

AN INVITATION TO HOPEFUL LAMENT

In the Scriptures of the Judaic and Christian tradition, the book of Psalms contains songs/poems that express most of the experiences of what it means to be a human in relation to God. The Psalms of Lament, in particular, express the anguish and suffering of people and communities traveling difficult paths. While the subjects of Lament Psalms give voice to their pain and frustration with God and others, they do so within the framework of hope—they begin and end with confessions of faith and trust in God's ultimate mercy.

Certainly, in these days when we are being confronted in new and powerful ways with America's racial divide, it is appropriate to give voice to our own laments, to join our voices with the mothers of unarmed black sons and daughters who have been killed at the hands of police.

We invite you to come to the *Rally Round the Peace Pole* prepared with your own Lament Psalm to share in our gathering as you feel comfortable.

Here is a sample:

Oh, God, our God, how magnificent is your love, how deep and wide and broad your mercy.

Hear the cries of mourning mothers and fathers who cradle their dead children in their arms. Remember your promise to comfort the mournful.

Feel the anger of oppressed people of color who are just plain tired of trying to get some compassion from their white sisters and brothers.

See the motives of our hearts. We confess that our prejudices are deep-seated and often not even recognizable to us. Forgive us and heal our self-blindness.

Now more than ever we beseech you, O God. Do not turn away from us. We sense a new energy, an increased focus on equality and justice among people of all races, both in the US and around the world. If you turn away, justice and equality will not prevail. We are powerless to achieve it alone.

Pour out your justice; pour out your Spirit upon us like mighty waters. We believe in your power. We trust in your grace. We offer and commit ourselves to you, for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory that saves and will continue to save our hurting, bleeding world.

Amen.