

Prayer of *Lament*



Dear Lord,

You are our strength. You are our peace. You are our hope in hopeless situations. You are righteous. You are holy. You enter into the pain of your people. You weep for us just as you wept for Lazarus. You desire good things for your creation. You want us to live in the fullness of God. Yet, you told us that in this world we would face trouble but to take heart for you overcame the world. Lord, your people are facing trouble on every side. One a personal level many are lonely and desiring community, many are grieving the celebration of important milestones, many are unemployed or under employed, and many are grieving the loss of their connection to you. On a corporate level, we are remembering that it has been 57 years since Medgar Evers died because he was bold enough to advocate for equal access to education for all and voting rights for African Americans. We are remembering the Emmanuel Nine who welcomed a stranger to join their prayer meeting and whose lives were tragically ended because of hatred over something they could not control—the color of their skin. We are remembering that even though the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect January 1, 1863, it would not be until June 19, 1865 that slaves were completely free in The United States. We are acknowledging the pain of the recent losses of Ahmaud Arbury, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Rashard Brooks, and others who have died due to racialized violence. Lord, we acknowledge that indigenous people are suffering and dying at an alarming rate because of COVID-19. We acknowledge that there are still children separated from their parents on the border. Lord today, we are just naming the pain of your people. We are naming our collective trauma. We are asking in this moment that you would heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. We are asking that you would redeem everything that has been lost. Lord, we are asking that you would tear down the strongholds of racial injustice and health care oppression. Lord, we are asking that communities plagued by hatred would permeate with love. Lord, we ask that you would take what the devil meant for bad and turn it around for the good of the world. Lord, we thank you for raising up a new generation that is fearless and bold and who proudly shout against the powers of evil and wickedness, and put their bodies on the line through protest. Lord, thank you for the seasoned intercessors who know how to get a prayer up to Jesus and for their faithfulness no matter what is going on in the world. Lord, we do not want to lose faith and we do not want to lose hope, so please give us glimpses of your glory. Lord, we need to see transformation of hearts and minds. Lord, we need to see governments shift to be affirming of the humanity of all no matter the color of their skin. Lord, transform the hearts and minds of all people, so that we may see each other as children of God wanting everything that God wants for us. God teach us how to love like you love. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.