

Service of Lament in a World of Violence

May 1, 2023 • Houghton Wesleyan Church • 6:30 pm

O righteous God, who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked, and make the righteous secure. (Psalm 7:9)

Prelude

Reading of Psalm 10

Welcome & Invocation

Time of Silence

Our Despair

Unison Reading of Habbakuk 1:2-4

How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

Organ Interlude

The Prevalence of Violence

Reading of Habakkuk 2:6b-20

Acknowledging Victims Near & Far

Pleading for God's Mercy

Reading of Psalm 74

Prayers for the Oppressed

Silent Contemplation of Hope

Psalm 71 & John 16:17-33 (pgs. 573, 1070)

Returning to a World in Need

Lord Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace

Benediction

Postlude

Organ selections for this service of lament:

The two works in the prelude this evening are settings of Luther's hymn based on the Lord's prayer, *Vater Unser im Himmelreich* (Our Father in Heaven.) The first is by Mendelssohn and the second is by J.S. Bach. You may wish to reflect on several verses of the text that can be found in #353 of the red hymnal.

The interlude piece is French composer Jean Langlais' *Prelude on the Kyrie* (Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.) The postlude is G. Thalban-Ball's *Elegy*, an English piece often played at funerals.

*Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
Where there is hatred let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy;
And all for thy mercy's sake O divine Master
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

---St. Francis of Assisi