

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.  
Saint Jude's is a spiritual oasis where lives are transformed*



**A Service of Lament**

**March 16, 2021  
6:00 pm**

## **Welcome**

### **A Gathering Psalm**

The Rev. Aaron Klinefelter

#### **Psalm 137:1-4**

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, when we remembered you, O Zion. As for our harps, we hung them up on the trees in the midst of that land. For those who led us away captive asked us for a song, and our oppressors called for mirth: \* "Sing us one of the songs of Zion." How shall we sing the Lord's song upon an alien soil?

meditation bell is rung

#### **Music: Be Still and Know**

Barbara Bridge

#### **Lamentations 3:17-33**

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, "Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord."

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

#### **Matthew 11:28-30**

Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

## **A Litany of Healing**

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers. God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

**We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

**Hear us, O Lord of life.**

You are the Lord who does wonders:

**You have declared your power among the peoples.**

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

**And in your light we see light.**

Hear us, O Lord of life:

**Heal us, and make us whole.**

Let us pray.

*A period of silence follows.*

Almighty God, giver of life and health: Send your blessing on all who are sick, and upon those who minister to them, that all weakness may be vanquished by the triumph of the risen Christ; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Peace** (Please offer the Peace to those nearby and gathered online.)

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**Music:** Our Eyes are Turned

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system covers the first four measures, with lyrics: "O - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num Je - sum,". The second system covers measures 5 through 8, with lyrics: "o - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num nos - trum." The score uses a treble clef for the upper voice and a bass clef for the lower voice. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The music is primarily composed of chords and simple melodic lines.

*Our eyes are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our eyes are turned to the Lord God our Savior.*

## A Ritual Act of Lament

Mary Stiles

Presider:

Our God is a God of compassion, whose love and power extend over all of creation. Every life is precious to God.

We stop now to remember each beloved friend and family member who has died in the last year. We grieve their loss, give thanks for our memories, and light a candle and name each one in turn.

*A reading of the names of the dead.*

*And now we light one final, single candle to remember all those we have lost in the past, for old grief that has been reawakened by new losses, for each of those we mourn in our hearts.*

Presider:

Loving God, we commit these beloved souls to your care, and we ask you to comfort us present here today and all those who grieve. **Amen.**

In the fall, we wrote on strips of fabric the things we mourned and tied them to a tree in St. Jude's courtyard. We saved these ribbons and now, in Lent, as we await the resurrection of Christ, we bring these losses once again to God, and we pause to remember our sorrows in this difficult year.

*We pause to reflect.*

We mourn time, lost opportunities, the small joys of everyday life before the pandemic.

We mourn injustice, we mourn poverty, we mourn a lack of mercy and compassion.

We mourn the struggles of young families, of children, of our elders.

We mourn the jobs we've lost. We mourn isolation. We mourn for those struggling with long-term symptoms of Covid.

Oh God, we mourn for ourselves, for our families and friends, and for all your children around the world. Save us and help us, oh Lord of life.

Presider:

Our God is a God of compassion, who knows our innermost thoughts. We offer up to God all these sorrows, both those embodied here in these ribbons, those we have shared tonight online, and those held silently in our hearts

Let us pray together

Adapted from New Zealand Prayer Book

**We pray to God our comforter, who is a refuge and a strength for us, close at hand in times of distress. Help us to hear the words of our faith that our fear is dispelled, our loneliness eased, and our hope reawakened. Lighten our burdens and lift us above our sorrow to the peace and light of your constant love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Rev. Aaron Klinefelter

For suffering

John O' Donohue

May you be blessed in the holy names of those  
Who, without you knowing it,  
Help to carry and lighten your pain.

May you know serenity  
When you are called  
To enter the house of suffering.

May a window of light always surprise you.

May you be granted the wisdom  
To avoid false resistance;

When suffering knocks on the door of your life,  
May you glimpse its eventual gifts.  
May you be able to receive the fruits of suffering.

May memory bless and protect you  
With the hard-earned light of past travail;  
To remind you that you have survived before  
And though the darkness now is deep,  
You will soon see the approaching light.

May the grace of time heal your wounds.  
May you know that though the storm might rage,  
Not a hair of your head will be harmed.

**Music:** O God our Help in Ages Past

instrumental