

The Sermon - In 10 Sentences Or Less

1. The biggest difference between biblical worship/prayer and ours is lament.

2. To lament is to complain, to verbalize or get real about our distress, and to entrust our sorrow to God, the best and often only One who can address it.

3. "No one likes a complainer," we say...actually, God loves a complainer, and encourages the behavior.

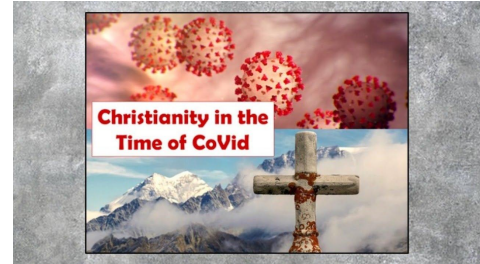
4. Lament is the first, necessary step toward hope, faith, and kindness; by not starting with our own sorrow, we short-circuit the sequence.

5. Our lament is the cup into which God pours His response: lament a little, ensure you'll only be able to receive a little from God.

6. To cry is human, to lament is Christian

7. If God is love through and through, if He knows how good the end of the human story will be, and if He knows the depth and extent of our suffering far more than we do, then God is in constant pain (or, if you will, He is always lamenting).

8-10. "The picture of God that is given to us by the cross is that of a deserted, bruised, bleeding, and dying God, who gave new meaning and dignity to human suffering by passing through its shadows Himself...The darkest moments of life – when we are in pain or aware of our own mortality – are not areas of life from which God has been excluded, but are areas in which He has deliberately included Himself. The powerful image of a God who knows what human suffering and pain are like, who understands firsthand what it is like to be weak, frail, and vulnerable, is validated by the cross of Jesus Christ." (Alister McGrath summarizing Martin Luther's theology of the cross)



Lament Intercession This Week

Let's use the following lament prayer, focused on praying for others, drawn from the language of Psalm 42, as the way we pray for ourselves, all at KW, and our community this week:

"God, Eternal defender of the poor and sad,
hear our prayers for all who suffer.

"For those who are suffering
because of the cruelty of others,
the indifference of employers,
the dysfunction of government,
or the vagaries of nature.

"For those who are downcast,
whose tears are their only food,
whose hearts break for want of hope.
whose faith is weak,
and who feel that You have abandoned them.

"Protector of the weak, be near all who need You today, and may they know that they are not forgotten by Your love, amen."

- Written by Rev. Adam J. Dillon (The Church of Scotland)

A Short Video About Lament

Want to learn a little more about lament, or reinforce what you heard yesterday? Try this video - [What Is Lament?](#)

Lament Music This Week

The Porter's Gate, a group of American worship leaders and songwriters, has put together an entire album of lament music. It might make a great soundtrack for the week. Here are a few of the tracks; if you like them, you can find the whole album on YouTube and elsewhere:

[Drive Out the Darkness](#)

[The Porter's Gate - Wake Up Jesus](#)

[How Long?](#)