

## LITANY OF LAMENT

† *For the litany, the people may remain standing or kneel.*

Presider People of God, let us stop, for a moment, and lament together. Let us stand in unity with, and compassion for, one another; let us mourn what we have lost; let us rail against the darkness from the bottom of a hole we did not dig. Let us acknowledge the complexity of the world in which we find ourselves, and the intricacies of our feelings about our common circumstances. As we pray our laments, let us let go of easy answers, half-truths, misperceptions, and heightened reactions. Let us name our heartbreak. Let us, through our laments, claim our grief and losses. Finally, let us in peace accept the world as it is now and as it has been these past 18 months.

† *The laments are led by the intercessor(s).*

Leader Let us pray.

Holy and gracious God, WE LAMENT that this Fall is not the season we'd imagined or hoped for: a time to start fresh, free from pandemic protocols, distancing, and masks. We lament that COVID is still with us, persistent, as the Delta variant continues to spread, while vaccination rates slow. We yearn to return to "normal," to be past this, and yet we are still in the midst of the pandemic.

Leader Let our prayer enter your presence;

**People incline your ear to our lamentation.**

Leader WE LAMENT a year and a half without in-person worship at Trinity,  
especially,  
not being able to sit and pray in our beloved sanctuary,  
the cancellation of meetings and access to friendships formed and  
sustained in Wednesday Women, Women's Circle, Men's Bible  
Study, choirs, coffee hour, and youth group,  
missing bread and wine for communion,  
the loss of sense of purpose, meaning, and stability rooted in Christian  
community,  
not being able to say good-bye to parishioners who have left Trinity  
during the pandemic,  
missing fellow parishioners who could not, or would not, participate in  
Zoom worship, beloved Holy Week, Easter and Christmas  
traditions, the absence of families with young children from Zoom  
because it is so difficult for little ones  
and in person because children are not yet vaccinated,

not being able to share the results of 2019 Listening Links at a parish gathering,  
the dread of having to start all over again with programs and relationships and plans for Trinity's future.

Leader Let our prayer enter your presence;  
People **incline your ear to our lamentation.**

Leader WE LAMENT the year and a half of interrupted schooling:  
for missed learning,  
for the 1 million "missing students" in the United States not able to attend any virtual school due to lack of access to technology, language or learning barriers, or the unavailability of a parent to sit next to them as they learned,  
for not getting to see friends from school,  
for the cancellation of concerts, plays, banquets, homecoming, prom, graduation, and class trips,  
for compromised sports seasons and elimination of playoffs,  
for the disintegration of "normal" transition to college or studies abroad,  
for lost vision, missed opportunities, and stagnated dreams for the future,  
for the unprecedented expectations placed on school teachers and administrators,  
for parents who taught children at home.

Leader Let our prayer enter your presence;  
People **incline your ear to our lamentation.**

Leader WE LAMENT time missed with family and dear friends, time we never can recover:  
for cancelled school and family reunions, weddings, vacations, and birthday parties,  
for being able to connect with grandchildren only through Zoom or not at all,  
for missing both their important milestones and ordinary days,  
for losing close and important friendships,  
for the inability to touch and hug people we love most deeply.

Leader Let our prayer enter your presence;  
People **incline your ear to our lamentation.**

Leader WE LAMENT the pandemic's determinantal effects on our mental and physical health, especially:  
the acceleration of the aging process,  
feelings of isolation, hopelessness, and loneliness,  
depression and anxiety,  
exacerbated mental illness,  
a sense of vulnerability,  
the absence of safety, security, comfort, and well-being,  
exhaustion, burn-out, and cynicism,  
and fear of an uncertain future.

Leader Let our prayer enter your presence;  
People **incline your ear to our lamentation.**

Leader WE LAMENT the politicization of the pandemic, and the intensification of political divides:  
for politics played around the development and dissemination of vaccines,  
for public battles about mask-wearing and social distancing protocols,  
for lawsuits and court injunctions challenging state safety mandates,  
for early access to vaccines and quality health care affected by economic status and class.

Leader Let our prayer enter your presence;  
People **incline your ear to our lamentation.**

Leader WE LAMENT natural disasters and human injustices, occurring alongside the pandemic, including:  
102,679 wildfires in 2020 and so far in 2021, which have destroyed 15.2 million acres of forest, natural habitat, ecosystems, and neighborhoods, compromised air quality and smoky horizons,  
destruction and loss of life in the wake of hurricanes, floods, and tornados,  
the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Daunte Wright,  
systemic racism in our cities, schools, businesses, and health care systems,  
the 2,996 people who died on 9/11 on this, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country.

Leader Let our prayer enter your presence;  
People **incline your ear to our lamentation.**

Leader WE LAMENT loved ones who have died, whether from COVID or other causes:  
for family and friends denied even one hospital visit,  
for family members who, after delivering their loved one to the hospital,  
never saw them in person or alive again,  
for patients who died alone,  
for the 651,000 people who have died from COVID in the United States,  
for the healthcare workers who cared for them and for others,  
for close friends whose deaths have left unfillable holes in our lives,  
for our beloved dead denied a celebration of life or timely sacrament of  
burial,  
for the dearly departed we name here, now resting in the arms of God:

Janette Allcock	Pat McGovern
Kristi Maureen Bahnemann	Elizabeth Mertic
Becky Barnes	Stan Nielsen
Pete Capaldini, Jr.	Rosemarie Peters
Don Ericson	Harry Price
James Leonard Jenkins	Twink Robbins
Mark Jones	Larry Rocheford
Ruth Haugland	William Arol Swarts, Jr.
Liza	Sunny Turner
Jane Lincoln	Cyd "Cynthia" Warner Klein
Rob Mays	William Preston Williams
John McCoy	Pat McGovern

For those we name now, silently or aloud...

*A period of silence is kept.*

Leader Let our prayer enter your presence;

**People incline your ear to our lamentation.**

Presider Gracious God, lover of souls, creator of light and life: hear our laments. Restore us to the assurance of your unfailing presence and mercy. Remove from us the fears that hold us back and keep us down; strengthen us in the journey of healing, restoration, and transformation. For you alone are God. Grant us the peace and hope that only you can give, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**People Amen.**