

Lamenting Longings and Losses

Address God

Participants are invited to direct their lament to God, drawing God into conversation about their longings and losses as a prayer.

Complaint

Participants name together what they long for and wish was true about their life, their congregation, their community, and the world and name their losses and fears about what has been or could be. These complaints are about God (“you”), ourselves (“I”), and other people (“they”).

Confession

Participants are invited to confess their need for God’s grace and forgiveness in their lives.

Ask God for Help

Participants name what they want God to do for them. They express their longings and losses as a request.

Affirm Trust in God

Participants affirm their trust in God and God’s leadership over the future of their congregation. They imagine the shape God’s faithfulness will take.

Promise to Praise God

Participants promise to praise God for who God is, what God has done in the past, and what God will do in the future.

Worksheet for Lamenting Longings and Losses

Address God

Name God in a powerful way:

Complaint

“You” complaint--How do you feel God has failed you?

“They” complaint—how do you feel others have failed you?

“I” complaint—how do you feel you have failed?

Confession

Ask for God’s grace and mercy:

Ask God for Help

Ask for God’s help as concretely as possible:

Affirm Trust in God

What picture can you imagine of God’s faithfulness?

Promise to Praise God

What praise will you offer after God has shown up?