

A Service of
Lament and Thanksgiving
Camp OAC

2:00pm

Saturday, October 7, 2023

We respectfully acknowledge that we gather on the traditional and unceded territory of the Okanagan syilx people. We recognize, honour, and respect the presence of Indigenous people, past, present, and future.

“Lament is the signpost in the desert. Practicing lament is how we find our way to the light at the end of the tunnel, where we can find Good News and join God in doing a new thing.” - The Good News of Lament

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God,
from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

Prayer of Lament

God of all mercy, we give thanks for what has been in this place – for what was built, for what offered shelter, and for the many gifts of labour and time and care that have been offered for the sake of this camp. We acknowledge the loss of these things with sorrow and sadness, in the midst of the ashes of what has been. We lament these losses, along with the losses of our neighbours,

especially those who have lost homes and livelihoods. Uphold them, we pray; strengthen them and grant new hope and direction to all in need. **Amen.**

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of this city; it shall not be overthrown;
God shall help it at the break of day.

Reflection on what has been...

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

*Holy Word, Holy Wisdom: **Thanks be to God.***

Epigram

“And consider, always, every day, the determination of the grass to grow despite the unending obstacles.”

Mary Oliver, from “Evidence,” in
Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver

The Blessing of Water - Tending the Tree

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we give thanks for this camp and its many friends and supporters, and for the way you have spoken into our lives through this place and its people. We give thanks for the leaders and staff and the campers who evacuated safely on the day of the fire. We give thanks for what remains, and for what is yet to come. We give thanks for all firefighters who worked with dedication and courage to save what could be saved, here and elsewhere. We give thanks for all who, across the community and region, have offered shelter and food and funds to support those displaced and in need. We give thanks for our community leaders – for their support and guidance in this challenging time. We pray with thanksgiving and acknowledge your faithfulness to us in the midst of all the changes and chances of this life. Grant to us the courage and wisdom to walk with Faith and Hope and Love into the future to which you call us. **Amen.**

Reflections on what may yet be...

Camp Song

Blessing

Glory to God

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.**
Glory to God,
**from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
forever and ever.**
Amen.

Dismissal

Go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God!

Thank you for your presence and prayers today.

*As you depart, you are invited to pour some water on the tree as a sign of hope
for the future.*

Camp OAC website

www.campoac.com/

August communiqué from Archbishop Lynne McNaughton and Camp
Director Ian Dixon:

www.kootenayanglican.ca/news/update-on-camp-oac-pastoral-letter