



**To:** The Clergy or Wardens of the Congregations without Clergy in the Diocese of North Carolina

**From:** The Swindell Committee

**Re:** The Liturgy of Lament, Longing and Hope

From September 12 through October 2021, the bishops of the Diocese of North Carolina commend a one-time use of the Liturgy of Lament, Longing and Hope with the accompanying formation materials as best suited to your local context.

The materials include a list of resources to help children, youth and families understand and process lament and loss. There is also a short deck of Go Speak Lament, Longing and Hope cards with instructions to be used during in-person gatherings or at home.

With regard to the liturgy, there is both a Eucharistic service and an Ante-Communion service to accommodate need and preference. Those included service orders are the recommended version. They are ready to print and contain all needed lessons, music and responses. Responses to the readings may be altered to reflect your context as well. We used the *Book of Common Prayer* Rite II ones for simplicity's sake.

A series of three reflections replaces the sermon. If your local context demands a sermon rather than this one-use exception, you have that option. A word about the reflections. One, two or three stations may be used: one to return rocks marked with people's words of lament, one to collect maps of their experience of longing and one to light candles expressing their coming hopes. Alternatively, there could be one for the rocks and maps and another for the candles only. One larger station capable of holding returned rocks and maps and set for candles to be lit would also work. A link to the map is included and ready for printing. A template for rocks also is included. All these could be done in the home as well. The idea is for the body gathered to reflect their lament with the rocks, their longing with the maps and their hope with the candles and offer them to God. They can do that in their homes, remaining seated in the pews, making a walk to the station during the service or as part of the dismissal as they leave church following the service. Your context and their preference will dictate.

The Swindell Committee offers this liturgy and resources in love. We hope our care is evident. We were deliberate in offering a liturgy that is complete. We considered the worshiping contexts across the Diocese and recognize this will not answer everyone's personal preference in every element, but we worked to include some choice.

Prayerfully and Respectfully Offered,

The Ella and Leicester Swindell Major Speakers Fund Committee

Dr. Ayliffe Mumford, the Rev. Stephanie Allen, Jeremy Clos, the Rev. Lisa Fischbeck, Laurie Holden, the Rev. Matt Addington, the Rev. Sarah Hollar, *chair*