

Reading 1: Micah 6:6–8 (NRSV) - Jesse

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reading 2: Reconciliation (Poem) - Rev. Susan Wilder

<https://www.albertasynod.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Lament-Project-RECONCILIATION-Poem.pdf>

Reading 3: Jeremiah 7:3–11 (CEB) - Susan

Improve your conduct and your actions, and I will dwell with you in this place. Don't trust in lies: "This is the Lord's temple! The Lord's temple! The Lord's temple!" No, if you truly reform your ways and your actions; if you treat each other justly; if you stop taking advantage of the immigrant, orphan, or widow; if you don't shed the blood of the innocent in this place, or go after other gods to your own ruin, only then will I dwell with you in this place . . . Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, sacrifice to Baal and go after other gods that you don't know, and then come and stand before me in this temple that bears my name, and say, "We are safe," only to keep on doing all these detestable things? Do you regard this temple, which bears my name, as a hiding place for criminals?

Reading 4: Isaiah 1:11–17 (NIV) - Jesse

"The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.

"Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood! Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

Reading 5: Closing Prayer - Addie

"Loving God of many Names: of Justice, Peace, and Liberation,
Remind us that lament is a holy practice. Teach us to lament the way we humans forget your good
Creation.

Forgive our violation of Creation, of each other.

God of many Names, remind us that our liberation is tied up with each other; that justice for some is
justice for no one, and that...

we choose love as our compass,

we choose togetherness as our movement,

we choose life as our motto.

Now let us all breathe in. Now let us all breathe out.

Knowing that our very breath is an act of resistance.

Knowing that as we take that breath we say the Name of God.

Knowing that we breathe together.

As we move from this space today, we may use that life force to seek the liberation of all God's
people.

Amen."