

lament





Lament

**Heavenly Father, with Job of old we cry out:
Everywhere the innocent suffer.
Our desires and efforts achieve us little.
O God, are you good, yet do nothing to help us?
Our answers have holes, and we fall through.**

Lament

Today we offer lament for the nearly one million people who have died from COVID-19, over 200,000 of whom have died here in the United States. This disease has swept across the world and taken with it so many humans made in your image, Lord.



Lament

How long will we have to remain in our homes? Where will this virus strike next? And whom? Our screens relay a continuous escalation of suffering and death around the world. Panic and anxiety abound. Our souls are weary from the strain of the life-altering unknowns.

Lament

Heavenly Father, from the depths of our pain and confusion, we cry out to You. From fear-filled hearts and anxious minds, we plead with You. Rescue us, Father of compassion and grace. We lift up our eyes to You, and plead for your healing power and presence.



Lament

On all who have contracted the virus

Lord have mercy

On all who have lost loved ones to this sickness and
are in mourning and anguish

Lord have mercy

On all who are unable to earn an income because
their jobs have been suspended

Lord have mercy

The background of the entire image is a dense collection of lit yellow candles. The candles are of various heights and are arranged in a way that creates a warm, glowing effect. The flames are small and bright, and the overall color palette is dominated by the warm yellow and orange tones of the candlelight.

Lament

We cry out for healing and needed resources

We cry out for comfort and peace

On all medical professionals and caretakers
attending to those infected with the virus

Christ have mercy

On all scientists and technologists striving to find a
vaccine and to make it available

Christ have mercy

The background of the entire image is a dense field of numerous lit yellow candles. The candles are of various heights and are arranged in a way that creates a warm, glowing atmosphere. The light from the candles is soft and diffused, filling the background with a golden-yellow hue. The focus is slightly blurred, emphasizing the collective light rather than individual candles.

Lament

On all leaders of institutions and governments as
they make decisions to try and contain the virus

Christ have mercy

We pray for wisdom in the research and difficult
decisions

Lord, hear our prayer

The background of the entire image is a dense field of lit yellow candles. The candles are of various heights and are lit, with their flames glowing. The overall lighting is warm and somber, with the yellow light of the candles contrasting against a dark background.

Lament

We also offer lament for the brutal killing of Breonna Taylor.

Our sister's blood cries out to us from the ground. We know you hear it, too. Why do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression?

Lament

We cry out with the prophet Isaiah: "Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people." "Oh, Lord, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!"

We come before you and cry out against a legal system that would say of her murder, "No laws were broken." How, Lord? How can this perversion of justice stand? How can you remain far off?

A background image showing numerous lit yellow candles in a dark room, creating a warm, somber, and contemplative atmosphere. The candles are of various heights and are scattered across the frame, with their flames glowing softly.

Lament

We confess our complicity with injustice; our failures in compassion; our apathy and despair.

You created us in divine likeness, diverse and beautiful: In every person, every ethnic group is made your image.

Lament

But too often we fail to recognize your image in all

Forgive us Lord

You created us in divine freedom, to be free:

In every decision, every choice is your possibility of justice.

But too often we fail to choose to advocate for your justice for all

Forgive us Lord

You created us for divine abundance, to tend and share:

In every garden, every social structure is your seed of community.

But too often we fail to create that community which includes all,
and gives to all equal access to your abundant life

Forgive us Lord

Lament

Open our eyes to distinguish good from evil
Open our hearts to desire good over evil
Strengthen our wills to choose good over evil,
So that we may create among us your beloved
community.

Lord, hear our prayer

Lament

We also lament the inhumane treatment of immigrants and refugees in U.S. detention centers. There is rampant xenophobia in this land, Lord. How long will you tolerate it? When we reject the stranger in need, are we not rejecting you, Jesus? Will you not judge us harshly?

You said “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself.”



Lament

But we done wrong to the sojourners to this land:
separating children from parents and husbands from
wives, limiting opportunities for work and education
opportunities and not loving these new neighbors
as ourselves.

Lord have mercy

Lament

You said "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

But rather than recognizing your sovereign disciple-making purposes in the dispersion of peoples across borders, we have seen immigrants as a threat.

The background of the entire image is a dense field of numerous lit yellow candles. The candles are of various heights and are arranged in a way that creates a warm, textured, and somewhat chaotic pattern of light and shadow. The flames are small and bright, casting a soft glow across the scene.

Lament

We have failed to practice Godly hospitality and instead embraced protectionist nationalism, not submit our ways of thinking to the authority of your word.

Lord forgive us

Lament

You said that before you will be a great multitude, from every nation, tribe, people and language. But we have failed to prepare for this multicultural and multilingual future.

We have not embraced the diversity of gifts and vitality immigrants bring to the Church. We have opposed change resisting any giving up of our ways of worship and life.

Lament

We cry out to you on behalf of the children who have been ripped from their mother's arms. We cry out to you on behalf of the women who have been abused and operated on against their wills. We plead for your healing power and presence.

Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us

Lament

Beloved, hear these words, receive their power:

The majesty of God the Father undergirds all that is.
The mercy of God the Son receives our lamentation.
The comfort of God the Holy Spirit embraces us in love.

Thanks be to God. Amen