

GATHERING

Wherever we are, we acknowledge that God is both near to us, and yet far away: God speaks to us and yet is silent: God is at work and yet remains still: God is light yet we seem to be in darkness. We light a candle, a light that the deepest darkness cannot overcome:

**Loving God, may these candles speak to us;
of the tiny flames of hope within us;
of the passing of darkness and suffering;
of the sureness of morning and the promise
of the eternal sunrise still to come, though
we may yet be in that darkest hour before
the dawn. Amen**

NAMING GOD

Noticing what is hard for us, but knowing we are in the presence of God

**We come into the presence of God, who may
feel absent or neglectful but is still there**

O God, we call to you:

Hear us when we cry to you

O God, you are our rock

Our cry to you echoes in silence

O God, you are our fortress

The enemy surges at the gates

O God you are our light

We stumble in deep darkness

O God, you are our salvation

The sorrow of sin weighs on us

O God, you are our guide

We are lost and alone

O God, we call to you:

Hear us when we cry to you

Psalm 22 My God my God why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 13

How long Yahweh will you forget me? For ever? How long will you turn your face away from me? How long must I nurse rebellion in

my soul, sorrow in my heart day and night?
How long is the enemy to domineer over me?

Psalm 142

To Yahweh I cry out with my plea, to Yahweh I cry out with entreaty. I pour out my worry in his presence. In her presence I unfold my troubles...On the road I have to travel they have hidden a trap for me. All refuge is denied me, no one cares whether I live or die.

How do you see God in your life at the moment? What is it that is making you feel you are in darkness or alone or far from God? What things do you notice are missing for you or hurting you at the moment?

LAMENT

Telling God our laments, boldly and honestly

God, we call to you **Hear our lament**

God, we look for answers **Hear our lament**

God, we seek direction **Hear our lament**

God, we weep and cry **Hear our lament**

Psalm 22 I am a worm, less than human, scorn of humankind, contempt of the people. All who see me jeer at me, they sneer and shake their heads...My strength is trickling away, my bones are all disjointed my heart is turned to wax melting inside me.

Luke 22 In his anguish Jesus prayed even more earnestly and his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. Jesus began to feel terror and anguish. And he said to them "My soul is sorrowful to the point of death...Abba Father, for you everything is possible: Take this cup away from me . But let it be as you not I would have it."

Jesus echoed the psalm - My God my God why have you forsaken me?

Tell God exactly what you feel, about anything and everything which is making you lost or angry or abandoned

PETITION

What is that we want from God? Naming our desires specifically

Lord in the silence	Hear us, please
Lord in the stillness	Hear us, please
Lord in the pain	Hear us, please
Lord in the emptiness	Hear us, please
Lord in the sorrow	Hear us, please
Lord in the loss	Hear us, please

Psalm 13 Look down and answer me Yahweh, my God, give light to my eyes or I shall fall into the sleep of death

Psalm 142 Listen to my calling for I am miserably weak; Rescue me from my persecutors for they are too strong for me; Lead me out of prison that I may praise your name

What would you like from God? What would comfort you? what strength do you need?

HOPE AND TRUST

Trusting in the God who saves, comforts, goes with us.

O God, we call to you:
Hear us when we cry to you

O God, you are our rock
Help us stand

O God, you are our fortress
Help us find refuge

O God you are our light
Help us see your goodness

O God, you are our salvation
Help us return to you

O God, you are our guide
Help us follow you

Psalm 13 As for me I trust in your faithful love, Yahweh. Let my heart delight in your saving help .Let me sing to Yahweh for his generosity to me. Let me sing to the name of Yahweh most high.

Psalm 22 I shall proclaim your name to my brothers...for Yahweh has not despised nor disregarded the poverty of the poor, has not turned away her face but has listened to the cry for help.

Psalm 142 Lead me out of prison that I may sing your name.

Luke 23 The penitent thief said to Jesus: 'Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom'. Jesus replied 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' ...The centurion said 'Truly this man was the son of God'

What past experiences can we draw on to know that God is with us? What do we notice that speaks of God's love around us right now?

GOING IN FAITH

**O God in heaven,
Mother and Father of us all,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.