

DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA



LITURGY OF LAMENT LONGING & HOPE

I FEEL MY BOOTS
TRYING TO LEAVE THE GROUND,
I FEEL MY HEART
PUMPING HARD. I WANT
TO THINK AGAIN OF DANGEROUS AND NOBLE
THINGS.

I WANT TO BE LIGHT AND FROLICSOME.
I WANT TO BE IMPROBABLE BEAUTIFUL AND
AFRAID OF NOTHING,
AS THOUGH I HAD WINGS.

MARY OLIVER
STARLINGS IN WINTER

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

A Letter from Our Bishops



THE BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA

August 22, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We write to introduce and invite you to share in a creative, expressive and deeply faithful liturgical offering for the season we find ourselves in as the fall approaches. A Liturgy of Lament, Longing and Hope is the gift of the Swindell Committee to our diocesan family as we continue to navigate the pandemic and find that the path forward is neither direct nor always clear. Especially as we begin a new school year and program year, we feel the shock and disappointment of the most recent spike in cases and hospitalizations.

This liturgy is designed to help us, and the communities of faith we serve, to remember and to be touched by the promises that remain constant even in times of uncertainty and loss: the loving presence of God, the safe space to express our hurt and grief and frustration, the gift we have been given in one another, and the opportunities and possibilities that emerge even in times of challenge, struggle and loss.

This liturgy helps us to experience the ways God's love is holding us, Jesus is walking with us and the Holy Spirit is moving among us, even as our long journey continues with its twists and turns.

This liturgical offering will be featured on Sunday, September 12, as our diocesan-wide worship service. In the weeks that follow, we invite you to offer this liturgy in your own congregation on a Sunday morning or evening, or another time you decide on, for your community. This gift is offered with the hope that it will bring comfort, nurturing the resilience embedded in our faith, and provide space for lament, and healing, and renewal. Again we are deeply grateful to the members of the Swindell Committee for this offering of grace and love, and we commend it to you for your congregation.

Blessings and peace, and in thanksgiving for the communion that we share as beloved community,

Handwritten signature of Samuel S. Rodman in black ink.

The Rt. Rev. Samuel S. Rodman
Bishop, Diocese of North Carolina

Handwritten signature of Anne E. Hodges-Copple in black ink.

The Rt. Rev. Anne E. Hodges-Copple
Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of North Carolina

An Order of Service

The Hymnal 1982 - #525 The Church's one foundation

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
4 Mid - toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900) Music: *Aurelia*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Opening Acclamation: Blessed be our God.
Forever and ever. Amen.

Gathering Prayer: Lord God, the maker and redeemer of all,
as we come before you in grief and praise this day,
comfort us with your presence, make us attentive to your
voice, and sustain us with the hope of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Song of Lamentation

Lamentations 1:12,16; 3:19,22-24,26

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? *
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
Which was brought upon me, *
inflicted by God's fierce anger.
For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears, *
for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.
Remember my affliction and my bitterness, *
wormwood and gall!
The steadfast love of God never ceases, *
God's mercies never end.
They are new every morning; *
great is your faithfulness.
"God is my portion," says my soul, *
"therefore will I hope in God."
It is good that we should wait quietly *
for the coming of God's salvation.

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.
Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land:
"Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?"
"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."
For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?
O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

New Testament Lesson

Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Lift Every Voice and Sing II - #203 There is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed

whole; There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul. **Fine**

1. Some - times I feel dis-cour-aged, And think my work's in vain, But
2. If you can-not preach like Pet - er, If you can-not preach like Paul, You can
3. Don't ev - er be dis-cour-aged For Je - sus is your friend, And

1. then the ho - ly spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.
2. tell the love of Je - sus, And say He died for all.
3. if you lack for know-ledge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend. **D.C.**

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you Lord Christ.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Christ.

Response to the Word

1st Reflection: **Lament**

In early days of God's covenant with his people, when they underwent a significant trial and experienced God's deliverance, they marked the location by the stacking of rocks. You are invited to write your rock of Lament experienced in this season and place it as an offering to God.

Silence

2nd Reflection: **Longing**

Holy Scripture reminds us of Wilderness Experiences where God's people feel disconnected from their homeland, their place of belonging and sometimes even their God. In these times, they long to be elsewhere. They long for reconnection. On the **Map of World Experience**, locate where you've been. Locate where you long to be. Offer it to the Lord or hold on to it as a guide for further reflection as you are led.

Silence

3rd Reflection: **Hope**

Flame (fire and light) has long been a symbol of God's abiding presence and power. As we move forward as Easter people, as redeemed people, you are invited to transfer a flame onward. Light a candle honoring your hope for the future and your confidence that God is with you in that hope.

Silence

A sermon may be preached instead if local context demands.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: All loving and compassionate God, in this time of Global Pandemic, Civil Divisiveness, Racial Strife and Future Unknowing, we pray that you would gather up all our reflections and hear within them our laments, our longings, our hopes as we now pray for the church and for the world:

For all who have died with the gloved hand of a stranger to hold at the end.
For endurance through loss of strength and comfort found in community with others.
For renewed contact with friends and family.
For return to active lives without fear from illness.

Lord, In your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

For acceptance of viewpoints different from our own.
For the will to seek and find goodness in one another.
For unrest to end and openness to rise up among all people.

Lord, In your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

For courage to see racial inequalities in our nation and the will to address them.
For an end to physical and psychological barriers based on race, color, or ethnicity.
For the will to go first in loving one another as You love us.

Lord, In your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

For thoughtful determination of how to make the new normal better than the old ways.
For wise decisions and right actions by those in authority to move us through
uncertainty to stability and equality for all.
For the Church to be a renewed faithful witness to the world.
For Your will to be done in our lives and in the world.

Lord, In your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

For the ways you bless our lives and abide in the world.
People: We give you thanks.

Presider Continues:

We now pray as our Savior taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Offertory

People: Our little lives, our big problems - these we place upon Thy altar!

Brood over our spirits, Our Father,
Blow upon whatever dream Thou hast for us
That there may glow once again upon our hearths
The light from Thy Altar.

Our little lives, our big problems - these we place upon Thy altar!

Pour out upon us whatever our spirits need of shock, of lift, of release That we may
find strength for these days -
Courage and hope for tomorrow.

Our little lives, our big problems - these we place upon Thy altar!

In confidence we rest in Thy sustaining grace
Which makes possible triumph in defeat, gain in loss and love in hate. We rejoice this
day to say:

Our little lives, our big problems - these we place upon Thy altar. AMEN.

-Our Little Lives, Howard Thurman

The Hymnal 1982 - #671 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 *5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, John Rees (19th cent.) Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919) Copyright ©1974 by Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Blessing:

Remember, you are one in whom Christ dwells and delights. You live in the strong and unshakable kingdom of God. The Kingdom is not in trouble and neither are you. And the blessing of God, The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit among you and remain with you always. Amen.

-James Bryan Smith

Dismissal:

Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. [Alleluia, Alleluia]
Thanks be to God. [Alleluia, Alleluia]

Lift Every Voice and Sing II - #130 Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

1. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
2. I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter,

1. — Since I laid my bur - den down.
2. — Since I laid my bur - den down,

1. — Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
2. — I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter,

1. — Since I laid my bur - den down.
2. — Since I laid my bur - den down.

3. Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!" etc.
4. I am climbing Jacob's ladder. etc.