

LITURGY RESOURCES FOR WORSHIP FOCUSED ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Call to Worship

“Judah has gone into exile with suffering
and hard servitude;
she lives now among the nations,
and finds no resting place;
her pursuers have all overtaken her
in the midst of her distress.”
- Lamentations 1:3

“So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice,
and no one will take your joy from you.”
- John 16:22

Prayer of Confession

Oh God of peace, mercy, and justice: we celebrate our freedoms and give thanks for our homes, yet turn a blind eye to those wandering without choice or a place to rest their head. We confess that we have hugged tight our own privilege while keeping our arms closed to those across the globe and in our own neighborhoods suffering from neglect, violence, and injustice. Help us to open our eyes, open our arms, and open our hearts to all of your children. Give us the compassion to live fully into pain, the courage to confront our own brokenness, and the wisdom to know your grace in the midst of it. Through Jesus Christ your son we pray. Amen.

Litany for the People of the Democratic Republic of Congo

Loving and merciful God, we confess that we are often overwhelmed by the things of this world. We see never-ending images of pain flash upon our screens, hear cacophonies of cries and sound bites, and feel constant tugs between tears and anger and even apathy. We gather now turning to You, Lord. We gather now to give thanks for each of Your children, to voice laments for the pains we see in our neighbors faces, and to find renewal in Your love – a love that transcends overwhelming worlds.

For the displaced Congolese people now in search of stability and peace;
for all those lost or wandering in our own neighborhoods:

We pray that Your spirit hold them safe.

For mothers like Uwimana Ruhwru and Anatasia Ndaonduy who have lost homes, livelihoods, and children in this conflict; for the mothers of child-soldiers, caught in a battle beyond their understanding; for the many mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, sisters and brothers we do not know or name:

We pray that Your grace comfort their grief.

For the various peoples and places effected and divided by the violence; for those who are Tutsi and those who are Hutu; for the cities of Goma, Nyanzale, and Rutshuru; for the many individuals, the many communities, and Your greater global community:

We pray that Your peace bring true unity.

For those working to make peace and stability; for the UN peacekeepers, the leaders of involved African nations, the representatives of organizations; for all those throughout the world who come to the tables of dialogue in hope and leave in frustration:

We pray that Your truth give them wisdom.

And for all those whose faith is lost, whose strength is depleted, and whose hope is dead; those in the Congo, our own communities, and beyond:

We pray that Your love transcend their fear.

We pray these things knowing that though the storms of time rage, You are our one true rock and redeemer. We pray these things in Your son's holy name.

Amen

- Written by Louisa Watkins, Princeton Seminary Field Education Student, Presbyterian United Nations Office