

## Prayer service of lament: From fear to faithful courage

April 7, 2026



### Welcome

### Opening Prayer: Take us From fear to faithful courage

In times when fear rises like a tide within us...

**All:** Anchor us in Your peace.

When the threat of war clouds our hearts and imagination...

**All:** Root us in the courage of nonviolence.

When anger tempts us to harden or divide...

**All:** Soften us with compassion and understanding.

For all who live under the shadow of violence and conflict...

**All:** Hold them in Your mercy and protection.

For leaders and decision-makers in every nation...

**All:** Guide them in wisdom, restraint, and reverence for life.

When we feel powerless in the face of suffering...

**All:** Remind us that love is never powerless.

For the healing of wounds—seen and unseen...

**All:** Breathe restoration into every broken place.

For the grace to forgive, even when it feels impossible...

**All:** Teach us the way of mercy.

For those we struggle to understand or accept...

**All:** Help us to see them through Your eyes.

When fear narrows our vision...

**All:** Expand our hearts to hold one another.

For the courage to choose nonviolence in thought, word, and action...

**All:** Strengthen us with Your Spirit.

For communities seeking to be places of refuge and hope...

**All:** Make us instruments of Your peace.

In moments of uncertainty and unrest...

**All:** Ground us in faithful courage.

For the grace to act with love, even when afraid...

**All:** Let love be our first response.

For the transformation of systems that perpetuate harm...

**All:** Awaken justice rooted in dignity.

For the gift of sacred presence with one another...

**All:** May we be a shelter of peace.

In all things, O God...

**All:** Lead us from fear into faithful courage.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah:** Many peoples shall come and say: “Come, let us go up to the God’s mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that the Creator may instruct us in their ways, and we may walk in their paths. For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. God shall judge between the nations, and set terms for many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.” **The Word of our God**

### **Centering prayer**

### **Silent integration**

**Optional breakout rooms** - *Please reflect:* From tonight’s service, what resonated most for you? Where are you noticing fear in your life or community?

What does “faithful courage” look like for you right now? How might you practice nonviolence in this moment?

Please share with each other a fear, a hope

### **Re-gathering**

As we prepare to end our time together, we hope you have found solace to remain in hope and peace for the days ahead. Let us also take courage in the words of Dorothy Day...

*Words are as strong and powerful as bombs, as napalm. How much the government counts on those words, pays for those words to exalt our own way of life, to build up fear of the enemy. Deliver us, Lord, from the fear of the enemy. That is one of the lines in the psalms, and we are not asking God to deliver us from enemies but from the fear of them. Love casts out fear, but we have to get over the fear in order to get close enough to love them.*

### **Closing prayer**

God of peace, in a world trembling with uncertainty, steady our hearts.

Where fear takes root, plant courage. Where division grows, sow compassion. Where wounds remain, bring healing.

Make us vessels of Your nonviolence — gentle, steadfast, and brave. May we walk together, holding one another in dignity and love, trusting that even now, Your peace is unfolding among us.

**Amen.**