

A Liturgy of Loss, Learning and Longing As We Mark One Year in Pandemic



**THE DIOCESE
OF VIRGINIA**

Invocation

The invitatory words

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

People Christ, have mercy.

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

We Name Loss

A reading of Psalm 6:2-9

2. *Have pity on me, LORD, for I am weak; *
heal me, LORD, for my bones are racked.*
3. *My spirit shakes with terror; *
how long, O LORD, how long?*
4. *Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; *
save me for your mercy's sake.*



5. *For in death no one remembers you; *
and who will give you thanks in the grave?*
6. *I grow weary because of my groaning; *
every night I drench my bed and flood my couch with tears.*
7. *My eyes are wasted with grief *
and worn away because of all my enemies.*
8. *Depart from me, all evildoers, *
for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.*
9. *The LORD has heard my supplication; *
the LORD accepts my prayer.*

Officiant We name before God the losses of this past year.
(Unmute and speak or write in chat)

After a time of naming and silence,
Officiant God in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.



Blessing for Carrying Long Sorrow, Jan Richardson, *The Cure for Sorrow*

We Name Learning

A reading of Psalm 25:3-9

3. *Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.*
4. *Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.*
5. *Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.*
6. *Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.*



7. *Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.*

8. He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9. All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Officiant We name before God what we have learned this year.
(Unmute and speak or write in chat)

After a time of naming and silence,
Officiant God in your mercy,
People Hear our prayer.

Blessing the Questions, Jan Richardson, *The Cure for Sorrow*



We Name Longing

A reading of Psalm 42:1-7

1. *As the deer longs for the water-brooks,*
so longs my soul for you, O God.*
2. *My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?*
3. *My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me, “Where now is your God?”*
4. *I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into
the house of God,*
5. *With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.*
6. *Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?*
7. *Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.*



Officiant We name before God what we long for as the pandemic enters a second year.

(Unmute and speak or write in chat)

After a time of naming and silence,

Officiant God in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Blessing in the Turning , Jan Richardson, The Cure for Sorrow, p. 168

Closing Prayers

The Episcopal Blessing

