



**First United Methodist Church of Belmont
A Service of Grief and Remembrance**

Monday, June 1, 2020 | 12 o'clock noon

Music for Gathering

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. Amen.

Opening Prayer -

**Almighty God, look with pity upon the sorrows of
your servants for whom we pray. Remember them in your
mercy; nourish them with patience; comfort them with a sense
of your goodness; lift up your countenance upon them: and
give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

New Testament Lesson - Revelation 21:1-6

Gospel Lesson - John 15:12-17

Instrumental Offering - Amazing Grace

Reading – *Lament Psalm Thirty One* by Ann Weems

How long will you watch, O God,
as your people live huddled in death?
the whole world
is dressed in tears,
and I have joined
the procession of the bereaved
who walk daily in the death places.
We drown in the sea.
We bleed on the battlefield.
We lie stricken on sickbeds.
We are judged in the courtrooms.
We are victims of crime.
We are homeless and hungry.
Is this not enough?

We are tormented by mental illness.
We are abandoned by loved ones.

We wait in unemployment lines.
We grow up on the streets.
We live with disabilities.
We are injured in accidents.
We are plagued by family problems.
We fight drug and alcohol abuse.
Have you not heard enough, O God?
We sit in police stations.
We watch our loved ones endure pain.
We are falsely accused.
We encounter prejudice and hate.
We are humiliated and abused.
We contend with unbearable stress and anxiety.
We weep by the grave.

We are your people, O Creator God!
We are the work of your hands.
Is there no more grace
For your troubled ones?
Will we continue
our unholy procession
around the pit
of living death?

There is no sun, no moon, no star.
We cannot see our way.
Have pity on your world, O God,
Have pity on your weeping world!

We remember all the times
you lavished your grace
upon our heads
and into our hearts.
You gave us the gift of light,
and we walked with our heads up
in the procession of life.
Restore us, O God,
to your sanctuary.
Look upon us
and let your heart be moved
to break the bonds of the bereaved.
In this hope is our joy.
In that day we will run
to join the procession of life
and we will sing hymns of praise
forever and ever
and ever
and ever!

Prayers of Grief and Remembrance

God of all the ages, we thank you for all those who have died, in our nation and around the world in this pandemic. We pray for them, giving thanks for all the ways they have blessed us.

A time of silence is observed, followed by the tolling of a large bell.

May the remembrance of their love, their courage, and their compassion call us to gratitude throughout our lives, that generations yet to come may give you praise until that day when you make all things new.

We pray for our nation, for all those who grieve and suffer today, for all those who lead us. Lead us to new ways of being that proclaim the hope of your future, when justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus, First fruits of Creation, Firstborn from the dead, Alpha and Omega, beginning and end. Amen.

Benediction

Going Forth

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