

Liturgy of loss

Leader: God of direction, God of security, why have you abandoned us?
We're in a maelstrom of emotions, a turbulence of feelings, sorely lacking your presence.

Congregation: We come to you because we need your peace, we want you to make it better.

Leader: Our leaders are changing, our relationships are changing, our family of faith is changing. We lament the loss of our fellowship. Where is your divine assurance?

Congregation: Keep the world at bay for us. Please act in our defense and bring us to a place of stability and shalom.

Leader: God, we are frustrated, hurt, sometimes lonely and at other times lost. We need to acknowledge our feelings. What does transformation really require of us?

Congregation: We are fearful that oft-times we fall much too short of your expectations...

Prayers of intercession

- a time of silence -

Assurance of pardon, litany of rebirth

Leader: So, if anyone is united to Christ...

Congregation: there is a new world.

Leader: What would it look like ... if our we joined in God's blessed work each day in our neighborhood?

Congregation: It might be just as Jesus commanded, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Leader: What might it look like if...Shalom really offered a sanctuary for recent immigrants, where our brothers and sisters from afar would be taken into our homes and loved in a way that the world would take notice?

Congregation: It would be just as Jesus commanded, "Love your neighbor as yourselves."

Leader: What would it look like if...we, the body of Christ at Shalom Mennonite Church, rebirthed a new inclusive spirit of fellowship by engaging the poor and disenfranchised even at the cost of losing some of our comfortable routines?

Congregation: Might the Spirit of kenosis, the divesting of oneself, lift us into the presence of the Most Holy, where we too might begin to see with the eyes of Jesus, the Christ.

Leader: Jesus said, *If you abide in me, and my words abide in you...*

Congregation: ...ask anything you wish and it will be done for you.

Leader: If anyone is united to Christ...

Congregation: ...there is a new world.

John 15: 1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Juan 15:1-8

»Yo soy la vid verdadera, y mi Padre es el que la cultiva. Si una de mis ramas no da uvas, la corta; pero si da uvas, la poda y la limpia, para que dé más. Ustedes ya están limpios por las palabras que les he dicho. Sigán unidos a mí, como yo sigo unido a ustedes. Una rama no puede dar uvas de sí misma, si no está unida a la vid; de igual manera, ustedes no pueden dar fruto, si no permanecen unidos a mí. »Yo soy la vid, y ustedes son las ramas. El que permanece unido a mí, y yo unido a él, da mucho fruto; pues sin mí no pueden ustedes hacer nada. El que no permanece unido a mí, será echado fuera y se secará como las ramas que se recogen y se queman en el fuego. »Si ustedes permanecen unidos a mí, y si permanecen fieles a mis enseñanzas, pidan lo que quieran y se les dará. En esto se muestra la gloria de mi Padre, en que den mucho fruto y lleguen así a ser verdaderos discípulos míos.