

July 9, 2023—10:00am
Series: Walking in the Storm

Service of Worship
Week 3: Sacred Lament

First Presbyterian Church
Cedar Falls, IA

UNITE IN LOVE

Welcome & Prayer

Rev. Julie Erkel Hagee

Prelude

“If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee”

Phil Batchelder

Call to Worship

Cyd Grafft

One: Out of the depths, we cry to you, O Lord,

ALL: Out of the depths, we worship you.

One: We bring our praise and prayer.

ALL: We bring our pain and loss.

One: Out of the depths, we cry to you, O Lord.

ALL: Out of the depths, we worship you.

Gathering Hymn #35

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

all verses

GROW IN FAITH

Time for Wonder *children are invited forward*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Psalm 42

Reflection on the Word

Sacred Lament

The Word in Song #792

“There Is a Balm in Gilead ”

all verses

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Christ,

we confess that we are afraid of our own pain.

We are afraid it will overwhelm us if we look at it too closely.

We are even afraid it will overwhelm you.

Remind us that you know intimately in this human life of pain and sorrow, longing, loss, and grief.

Teach us to trust that your love is big enough to hold our pain, and day by day to redeem it.

Quiet Reflection

Assurance of Grace

One: Our God is loving and forgiving.

Be assured God's loving arms tenderly hold us in forgiveness
and send us forth to new life. Receive and share the good news:

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made whole, thanks be to God.

Our Response to Grace #59

“The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

refrain only

REACH OUT TO OTHERS

Offering Invitation

Gifts may be given online at firstprescf.org

Sung Dedication #708

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

verse 1

Prayers of the People

“Plowshare Prayer”
see page 3

by Spencer LaJoye

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Our Life Together

Sending Hymn #765

“May the God of Hope Go with Us”

Blessing

Postlude

“There is a Balm in Gilead” reprise

Plowshare Prayer

By Spencer LaJoye

*Dear blessed creator, dear mother, dear savior
Dear father, dear brother, dear holy other
Dear sibling, dear baby, dear patiently waiting
Dear sad and confused, dear stuck and abused*

*Dear end-of-your-rope, dear worn out and broke,
Dear go-it-alone, dear running from home
Dear righteously angry, forsaken by family
Dear jaded and quiet, dear tough and defiant*

*I pray that I'm heard
And I pray that this works*

*I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword
against you and your heart, against you and your word
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare, of sorts
that it might break you open, it might help you grow*

*I pray that your body gets all that it needs
and if you don't want healing, I just pray for peace
I pray that your burden gets lighter each day
I pray the mean voice in your head goes away*

*I pray that you honor the grief as it comes
I pray you can feel all the life in your lungs
I pray that if you go all day being brave
that you can go home, go to bed feeling safe*

*I pray you're forgiven, I pray you forgive
I pray you set boundaries and openly live
I pray that you feel you are worth never leaving
I pray that you know I will always believe you*

*I pray that you're heard
and I pray that this works*

*Amen on behalf of the last and the least
On behalf of the anxious, depressed, and unseen
Amen for the workers, the hungry, the houseless
Amen for the lonely and recently spouseless*

*Amen for the queers and their closeted peers
Amen for the bullied who hold in their tears
Amen for the mothers of little Black sons
Amen for the kids who grow up scared of guns*

*Amen for the addicts, the ashamed and hungover
Amen for the calloused, the wisened, the sober
Amen for the ones who want life to be over
Amen for the leaders who lose their composure*

*Amen for the parents who just lost their baby
Amen for the chronically ill and disabled
Amen for the children down at the border
Amen for the victims of our law and order*

*I pray that you're heard
and I pray that this works*

*I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword
against you and your heart, against you and your word
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare, of sorts*

*Released February 18, 2022
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