## Classis Huron Psalm of Lament and of Praise, Sept. 25, 2024

How long oh lord …

 Woa this sucks!

 How long until the pews are full again?

 We miss our brothers and sisters…

 Lord, we lament the unrest around the world…

 Lord we lament the unrest in our Denomination…

 Lord we lament the unrest in each church…

 Lord We lament the Sin within us…

 How long till you set me free…

 It all feels uncertain God….

 What are you doing?

 Where are you?

 Do we still believe you are good?

 And sovereign…

But Lord we know that you're still at work…

 You have been faithful to future generations..

 We remember your testimonies through those with addictions

 We see hope in their eyes…

 We see you providing for the poor

 Feeding bellies through your people…

Praise God that you are leading us in having hard conversations!

 Thank you for the ways you continue to do your work through ministries…

 Lord, you are growing your church world wide!

 Praise God for renewal, you are bringing in newcomers,

 Making your church reflect the kingdom

 Lord We praise you that you will return and make all things new

 We joyfully await your kingdom come on earth as in heaven…

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**Fall Psalm**

We lament that young and old are not immune to distraction from worshiping your great name.

We lose people in our lives tragically and can’t feel compassion.

Hear the grief… We struggle with terms that strangle our healing.

People build walls to protect themselves and we lose relationships, we lose understanding, we lose connection.

We remember your sovereignty over the little and the great things of our daily lives.

It took the Israelites 40 years, … why are we so easily put off, frustrated with waiting for your hand to move.

We remember you led your people through wilderness, through conflicts, through rejections, through pain.

Your hand of mercy did not fail then, nor will it fail now.

Every morning your mercy falls upon your loved children like the dew falls on Mount Hermon.

Your spirit falls upon your people individually and corporately. Your generosity abounds to every generation.

Your love stretches to us, through the cross reconnecting us to our hearts, our neighbours, and our community; breaking down walls that divide.

Renew the work of your hands in our midst - renew us to do your will.

Amen.

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We feel lost, broken, discouraged, powerless and overwhelmed.

Where are you?

Are you there?

But

You are still on the throne

You are still building this church

You are in control

You have brought dry bones back to life

Accomplish your work through us

The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.

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**We lament:**

* Pain, anger, frustration, brokenness, division and suspension in our church.
* Youth that find it difficult to find relevance in the church/corporate worship.
* Ever increasing war.

**God is faithful:**

* He knows and loves us even when we forget.
* God has blessed Chrsitian education at all levels.
* Many youth and young families do serve and worship in the church.
* We see his faithfulness in past difficulties.

**We praise him:**

* For his sovereignty and love.
* His mighty army - He will conquer all
* God will unite us if we put him first.
* We are still and know that He is God!

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**Lament:**

* For the pain people are struggling with
* That people are going to leave the/our denomination
* That God’s presence seems to be absent resulting in confusion, division, disorientation.
* That there is no single solution.
* For the chaos in the world and the escalating conflicts.

**Remember:**

* Just like the Hebrews crossing the sea, the waters seem to open slowly - one step at a time.
* The church is not dead yet.
* God does not give up on us.
* Celebrating that God’s mission can still be carried out through different churches
* How the scattering of humanity at Babel fulfilled God’s purposes. He will use this too.

**Praise:**

* That both sides are (have been) seeking God’s will.
* For new families and that the church grows, changes and becomes more diverse through the chaos.
* That even in the chaos people are seeking the Lord. The global chaos too is causing people to search for an anchor.
* That there seems to be a desire to get back to the Word.

Lord,

You are LORD of all the earth - including the chaos.

We lament that chaos often brings pain and confusion and that some chaos results in loss of life and meaning.

BUT,

As your spirit hovered over the waters at creation

We trust and remember your faithfulness through the generations and that YOU have brought life out of chaos:

* At Babel
* At the Red Sea
* At the Cross
* Through church history

And so…

Even through the chaos we praise you for signs of life:

* New members and seekers
* Renewed zeal for your word

You have been our anchor and we will move forward trusting you.

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**We lament:**

* Poverty, homelessness
* Wanton destruction through war, people, buildings
* Impact of COVID on the church
* Mental health
* Synod 2024 - those who feel like they don’t belong anymore
* No place for me in my church family
* Israel/Hamas tragedy - Gaza
* Lack of transformation in the church
* Shift from Christ to power and control.
* Weariness from all of the above
* Children leaving the church, the faith.

**Praise for:**

* Kids coming back to faith
* Increased faith in gay friends
* Guelph Campus Ministry exists because of faith - Guelph and Waterloo - 51 years
* So many kids - wingham and Owen Sound
* Missional ministries in eastern Europe
* God entrusts us - we trust Him.
* Missions - God is always at work
* God’s hand is in the confusion and chaos
* Diaspora conference