

Welcome

Call to Lament

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Mt. 11:28-30)

Responsive Reading

Leader: Cry aloud before the Lord, O walls of beautiful Jerusalem! Let your tears flow like a river day and night. Give yourselves no rest; give your eyes no relief. (Lam. 2:18)

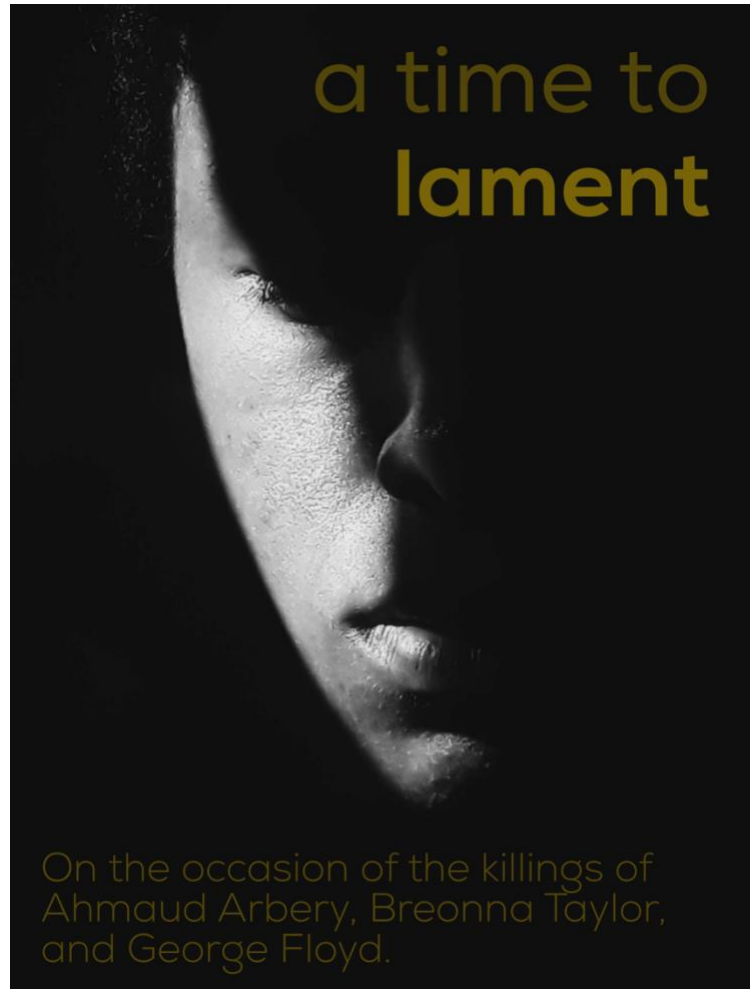
People: We lament the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. We grieve with their families and friends. We are grieved, enraged, and fatigued by a society that refuses to see some of us as image-bearers of God.

Leader: Lift up your hands to him in prayer, pleading for your children, for in every street they are faint with hunger. (Lam. 2:19b)

People: We lament the wicked realities being revealed by the pandemic. We lament the rise in anti-Asian and Asian American racism. We grieve how Latino and Latina immigrants and migrants have been scapegoated, harassed, detained, and separated from family members.

Leader: Your prophets have said so many foolish things, false to the core. They did not save you from exile by pointing out your sins. Instead, they painted false pictures, filling you with false hope. (Lam. 2:14)

People: We lament corrupt leaders who care more for personal gain and for their own reputations than for those they have been elected to serve. We lament churches that turn away from injustice and suffering. We lament those who claim to follow Jesus while plugging their ears to the cries of the oppressed.



Leader: Rise during the night and cry out. Pour out your hearts like water to the Lord. (Lam. 2:19a)

People: We remember incarcerated and detained men and women. We lament their vulnerabilities to the virus. We lament over a society that locks up so many of its citizens, especially so many black and brown men and women.

Leader: Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever. Why do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression? (Ps. 44:23-24)

All: We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground. Rise up and help us; rescue us because of your unfailing love. (Ps. 44:25-26)

Laments of the People

Prayer

Testimonies of the People

Benediction

3:20 I will never forget this awful time,
as I grieve over my loss.

21 Yet I still dare to hope
when I remember this:

22 The faithful love of the LORD never ends!
His mercies never cease.

23 Great is his faithfulness;
his mercies begin afresh each morning.

24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance;
therefore, I will hope in him!" (Lam. 3:20-24)



A Time to Lament by New Community Covenant Church (Bronzeville) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).