Leader:

For the hurt of your poor people,
O God, we are hurt.
We mourn, and dismay
has taken hold of us.
When children starve,
when wars rage,
when neighbours are divided—
we cry out to you.

All:

For the hurt of your people,
O God, we are hurt.

(silence)

Leader:

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
We long for healing,
for justice, for peace.
We long for leaders
whose decisions
serve the vulnerable.
We long for a world where
every life is held as precious.

All:

Come, Lord, and heal our wounded world.

(silence)

Leader:

God of tears, teach us
to lament with honesty,
to weep with those who weep,
to pray even for those in power,
to believe that your mercy is wider than
we imagine.

All:

For you desire all people to
know your love.

(silence)

Leader:

Hold us in your compassion,
receive our tears as prayer,
and through Christ our mediator,
make us signs of your healing
presence in the world.

All:

Amen.

God of tears and tenderness,
You call us to pray for all,
to weep with those who weep,
to hope for justice and peace.
Take our prayers, our grief,
and our longings,
and weave them into
your healing love.
Through Christ, our mediator
and companion.
Amen.