

**Trumpets, Ashes, and Tears: New Psalmody for the Journey of Faith
Vesper Service
CFAC Auditorium**

Entering Worship

“In entering the assembly we do not obliterate the world from our mind but carry along with us our experience of the world as a three-fold epiphany of God and our response to that experience. In the liturgy, while ‘holding in remembrance’ what we have experience of God, we give voice to that response. For that we need trumpets and ashes and tears.” (Nicholas Wolterstorff)

Tears

“The suffering of the world is also an epiphany of God—sometimes of the anger of God and sometimes of the gift of God, but always, I suggest, of the suffering of God. The God who has covenanted himself to humanity suffers over our suffering. To this epiphany, how else can we respond then with lament and intercession, crying out ‘How long, O Lord, how long? Deliver yourself, and us your children.’ As you and I leave our places of dispersion and travel to our assemblies, we carry with us our experiences of the suffering of ourselves and of the world. But most of us do not experience God in this suffering. Most of us do not see it as an epiphany of God. And so, though we bring our experience of suffering to our assemblies, we do not know what to do with it there. We skip over those desperate psalms and songs of lament from ancient Israel. And our intercessions, which ought to be grounded in sorrow over the sorrow of the world, give voice at best to muffled cries of pain. Tears in the assembly are regarded as liturgical failure. I suggest instead that a liturgy without tears is a failure.” (Nicholas Wolterstorff)

Ashes

“What every human being experiences as he/she makes their way through life is the presence of evil—of evil in bewildering abundance, evil in social forms. We are a fallen humanity. Just as one sees a child’s resistance to its parent’s just command not only as wrong but as disobedience, so too the believer experiences humanity’s moral evil as something more than evil. They experience it as disobedience to God. And sometimes, at least, she also sees God’s judgment on this defiance. To these apprehensions she/he responds with sorrow and repentance, and with a plea for deliverance and mercy. As we leave our places of dispersion and travel to our assemblies, this experience of our world and our response to it we also carry with us. This, too, we cannot leave behind. We come bearing the ashes of repentance.” (Nicholas Wolterstorff)

Trumpets

“We honor God also because we experience the world as his glorious work. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork. Just as we, in looking at the work of an artist, do not apprehend it merely as a beautiful object but as the admirable work of an artist, so too the believer in walking through the world apprehends its wondrousness as the glorious work of God. In short, to be a believer is to experience this world as a manifestation, a revelation, an epiphany of God. . . . If we do indeed gratefully and adoringly experience our world as an epiphany of God, in the specific mode of gift and glorious work, then of course we do not leave these experiences behind but carry them with us as we

leave our places of dispersion and come together into our assemblies. We come into our assemblies carrying trumpets of joy.” (Nicholas Wolterstorff)

Going Forth into the World

“The goal is to bring hopes, fears, and cares before God. You ask for God’s presence to empower you and go before you. Whatever form this may take on any given Sunday will vary, but naming these events and emotions is an act of faith in a sovereign God who is ‘mindful of humans’ as they serve him by caring for the ‘works of his hands’ (Psalm 8:4, 6).” (Cory Willson, Inhabiting the Liturgy)

Opening Words

Psalm 23: *Shepherd Me, O God*

Words and Music (SHEPHERD ME, O GOD): Marty Haugen © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

TEARS

Reflection

Psalm 22: *O Be Not Far from Me*

Words and Music: based on Psalm 22, Isaac Wardell © 2011 Isaac Wardell

Prayer of Lament

God of Love, we lament human being’s unkindness towards one another and the injustices done to those created in your image. We denounce these uncharitable acts. Out of the abundance of Your Love, we seek your salvation....

[Refrain, Psalm 69: *Save Me, O God*]

[Silence]

God of Righteousness, we grieve the exploitation of those created in your image, women and men, girls and boys, for the pleasure and profit of others. We denounce these degrading acts. Out of the abundance of your righteousness, we seek your salvation....

[Refrain, Psalm 69: *Save Me, O God*]

[Silence]

God of Justice, we sorrow over the oppression and marginalization of those made in your image just so others can exert power and control. We denounce these acts of exclusion. Out of the abundance of your justice, we seek your salvation....

[Refrain, Psalm 69: *Save Me, O God*]

[Silence]

God of Mercy, we bemoan our own silence and inaction in the face of injustice and suffering. We denounce our timidity and inaction. Out of the abundance of your mercy, we seek your salvation....

[Refrain, Psalm 69: *Save Me, O God*]

[Silence]

God of Compassion, we lament our times of failure to hope in your promises and your future. We lament our failure to rely on you for courage and strength and hope. Out of the abundance of your compassion, we seek your salvation....

[Refrain, Psalm 69: *Save Me, O God*]

[Silence]

Psalm 69: *Save Me, O God*

Words and Music: Psalm 69; Marty Haugen © 2015 GIA Publications, Inc.

Psalm 9: *The Hope of the Poor*

Words and Music: Psalm 9; Wendell Kimbrough, Dan Wheeler © 2015 Wendell Kimbrough Music, Joodlebug Music, Jannsen Lane, admin. Jannsen Lane.

Psalm 62: *I'll Not Be Shaken*

Words and Music: Psalm 62; Wendell Kimbrough © 2015 Wendell Kimbrough

Psalm prayer

ASHES

Reflection

Psalm 51: *Be Merciful, O Lord/Por tu bondad, Perdónanos*

Words: Psalm 51:3-6, 12-15, Marty Haugen © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.; Spanish tr. Ronald F. Krisman © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.; English antiphon, *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL
Music: Marty Haugen © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

Have Mercy On Me

Words and Music: Sandra McCracken, Thad Cockrell © 2015 Drink Your Tea Music, admin. Music Services, Inc.

Prayer of Confession:

**All: Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open us to a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

(Book of Worship, United Church of Christ © 1986, 2002 United Church of Christ, United Church Press. Used by permission.)

Have Mercy On Me

Psalm 103: *The Lord Is Kind and Merciful/El Señor es compasivo*

Words: Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; English refrain, *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1981, 1997, ICEL;
English stanzas, *The Revised Grail Psalms*, © 2010 Conception Abbey and The Grail, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.;
Spanish refrain, *Leccionario, Edición Hispanoamérica*, and stanzas © 1970, 1972 Conferencia Episcopal Española
Music : Tony E. Alonso © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc.

Psalm Prayer

TRUMPETS

Reflection

Psalm 138: *Lord, I Thank You*

Words: Psalm 138:1-5, The Revised Grail Psalms, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL; stanzas © 2010 Conception of Abbey/The Grail, admin GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: Tony Alonso © 2012 GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Psalm 146: *Sing Praise to God*

Words and Music: based on Psalm 146, Marty Haugen © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

Psalm 104: *Rejoice In All Your Works*

Words and Music: Psalm 104, Wendell Kimbrough © 2014 Wendell Kimbrough

Psalm Prayer

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

Psalm 121: *I Will Lift My Eyes*

Words and Music: Tony Alonso, arr. Chris de Silva © 2014 GIA Publications, Inc.

Psalm Prayer

Blessing

Closing/Psalm 126: *Our Mouths, They Were Filled*

Words and Music: Isaac Wardell, 2011 © 2012 Common Hymnal Publishing and Isaac Wardell Music, admin. Capitol CMG Publishing

Leaders: Tony Alonso, Marty Haugen, Wendell Kimbrough, Ruth Vanden Bos, Isaac Wardell, and Lisa Weaver

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