

LAMENT - LONGING - LOVE

No Faith in Fossil Fuels Ash Wednesday Service
14th February 2024, 12 noon, St John's Waterloo

Introduction and welcome

LAMENT

Opening Hymn - *O God of Boundless Hope*

1 O God of boundless hope,
we need your Spirit's power;
creation's crisis deepens with
each passing hour.
So make us strong
to speak your word,
and make it heard,
and right what's wrong.

2 Too many suffer now
from fire and wind and rain,
as livelihoods and homes are lost
and hope seems vain.
Will we ignore
all those who strive
just to survive,
and close our door?

3 The world is changing fast
and warming year by year;
a tipping point is close,
the time to act is here.
We'll work and pray;
as nature bleeds
we'll sow the seeds
of hope today.

4 Together we will walk
the new way you reveal;
our planet cries from wounds
that love alone can heal.
Inspire us, Lord,
to give and care,
that all may share
your earth restored.

Text: Brian Davis, admin Jubilate Group, CCL# 7184570.

Prayer - *Spirit's Cry*

O Holy One,
be with us in this dark hour
as we face our collective shadow.
We do not do the things that make for peace
but rather do the very things that lead to violence.
We are slow to shed our ignorance

And quick to justify our foolishness.

Our planet joins our lament.
The lost souls of the extinct animals,
And those soon to be gone forever,
Cry out this day with the Christ:

[ALL] Why have you forsaken me?

[SING] Kyrie Eleison.

The poor, the left-behinds, the humble ones
Living in climate breakdown from Okavango to
Madagascar, from Rwanda to Calcutta to Bangladesh,
to the forgotten places of our own nation.
All cry out this day, along with the Christ:

[ALL] Why have you forsaken me?

[SING] Kyrie Eleison.

May this story break our hearts,
Our minds, and our spirits wide open,
That we might hear the Spirit's cry:

[ALL] Why have you forsaken me?

[SING] Kyrie Eleison.

Help us to die with the Christ
that we might also be raised with Him
and with all creation,
and discover our true nature,
one with your breaking heart.

Amen.

Adapted from prayer by Bruce Sanguin
based on Psalm 22 & Matt 27:45-50

Speaker

Song - *Hear the Song of Our Lament*

Hear the song of our lament,
we grieve a dry and broken land;
hearts have turned from your intent
and earth is ravaged by our hand.

Oceans weep for beauty lost,
and forests plead for your return,
fields are drenched in tears and blood;
all nature groans beneath sin's curse.

*Have mercy, have mercy,
have mercy on us, Lord.
Renew us, restore us,*

have mercy on us, Lord.

Peoples rage and nations rise
to war and waste for senseless gain,
turning from creation's cries
and trading glory in for shame.

Have mercy...

Lead us in your Eden call
to live as those who bear your name;
show us how to love your world
until the day you come again.

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LONGING

Hymn - You Made a Universe So Full of Wonder

1 You made a universe so full of wonder,
gave us a world to cherish and to hold.
But we have treated it as ours to plunder:
what you gave freely, we have bought and sold.
What you made perfect, we have torn asunder:
do not, O Lord, your healing power withhold.

2 In generous love, the pattern of your caring,
we have been blessed with more than we could need.
But we have hoarded what was meant for sharing,
corrupting what you gave as fruitful seed;
and still it is your poorest children bearing
the cost of all our selfishness and greed.

3 We hear the voice that calls our generation,
the urgent cry of beauty scarred by pain.
Our lives must change in this and every nation
so prayer and action shall not be in vain;
we pledge to live in ways of restoration
until your earth is whole and good again.

Author: Ally Barrett, CCL# 7184949

Confession

God who gives us freedom,
God who gives us choices,
each day we can choose how we treat your creation:
Thoughtlessly, or with your gardener's attention.
Carelessly, or with your shepherd's protection.
Selfishly, or with your abundant generosity.

We confess that we have fallen short
in the choices we have made
and in the ways we have used our freedom.

We admit that we have not seen the world
through your eyes,
and have not honoured you
in the ways we have treated your planet.

We believe you are a God of grace and
transformation.

We trust that you forgive our mistakes,
restore your image in us,
and fill us with your Spirit to live differently.

Change our hearts, change our actions,
change systems and attitudes,
so that we may glorify you,
and restore your planet, for the good of all creation.
In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

Sam Hargreaves, from *Doxecology: Study Guide*,
engageworship.org/doxecology

Psalm 42 NIV

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?

My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me all day long,
'Where is your God?'
These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God
under the protection of the Mighty One
with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.

Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.

My soul is downcast within me;
therefore I will remember you
from the land of the Jordan,
the heights of Hermon - from Mount Mizar.
Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.

By day the Lord directs his love,
at night his song is with me -
a prayer to the God of my life.

I say to God my Rock,
 'Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
 oppressed by the enemy?'
My bones suffer mortal agony
 as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long,
 'Where is your God?'

Why, my soul, are you downcast?
 Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
 for I will yet praise him,
 my Saviour and my God.

Responding Prayer

Come, creator Spirit, source of life;
sustain us when our hearts are heavy
and our wells have run dry,
for you are the Father's gift,
with him who is our living water,
Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Hymn - *Beauty for Brokenness*

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase!

2 Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

3 Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

4 Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned - our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.

God of the poor . . .

5 Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until Your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of Your ways,
seek Your salvation and bring You their praise.

God of the poor . . .

Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music

LOVE

Speaker

A Prayer for Courage in the Wilderness

Courage comes from the heart
and we are always welcomed by God,
the *Croi* (heart) of all being.
We bear witness to our faith this day and for 40
days,
sharing in wilderness days and wilderness
witness,
knowing that we are called to live lives of
courage,
lives of love, lives of reconciliation.

May we find this in the ordinary
and the extraordinary moments
of each of the 40 days of Lent.
We bear witness, too, to our failures
and our complicity in the fractures of our world.
May we be courageous each day,
may we learn each day,
may we love each day,
may we grow in prayer each day.

Based on a prayer by Padraig O Tuama.

Song - *God of all Comfort*

God of all comfort, God of compassion,
reveal your mercy through us your church,
disturb our slumber, move us to action,
to show your kingdom on the earth.
Make us like Jesus, full of your Spirit.
declaring good news to the poor,
proclaiming freedom for every captive
and the favour of the Lord.

Show us the value of every person
show us your image in every face;
we all are equal, we all are broken,
and need the kindness of your grace.
We stand together, here in the margins,

there in the hardship and the pain,
we cry for justice and restoration,
until the silent sing again.

We hear the groaning of all creation,
we hear the promise of earth renewed,
so make us agents of your redemption
in this, the world so loved by you.
May we grow bolder, may we speak louder,
until your voice of hope is heard;
for we see Jesus, going before us,
to bring his kingdom on the earth.

We pray your kingdom come on earth.
We pray your kingdom come on earth.

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Poem - *Ashing*

Light as a feather
A finger touched me,
Branded me cross-shaped,
Smudged me with ash.

Light as a feather,
God's finger caressed me
With sign of forgiveness,

Marked me with love.

Light as a feather,
Penitent, shriven,
Signed with his life-mark,
I go on my way.

by Ann Lewin.

Final Blessing

The world now is too dangerous
and too beautiful for anything but love.
May your eyes be so blessed you see God in
everyone.

Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.
May your hands be so blessed
that everything you touch is a sacrament.

Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love.
May your feet be so blessed you run
to those who need you.
And may your heart be so opened,
so set on fire, that your love,
your love, changes everything.

Sing as we leave for ashing:

*Within our darkest night you kindle a fire
that never dies away, never dies away.
Within our darkest night you kindle a fire
that never dies away, never dies away.*

J Berthier, © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

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