

**Call:** Water is both tomb and womb, death and life.  
It signifies chaos and endings, life and beginnings.  
I invite you forward to place your hands in this water.  
As you do, call to mind the different faces of water,  
the chaos and the calm, the terror and the play,  
the rage and the great beauty of life it brings forth, in all its startling forms.  
Surrender to it the caverns of pain within, just as a raging torrent surrenders  
eventually to still lakes. As the water encircles your hands, be aware that  
God's grace encircles your heart, and reclaim the spring of living water  
within, that gushes up into eternal life.

*{People now either come and move their hands in the bowl of water, or if there are people present who would appreciate feeling the support of the group, all move slowly in procession and circle the bowl of water, while those needing support stand inside the circle and move their hands in the bowl of water.}*

**Song or Music** Come To The Water AOV1/74

### Trust and Praise

**Reading** Luke 18:35-38,40-42

**Psalm 31** In you O Lord, I seek refuge,  
Do not let me be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.  
Incline your ear to me, rescue me speedily.

**Dream** *...for an alternative future. Options; a powerpoint, music, poem, dance or artwork to meditate on. During this time, people light a candle and place it in the focus area.*

**Silence**

### Concluding Ritual

**Blessing**

R.	Bless us with courage when we are assailed by fear.
All	Send us now, renewed by living water.
R.	Bless us with self-respect when we are tempted by self-hate.
All	Send us now, renewed by living water.
R.	Bless us with compassionate friends who stand near.
All	Send us now, renewed by living water.

**Dismissal.** As we end this time of prayer, may healing remain with us, may gentleness direct us, may strength sustain us and may love remind us of our infinite worth. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

**Song** *As a song is sung, people get the candle they lit and take it with them.*

Shelter Me O God Bob Hurd AOV 1/140 or The Lord is My Shepherd AOV 1/26

Inspired by *Liturgies of Lament* by J Frank Henderson © LTP Chicago 1994, developed by the Staff of the Liturgy Centre Auckland. May 2018.  
This lament is available on the Auckland Diocesan website.

# Let us Lament

## Praying out of Violence



*Image by Eddy Van 3000 work in Public Domain*

*This lament may be used as it is, altered to suit particular groups or simply used as inspiration to create something new. Consideration needs to be given to those who may attend, especially if victims of violence are present. Prepare an environment which is both comfortable and beautiful – it could be in a church or meeting room. As people arrive, ensure they are warmly welcomed. Prepare beforehand who will do each part of the ritual and how it will be done. Performative readings, sung Psalms and lengthy silences will help facilitate deep prayer.*

*Bible quotes - NRSV*

## Introduction

### Welcome.

The sources of violence are many, from minor insults on a street corner or sports field, to major assaults outside pubs, train stations or supermarkets. From the volatile anger of domestic violence to international war zones and aggressive armaments displays. From earthquakes and volcanoes to displacement from home. From cyber bullying to sexual abuse. No-one is immune to the reaches of violence or detached from its effects. Violence seizes upon the unsuspecting and makes victims of the innocent. Let us take time to turn and face the violence in our own lives.

**Song** Come to Me all who Labour; Sing Praise 154, AOV 1/37

**Greeting** When Jesus spoke, he echoed the words of the Psalmist. 'Come to me all who labour' he said. 'For I see that your yoke is heavy. Your burden has crippled you and you cannot walk. Come to me.' Let us come now, for the yoke of violence is too heavy and we have been doubled over beneath its weight. Let us face the darkness of violence that has lived in ourselves, our homes and families, in our churches, on our streets, in our communities, our country and our world.

## Voicing The Complaint

**Reading** 2 Samuel 13:7-22

**Psalm** 102

Hear my prayer O Lord, Let my cry come to you.  
do not hide your face from me on the day of my distress.  
Incline your ear to me; Answer me speedily on the day when I call.  
for my days pass away like smoke and my bones burn like a furnace.  
My heart is stricken and withered like grass;  
I am too wasted to eat my bread.  
Because of my loud groaning, my bones cling to my skin.  
I am like an owl of the wilderness, like a little owl of the waste places.  
I lie awake; I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.

**Stories of contemporary Violence** - *People may recount their own experience of violence or read or tell stories of contemporary violence according to the theme or purpose of this lament.*

### Silence

**Prayer** O God, we look on from a distance  
with Mary Magdalene and the other faithful women,

as Jesus is crucified again in our own day.  
Still today your child Jesus cries out,  
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"  
Still today our brother Jesus is crucified  
in our sisters and brothers, whose clothes are stripped off,  
who are mocked and derided, beaten and starved.  
We weep, and you weep as well:  
Your dream for humankind goes awry.  
Be with your crucified ones today,  
and help us to stand in solidarity with them.  
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

*Liturgies of Lament* J Frank Henderson LTP 1994

## Petition and Assurance

### Psalm 69

Save me O God, for the waters have come up to my neck,  
I sink deep into the mire, where there is no foothold;  
I have come into deep waters; and the flood sweeps over me.  
I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched.  
My eyes grow dim with waiting for God  
Save me O God, for the waters have come up to my neck

## Stories of Contemporary Healing and Hope

*People recount their own experience of healing, or tell stories with examples of healing or hope according to the theme or purpose of this lament.*

### Water of Renewal

'The water that I give will become in them a spring gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him 'Sir, give me this water so that I may never have to be thirsty, or have to keep coming here to draw water.' John 4:15

### Litany

R. That violence give way to understanding.	All: Make us fresh as the morning dew
R. That aggression give way to tenderness.	All: Make us fresh as the morning dew
R. That abuse give way to compassion.	All: Make us fresh as the morning dew
R. That abandonment give way to compassion.	All: Make us fresh as the morning dew
May despair give way to hope.	All: Make us fresh as the morning dew