

Lament

Our hearts are weary and our eyes are red from too many tears.

If we pay attention to the world around us, we can easily be overcome with the sorrow

of too many people who have lost loved ones to violence;

of too many people who face another day without enough to eat;

of too many people forced to flee their homes by those who put their thirst for power or wealth or land or being 'right' above everything else – even lives;

of too many people who have lost homes, possessions, and family to the storms, flooding, and other climate related disasters which are growing in number around the world.

Too many lives are consumed by hate. Too many people have forgotten the power of love and the transforming power of forgiveness.

As we lament all the pain in the world, remind us to hold on to hope in you and seek ways to bring that hope by working for changes that will help stop the hate and the pain hate causes.

This week pray for:

- **In this fourth week of Lent**, continue praying for the community of faith. This week, how can you stand beside those who are living with the unimaginable sorrow and trauma of losing someone to violence or disaster?
- **Nigeria**- there have been more attacks. Among others, EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) members were killed and women abducted. EYN continues to work on rebuilding and helping people live with the trauma they experience. 81 more trauma counsellors have been trained. Some areas are so unsafe the trainers cannot spend the night in the villages where they're needed. Many congregations still meet in temporary shelters because their buildings were burned. Pray for everyone affected by this violence and fear.
- Remember those who lost loved ones in the Mosque shootings in **New Zealand** and in other acts of violence elsewhere.
- **Refugees and displaced people** who must face the cold of winter or the extreme heat of summer in a tent or makeshift shelter. . .
- Those affected by **winter storms, continuing flooding, mudslides, or tornados**. Also remember those who live downstream from the current flooding and know it is coming their way.



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