

A Liturgy of Lament

This liturgy was written by Latasha Morrison.

Leader:

We acknowledge that we stood by when the dwellings of our neighbors were cast down, and we ignored the cries of the innocent. Lord, have mercy.

Group:

Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

Lord, we acknowledge we have not learned to do right; we do not seek restorative justice that benefits all. We have not defended the oppressed. We have not taken up the cause of the fatherless or pleaded the case of the widow. Instead, we have mocked and punished the poor with our partisanship and apathy. Lord, have mercy.

Group:

Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

We acknowledge the racial hierarchies and structures of privilege many have benefited from and many have been oppressed by. Lord, have mercy.

Group:

Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

We have ignored the cries of children because they were not our own. We have discounted the pain of mothers because they were not our own. We have turned a blind eye to the affliction of Brown and Black people because they were not our own. Lord, have mercy.

Group:

Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

We have not required justice, we have not loved others well, and we have not walked in humility in our brokenness.

Group:

Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

We cry out to you, our God and Redeemer, as the only one who can save us from ourselves. Show us our blind spots. Don't let us hide from you in our shame and guilt. Restore us to your perfect union that can be found in Jesus Christ. Lord, show us how to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

Group:

Lord, have mercy.

Leader

Lord, we understand that forgiveness is a personal act leading us onto a path of healing.

Group

Lord, we forgive.

Leader

Lord, we understand that love covers a multitude of sins. We know that we cannot continue to hold the sins of the past over the heads of our brothers and sisters as they move forward in the pursuit of justice and righteousness.

Group

Lord, we forgive.