

# CONSIDERING LAMENT

PSALMS OF  
PROTEST, PAIN  
AND HOPE





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## ONLINE WORSHIP HUB

Additional material to accompany *Considering Lament* can be found at [presbyterianireland.org/worship](http://presbyterianireland.org/worship)

# *Introduction*

*'Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted'*  
Matthew 5:4

Considering Lament is a follow on from the book Considering Grace. Considering Grace was a collection of first-hand accounts of people who had suffered the most devastating loss. It provided a window into how their lives had been shattered, of how they worked through trauma and how their experiences challenged and shaped their faith. This book made us all too aware that whilst many in the church drew alongside offering pastoral care, as a whole, our collective contribution to supporting each other through grief and loss in times of conflict could have been greater.

Considering Lament emerged from a desire to continue processing the pain, and in ways that bring it to God rather than pass it on to the next generation. These songs and liturgies emerge from Bible studies, held in eight different locations across Northern Ireland. These studies were based on the Psalms, acknowledging that the Psalms can often put into words the feelings we struggle to express. David and Karen Campbell recorded the heartfelt contributions from these focus groups and put them into song and prayer form.

These Psalm settings are not an attempt to fix the pain or over-spiritualise the anguish but are simply channels to present our hurts before the One who knows what it means to experience pain, betrayal, disappointment and grief.

This book is a resource for congregations to use in worship. I pray that by engaging in lament and by coming alongside those who have suffered, we may present our collective pain and sorrow to the ultimate God of justice who in His time will make all things new.

Rt Rev Dr Richard Murray  
*Moderator, Presbyterian Church in Ireland*

Research on conflict transformation warns that without public acknowledgment of past wrongdoing, the wounds of history cannot fully heal. On a personal level, we also understand that before we can consider offering grace to those who have hurt us, we need space to lament the harm that was done. In the time-honoured Presbyterian tradition of singing the Psalms, these liturgies provide an important space for public lament, promising a meaningful contribution to healing our land.

Professor Gladys Ganiel  
*Queen's University Belfast*

*Blessed are they  
who mourn  
for they shall  
be comforted*

# ONE

*Ballymena*

## *Psalm 5*

Many who have served in places of conflict struggle during times of remembrance to say the Lord's Prayer offering forgiveness to others.

This Psalm helps give voice to deep longings for justice. It is a helpful precursor to the Lord's prayer to enable hurt and lament be presented before God as King.

*You understand  
injustice &  
we will all one day  
stand before  
a just God*

**Refrain: I cry to You my God and King, for You are in charge:**

*We have witnessed atrocities on our streets  
We have had to clean up other people's violent messes  
You promised protection yet we know many who came to harm:*

**I cry to You my God and King, for You are in charge:**

*God of justice, you must have hated what has happened in our country,  
For You detest the sight of those who are evil and bloodthirsty,  
Even though their speech seems sweet,  
it masks malicious hearts and the stench of open graves:*

**I cry to You my God and King, for You are in charge:**

*But this is not just about evil, it is about us too;  
It is about how I stand in your presence,  
We know that to receive healing and forgiveness,  
we must let go of our hatred towards those who have hurt us,  
For we know You hate all who do wrong*

**I cry to You my God and King, for You are in charge:**

*We pray for those who refuse to stand up and be recognised in court,  
Your son Jesus stood innocently in court yet was condemned to violence,  
You understand injustice and we will all one day stand before a just God.  
Declare them guilty O God!  
Sabotage evil plans and treacherous schemes:  
For the reality is that they have rebelled against You.*

**I cry to You my God and King, for You are in charge:**

*We believe in the power of praying generations to change the future  
Teach us to find refuge in You and give us new songs of joy  
Bless those who seek after You and surround them with Your favour*

**I cry to You my God and King, for You are in charge:**

# Psalm 5 Ballymena

D & K Campbell

Chords: Gm Gm D Eb Cm Gm

Voice: Let all who hide in You be glad, their -  
 The e - vil ones aren't wel - comed here. Their -  
 Their tongues like mud slides, throats like graves, the -  
 O - Lord You won't en - dure their wrong, they'll -

Piano: [Musical notation for piano accompaniment]

6 Eb Cm7 Gm D` Gm Gm

Vo. -fears you - will de - stroy - You spread - Your wings to  
 -pride can't be Your guest - You shake - Your head when  
 -truth gets - burnt to - dust - Their words - of - life bring  
 -fall through -twis - ted - schemes - call out - their guilt and

Pno. [Musical notation for piano accompaniment]

12 Eb Bb D/A Gm Cm7 C#dim D7 Cm/G Gm Gm

Vo. shel - ter - them so they can - sing for joy - List en -  
 mis - chief thrives and ban - ish - wick - ed - ness  
 ran - cid - death their vows - I - can - not trust  
 tox - ic - lies. De - stroy their man - y sins

Pno. [Musical notation for piano accompaniment]

19 Eb Cm Cm Dsus4 D Gm

Vo. - List en - List en, do You hear my sigh? - List en, - List-

Pno.

28 Eb Cm Cm Dsus4 D

Vo. - en - - List - en and hear my heart's cry

The  
Their  
O

Pno.

**TWO**

*Derry/Londonderry*

*Psalm 7:9 Is there a  
righteous God?*

David felt under threat by the words of Cush, yet this psalm is not particularized. Instead, it offers guidance for all those who face dark days.

The call is for God to arise, implying God is currently inactive and yet the psalm continues with the justice of God whose judgments are always right.

*Bring healing  
to deep wounds*

*Is there a righteous God?*

**Protect me, My God of Refuge:** *for I feel the need to be constantly on the move,  
not to be targeted by my enemies*

*Is there a righteous God?*

**Examine me, My Saviour:** *if I have over-criticized my enemies  
and under-estimated my faults, convict me of my sin*

*Is there a righteous God?*

**Raise me, O Vindicator:** *whenever I am drowned by the sea of fury  
and those pushing for courts to punish, not leaving the ultimate judgment to You*

*Is there a righteous God?*

**Stand up, O Judge:** *to those who flood the courtrooms seeking revenge rather  
than restoration.*

*For those unjustly attacked, **declare their innocence.***

*For those propagating evil, **let evil actions come to an end.***

*For those seeking acknowledgment of their pain, **bring healing to deep wounds.***

*Establish those with noble hearts and minds to rule.*

**O God, our shield:** *protect the vulnerable caught in webs of lies and deceit.*

*For those who dig out trouble, may they fall into their own trap.*

*May plans of evil backfire.*

**May any intention towards violence boomerang.**

*For you are a God of peace.*

**We praise you as the God who makes all things right.**

*We long for the day when children may play safely on our streets*

**When singing and laughter will be music acceptable to the honor of your Name,**

*O Lord Most High.*

### **How might this Psalm be used?**

Whenever there are tragic atrocities described in the news and a feeling of overwhelm ensues, this Psalm asks God to 'rise' and intervene. The opening chorus could be used as part of prayers of intercessions. It could also be used to intercede for those churches facing persecution in countries where Christians are not able to exercise religious freedom. Finally, it is an opportunity to name the injustices locally, where people have suffered and have waited many long years to see just outcomes.

# Psalm 7 Derry/Londonderry

D & K Campbell

Cm

Voice

Piano

Cm Cm G7 Cm Cm

When shad-ows loom and  
Though just - ice seems to  
When all is done His

6 Cm Fm G Cm Cm

Vo.

Pno.

fears a - rise, our - hearts feel weak and sore. The world can shake, our strength can break, we -  
hide a - way and wrongs go un - a - d - dressed. We lift our voice for still we trust, in -  
sha - lom reigns, re - stor - ing what was lost. With just - ice true, He'll make all new no -

11 Fm G Ab Eb Fm

Vo.

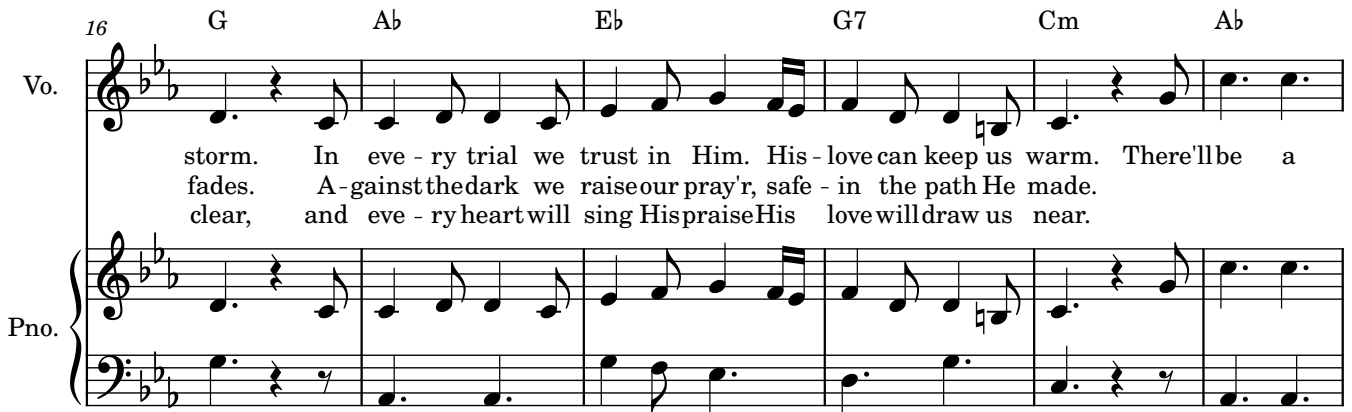
Pno.

- trem - ble at the door. Yet in this night, we seek for light, a - re - fuge from the  
- Him our souls find rest. His pres - ence near dis - pels our fear with - hope that ne - ver  
- mat - ter what the cost. With eve - ry tear that falls in pain, He'll - wipe the sorr - ow

16 G Ab Eb G7 Cm Ab

Vo. storm. In eve - ry trial we trust in Him. His - love can keep us warm. There'll be a  
fades. A - gainst the dark we raise our pray'r, safe - in the path He made.  
clear, and eve - ry heart will sing His praise His love will draw us near.

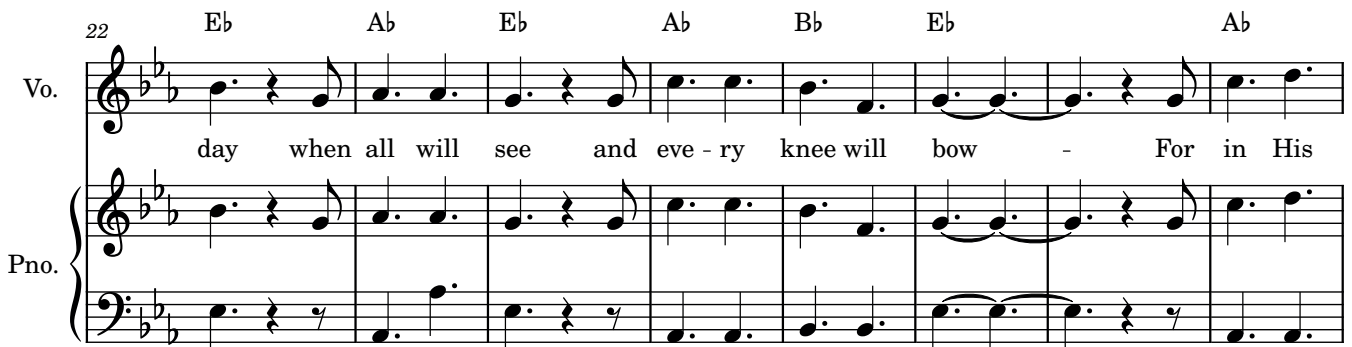
Pno.



22 Eb Ab Eb Ab Bb Eb Ab

Vo. day when all will see and eve - ry knee will bow - For in His


Pno.



30 Eb Fm Eb G7 Fm7 Gmin Ab Fm7 Bb

Vo. grace our spir - its yearn, to - walk with Christ our Lord - . to - walk with Christ our

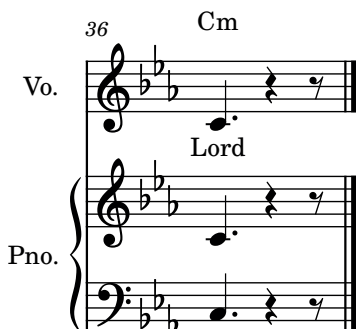
Pno.



36 Cm

Vo. Lord

Pno.



THREE  
*Bangor*

## *Psalm 39*

Often we have held our tongue in the face of evil not wanting to give oxygen to wickedness. Yet often this can create a growing frustration and fire within. This Psalm gives voice to where there has been silence. It recognizes the limitations of life, asks for a truer perspective and a fresh hope in God.

Parts of this prayer could be used at a funeral recognizing how short life is or as part of a prayer of confession. The Psalm tune could be used as an introduction into a time of confession.

**Refrain: (39:5) Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure**

*We lament how we kept silent when in the presence of the wicked.*

*We lament how this silence came to be interpreted as guilt rather than restraint.*

*Forgive our failing as a church and give us wisdom to know when to speak and when to be silent: **Refrain***

*We confess our tendency to chase after wealth, thinking this will keep us secure.*

*We admit our failure to acknowledge how short life is*

*How we have tended to find shelter in the shadows rather than to spend our days wisely: **Refrain***

*O Lord let me know my end and what is the measure of my days,*

*Give the church a voice to condemn what is wicked and extol what is good,*

*May our godly living redeem the time for our hope is in You: **Refrain***

**Hear my prayer, Lord, listen to my cry for help, do not be deaf to my weeping.**

# Psalm 39 Bangor

D & K Campbell

Chords: Bm F#7

Voice

Piano

Life be - hind our walls of  
Speak - ing grace with truth - ful  
Work for peace can be so

5 Chords: Bm F# F#7

Vo.

Pno.

sil - ence Think - ing sha - dows kept us  
can - dour seemed be - yond us for so  
fleet - ing feels like breath spent on the

9 Chords: Bm Bm F#7

Voice

Piano

safe Plac - ing stones there in the  
long Help us speak Your words of  
wind Let Your voice speak in the

13 Bm F# F#7

Vo. quiet - ness yet our fears kept us a -  
 Heal - ing where our an - guish had been  
 sil - ence bring - ing light that can't be

Pno.

17 Bm D7 G

Vo. -wake strong dimmed. Hear our pray - ing O Lord for

Pno.

21 D Bm7 F# F#7

Vo. mer - cy Grief makes holes we can - not

Pno.

25 Bm D7 G

Vo. fill Hear our pray - ing O Lord for

Pno.

29      D                                      Bm7                      F#

Vo.      mer - cy                                      All our hope                                      is in Your

Pno.

33      Bm

Vo.      will

Pno.

**FOUR**  
*Belfast*

*Psalm 59*

The image is of David under house arrest, being watched by Saul's men. Each evening they prowl like dogs looking for their prey. Psalm 59 takes us inside the house into David's thoughts wondering how long he must hide. Even in this high risk situation, David calls on God's strength, security and never failing love. It is a high theology preserved in the mud of dangerous times.

This Psalm could be used in the plural to pray for Christians in countries where there is extreme persecution.

*Let me sing  
of your  
dependable love*

*O God of the angel armies; rescue me*

**Whilst the howling pierces the night,  
Let me sing of your dependable love,**

*Snarling dogs are at the gate,  
Prowling around at night to intimidate me;*

**Save me**

*From the snarling invective  
And the sharply drawn daggers*

**Protect me**

*Not just those on the outside  
But my conscience snarls on the inside*

**Deliver me**

*From having one voice in public  
And being different in private*

**Heal me**

**Whilst the howling pierces the night,  
Let me sing of your dependable love.**

*We wait on you God, wondering if you are asleep .....*

*But you scoff at the nations,  
Go before me and scoff at those who slander me.  
You are my fortress,*

**My God on whom I rely**

*Go before me, Lord, do not kill the enemy,  
**Lest your people forget,**  
But let them be caught with the lies on their lips.*

*Realign me to what I know is true,  
You see my messy, patchy belief  
You know my deepest fears  
My tendency to bite the hand that feeds me,  
Strong merciful God, let me look for you  
My God, my fortress, my God on whom I rely.  
Whilst the howling pierces the night,  
Let me sing of your dependable love.*

# Psalm 59 Belfast

D & K Campbell

Chords: Bm7 Em Am Em Bm7

12/8

Voice

Wick-ed ser-pents lie in am-bush for my soul though I  
 Be my fort-ress a-gainst those a-ttack-ing me though I  
 When the sun goes down they howl a-cross the night and their  
 Do you keep our foes a - live for mem-'ry's sake? Do you

Piano

4 C Am G Bm7

Vo.

did not cross them, they won't let me go You call  
 did not hurt them now we're en - em - ies And their  
 dagg - ers make them think they're out of sight Bring them  
 let them prowl our streets so we're a - wake? Dawn will

Pno.

6 Am/C Bm7 Am Em/G Bm7/F# Em Bm7

Vo.

out our deep corr-up - tion, You're the God of all the na - tions wick - ed  
 words as sharp as sw - ords make them bite and snarl like dogs - be my  
 down in slow - est mot - ion to fall hard with-out a cush - ion bring their  
 bring Your song of l - ove You're our ref - uge from a - bove - and I

Pno.

2

8 C G/B Am Bm7 Em Bm7 Am G/B Bm7

Vo. for - ces lie in am - bush for my soul. De - liv - er me from my en - em -  
fort - ress a - gainst those a - t t a c k - ing me.  
lies and cur - ses in - to broad day - light  
sing Your faith - ful - ness for Your name's sake.

Pno.

11 Em Am F C G Bm7 C Am

Vo. - ies. Hid e me O Lord - from those a - t t a c k - ing me. You are my strength I sing to

Pno.

15 Em Em Am Bm7 Em

Vo. You You are my God, You are my God.

Pno.

## FIVE

*Armagh*

## *Psalm 64*

Sometimes it is hard to pray because we have been blindsided and ambushed by malicious actions. This psalm gives time to describe the effects of evil vs 1-6 and how whispering lips are like arrows piercing the heart. Yet, God's response vs 7-10 allows movement from distress to a confidence that God will redirect the arrows back to those who cause harm.

This prayer can stand alone or be interspersed with the musical verses of Psalm 64.

*We acknowledge  
you as the God  
who can put  
all things right*

### Verse 1

**Listen and help, O God:** *As I cry out in pain*

**Listen and help, O God:**

*When we become obsessed by negative voices in our world:*

**Listen and help, O God**

*When we get pulled into noisy social media threads dehumanizing the enemy*

**Listen and help, O God**

*When we live in fear of being cancelled out by those who do not agree with us*

### Verse 2

**Protect us:** *from constant fear of being ambushed by those whose poisoned tongues are weapons*

**Shelter us:** *from the deadly arrows of misinformation published to main lives*

**Shield us:** *and our young people from being incited towards hatred and violence*

**Expose those:** *who hide behind social media and work for evil intent*

### Verse 3

**For, We lament:** *the lives lost of those going about their ordinary work*

**We lament:** *not everyone in this life will see justice for wrongs done against them*

**We lament:** *how easily anarchy tips over and disrupts order*

**We lament:** *the betrayal of neighbours, those killed through mistaken identity...*

*(add your own words to describe the atrocities that occurred in your local area)*

### Verse 4

**Forgive us:** *when we get discouraged that evil does not seem to reap what it has sown*

**Forgive us:** *when we exchange Your shalom for punitive justice*

**Forgive us:** *when we did not fully acknowledge Your hand in bringing about peace*

**Forgive us:** *when we have over relied on human might and we did not fully trust in You.*

**Turn us again O God to Your vision of shalom for this world**

*You are the God who can shoot arrows of judgment with righteous accuracy*

### Verse 5

**We praise you for those who did experience grace and turned away from violence**

*We acknowledge you as the God who can put all things right*

*Fill us with the knowledge of Your works to bring life and wholeness and may this drown out toxic narratives that steal the lives of coming generations,*

**O God, listen and help: As we bring these prayers to you our God and our refuge.**

# Psalm 64 Armagh

D & K Campbell

Cm                  Fm                  Cm                  G7

Voice

God - hear my trou-blin' thoughts  
 Hide me from con-spir - a - cy -  
 You can tear the wi - cked down -  
 May Your peop-le fear - the Lord -

Hand Clap

Stamp

5 Cm Eb Gsus4 G7 Cm Eb

Vo.

God - hear my trou - blin' - thoughts - I need a hi - ding place so  
 - Hide me from con - spir - a - cy - their per - fect am - bush words -  
 - You can tear the wi - cked down put out their tongues of fire and  
 - May Your peop - le fear - the Lord - the right - eous will re - joice and

Hd. Clp.

Sta.

8 Fm Ab Gsus4 G G7 Cm

Vo.

that I won't get caught God - hear my trou - blin' thoughts  
 - were a snare to me hide me from con - spir - a - cy  
 shakethem to the ground You can tear the wi - cked down  
 glo - ry in Your works May Your peop - le fear - the Lord

Hd. Clp.

Sta.

SIX  
*Omagh*

*Psalm 82*

An appeal to God as judge in the courtroom for those who think they are in charge but act without reference to the ultimate judge. The themes of this prayer are all the unresolved places of justice, those who have not received closure for their pain and an earnest plea for God to come and rule the nations again. Seasons of advent and lent are opportunities to cry out for Jesus to come again and make all things new.

The refrain of this psalm is easily sung by a congregation and could be the opening refrain sung during prayers of intercession at advent or lent.

*You witness our  
despair  
when fear  
continues to cast  
a long shadow*

*Rise up O God and judge the earth:*

**because you are the one who will inherit the nations**

*How long will we have to suffer seeing the prominence of wicked faces?*

*How long will those obsessed with power be gatekeepers of our community?*

*How long will influencers incite our children to spit at those they think are the enemy?*

*Rise up O God and judge the earth:*

**because you are the one who will inherit the nations**

*You still see the pain of our small communities*

*You still see where perpetrators and victims live side by side*

*You still see us living in our own homes in fear*

*We lament how the guilty continued to walk free in their own darkness*

*Rise up O God and judge the earth:*

**because you are the one who will inherit the nations**

*You witness our despair when few have been held to account*

*You witness our despair when fear continues to cast a long shadow*

*We lament that there were too many funerals with the quiet shuffling of feet*

*Rise up O God and judge the earth:*

**because you are the one who will inherit the nations**

*We hold before you those who have perpetrated violence and murder but have not recognized the pain they have caused. Rescue them too.*

*We hold before you the inability of judicial systems to provide relief for the most vulnerable.*

*Bring accountability and healing to those crying out for justice.*

*We lament when legal processes seem skewed to protect the powerful rather than work for the cause of the weakest. Raise up voices to speak for them.*

*Rise up O God and judge the earth:*

**because you are the one who will inherit the nations**

*We confess our own complicity for the times we did not condemn prejudice and held tightly to our pride*

*We confess our failure as a church for not speaking out strongly enough against sectarianism*

*Too often we have trusted in human institutions to save us*

*And now the foundations of the earth are shifting*

*Come as the one true judge and defend the downtrodden.*

*Empower those who have no voice.*

*Pay attention to the most vulnerable and deliver us from destructive wickedness*

*Lord Jesus we offer ourselves to You that You may live in me and I in you*

**Come rule the nations and change one person at a time**

# Psalm 82 Omagh

D & K Campbell

Cm

Voice

Piano

Rise up O

4 G Ab Bb7 Eb

Vo.

Pno.

God now - - And judge - the World.

7 Fm Eb Bb

Vo.

Pno.

Nat - ions - bow at your - co - mmand.

10 Cm G

Vo.

Pno.

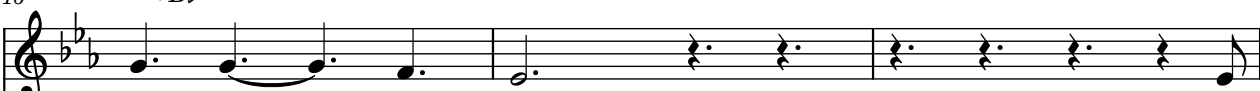
Rise up - - O God now - -

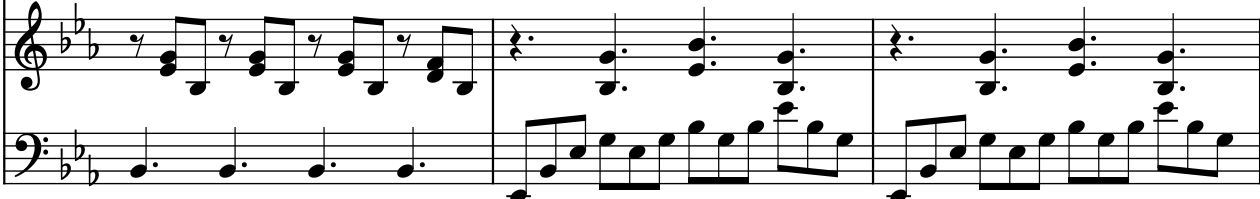
13  $A^b$   $B^b7$   $E^b$   $F^m$

Vo.    
 -And judge - the world. All Earth - is

Pno. 

16  $E^b/B^b$   $B^b7$   $E^b$

Vo.    
 placed in - your hands. How


Pno. 


19  $E^b$   $A^b$   $E^b$   $A^b m7$

Vo.    
 long will you stand by while the neigh-bours are flee-ing by  
 now that eve - ry-thing's fall-ing a -

Pno. 

22  $E^b$   $G^m/D$   $C^m$   $A^b$   $C^m$

Vo.    
 night - How long, will ev - il ones hid their  
 -part - - Yet You see where we failed to dis-

Pno. 

25 Cm G Ab G

Vo. wrongdeeds in broad-est day - light? Please judge the Earth,  
-cern and to know what is right. Please res-cue us,

Pno.

27 Ab G Ab G

Vo. res-cue the poor, come rule our land once a - gain.  
heal our proud thoughts, de-fend the rights of Your name.

Pno.

## SEVEN

*Dungannon*

## *Psalm 109*

– *‘Lament is a verb’*

Psalm 109 is extreme in wishing violence against others. Yet, David confesses to be a man of prayer and is taking all of his vengeful thoughts to God (Romans 12:19) rather than mounting a personal counter-attack. In the deep realism of this Psalm is a longing for God to overrule.

*Water the tears  
of the past,  
into living  
gardens of hope*

*This is where I am Lord:*

*I want to love others but feel opposed:*

**Keep me in a place of prayer**

*When surrounded within and without by hatred:*

**Keep me in a place of prayer**

*When misperceptions control the narrative:*

**Keep me in a place of prayer**

*When I lacked courage to challenge injustice:*

**Keep me in a place of prayer**

*Let Your divine justice have its way when we remember:*

*Our hurt at the betrayal of close friends:*

**Keep us in a place of prayer**

*The shock of being attacked because of difference:*

**Keep us in a place of prayer**

*The raw pain and abandonment when justice systems fail:*

**Keep us in a place of prayer**

*Bring solace for those keeping the memory of lost ones alive  
by reliving trauma:*

**Keep us in a place of prayer**

*Bring comfort when I feel downtrodden and vulnerable.*

*Bring healing where my heart has been pierced.*

*For your name's sake and because of your committed love,  
this is where I want to be:*

**Prevent my reality from being infected by bitterness**

**Challenge evil dehumanization with the unspeakable  
power of your love**

**Turn the next generation away from violence**

**Water the tears of the past, into living gardens of hope**

*We choose to believe Sovereign Lord, that without You, there is no love,  
mercy, justice or truth,*

*Because You stand at the right hand of the vulnerable and wrap your  
opponents in a cloak of shame.*

*Let everyone know that this is Your hand, it is You, Great God  
who does this,*

**Then we will give You thanks and praise.**

# Psalm 109 Dungannon

V1 - V2 - Chorus - Vs3 - Chorus - Bridge - Chorus

D & K Campbell

Bm7 A/C# D G9 G

Voice

Why should I praise? Have you been sil - ent?  
 Save us from those Who judge un - just - ly  
 Sift - ing our hearts finds us all guil - ty

Piano

8 D/F# Em Bm Gmaj7 Bm Asus4 A

Vo.

neigh - bours be - trayed me - and brought the a - ttack  
 Stand in my place - ab - sorb all the pain  
 Shift - ing the blame - whilst lead - er - ship fails  
 Those who were  
 Those who were  
 Lost gen - er -

Pno.

13 Bm A G D/F# G Em Bm/F#

Vo.

close should have pro tect ed, hat - red for friend - ship  
 cur - sing like a thick gar - ment, eat bi - tter fruit  
 - a - tions missed from their homes chair that are emp - ty

Pno.

18 Gmaj7 Bm7 A/C# D Bm7 A/C# D G9 G

Vo. stabs in the back and O my heart is wound-ed -  
 born from their shame frail Truth that seems frail

Pno.

24 D/F# Em Bm7 G Asus4 A Bm7 A/C#

Vo. - for the was - ted years lost on the way but You -

Pno.

30 D G9 G D/F# Em Bm7 G Bm7 A/C#

Vo. - cangatherthe bro - ken - and pour heal - ing light ondark-est days -

Pno.

36 3. D Bm A Bm A Bm A G Bm A Bm A Bm A G Bm A Bm A

Vo. Af-ter all the cur-sing runs dry, And the si-lent shak-ing of heads, Af-ter we im-

Pno.

42 Bm A G D/F# Asus4 A Bm7 A D

Vo. -ag-in the worst, Let there be peace, Let there be peace and O - my heart is

no.

48 G9 G D/F# Em Bm7 G Asus4 A Bm7 A/C#

Vo. wound-ed - for the was - ted years lost on the way but You -

no.

55 D G9 G D/F# Em Bm7 G Bm7 A/C#

Vo. - can-ga-ther the bro - ken - and pour heal-ing light on dark-est days D

no.

62

Vo. Bm7 A/C# D

no.

**EIGHT**  
*Omagh*

## *Psalm 140*

We are plunged straight into desperate pleas for protection in violent times. There is an urgency and realism to this psalm which recognizes how poisonous words can stir up violence and hatred.

When fake news and competing narratives about the past withhold true peace, this lament reorients towards the God who holds justice, truth mercy and grace perfectly together.

*Save us in these violent times...*

*We pray for those who devise traps to ensnare others  
Who plan evil in their hearts  
And poison speech with venom towards others*

*Keep us safe from those who want to stir up trouble  
Stand between me and those who use violence and force to get  
what they want  
Do not let wicked plans succeed.*

*May all the misery planned for me recoil against them,  
Don't let the liars rule the land.*

**I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor  
And upholds the cause of the needy.  
Surely the righteous will praise your name,  
And the upright will live in your presence.**

# Psalm 140 Omagh

D & K Campbell

Voice

Piano

6

Vo.

Pno.

Gm Gm D7/A Gm/B $\flat$  Gm

E - vil wordsswirl all ar - ound us,  
Shad-ows watch the path I walk on,  
Thosewhoclothed me withtheir false - hoods

11

Vo.

Pno.

B $\flat$  Cm D Am7 D Gm Gm/F Cm7/E $\flat$  Cm D D7

Sting - ing ven-om leavesits bite. poi - son plant-ed in theirheartsnow, seems to dull Your  
trapthey'veset en - snaremy feet. Sov-ereignLord,our strongde - live - rer, bring us to Your  
find their lies re - duced to dust. Poor and weakwill be su - ppor - ted Love sogreatthat

2

16 Gm D7 Gm Bb F Cm7/Eb Cm D Cm6/A D7

Vo. words of light. You're our God, we long to praise You Truth and just-ice in Your hands.  
mer-cy seat.  
they can trust.

Pno.

21 Bb F F7 Cm7 C#dim D7 Gm

Vo. You're our God we long to praise You, bring Your com-fort to our land.

Pno.

# Acknowledgements

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) Council for Public Affairs (CPA) 'Peace and Reconciliation' Panel conceived the idea for this project to follow on from the work of *Considering Grace*. This is the culmination of nearly two years work, sitting in groups with people who have experienced extreme loss and pain from the Troubles, and listening to them connect their pain with Psalms of lament. These Psalms provided vessels to channel all kinds of emotions from disappointment, anger, betrayal and sorrow without losing hope. We continue to be grateful for the original vision Gladys Ganiel and Jamie Yohannis had in producing the book *Considering Grace* and the challenge it has brought to the churches to continue talking about the impact of the troubles and the process of healing.

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We hope these hymns will provide a mechanism for others to lament with you and work towards a better future.

**The Peace and Reconciliation Panel**



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