



Dear Clarkson Church family.

In the pre-covid days of our church, we were intentional about taking times as a church family to pray. Whether this was for our church, our neighbourhood or others around the world these were significant times.

Although many have been praying in different ways throughout covid, our staff felt that it is time for us to plan an evening to pray together - an evening with a specific focus.

Over the past year, many of us have wrestled with the many forms of oppression or expressions of cruelty towards others that we encounter around us. During this time we have been part of lots of conversations that have been oriented around the oppression and acts of violence that we see regularly.

Likewise, during this time, we have been intentional in thinking about what it means for us to lament - to name the pain and hurt that we feel and see around us. Last summer we took time to talk about some Psalms of Lament and we have continued to have this theme in front of us during the year. Some of us have also taken time in the past year to repent.

Sometimes this has been for personal mistakes and pain we have caused, but sometimes it has been on a larger scale, repenting for actions and passions of the church or our society that have caused pain for others.

In continuation of this theme, on **Tuesday, May 25 from 7:30 - 8:45 pm** we are inviting you to an online evening of prayer where we will lament and repent together.

We have chosen this date intentionally as it is one year from the date George Floyd was murdered. This was a date that shone light onto many forms of oppression that I was not paying attention to before. When we gather to lament and repent the oppression that is felt, oppression against people of colour will certainly be on my mind. But as we gather to pray I also want you to be welcome to bring other forms of oppression that are on your heart. Whether this is oppression against Indigenous people, the Asian community, the people of Myanmar and of Palestine, Jewish people, refugees, the LGBT community, the Arabic community or any others, the oppression that you wish to lament is welcome. Our desire on May 25 is not to clarify, solve or resolve, but simply to name the pain that each of us carries as we pray against oppression.

There is no need to RSVP for this prayer time, just put May 25 from 7:30 - 8:45 pm in your calendar and we will share the link as we get closer. We also know that many of you have other prayer needs beyond this focus on lament and repent and you are welcome to join us to pray for those concerns any Sunday morning at 9 am. This prayer time will be set aside for us to lament and repent.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about this evening of prayer.

Peace,
Jamie.

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