

As part of our time together on Sunday the 8th of September, Sue Ryan and I shared a lament that she had written in response to the crises of the week.

Lord, we bring our LAMENT to you.

This is how WE FEEL:

For some of us, the TEARS seep out of every cell in our bodies,

Our hearts cry out in pain and anguish.

For some of us, our hearts are NUMB... Past pain and constant pain has been too much... It is just too much.

For some of us our hearts are HARD... The anger and fear has hardened us.

LORD SEE OUR PAIN

LORD HEAR OUR CRIES

This is what we have SEEN:

Cruel, senseless and violent loss of life.

Repeated fear invades the safety of our homes and neighbourhoods.

Babies lives tragically ended before their dawn.

Pregnant woman- the double loss of life, and a future never lived.

Children living in the cycle of constant confusion, and young lives ended too soon.... Dreams never realized.

Women whose last moments were ones of terror.

Loved ones in anguish and despair at their loss.

LORD SEE OUR PAIN

LORD HEAR OUR CRIES

This is what we have IMAGINED:

Screams that were never heard.

Unstoppable horror.

Untold despair in those final moments of life.

Voices that were silenced forever.

LORD SEE OUR PAIN
LORD HEAR OUR CRIES

This is how we have RESPONDED:

By constant checking for safety.

Looking over our shoulders on a twilight evening.

Avoiding the darkness.

Holding our loved ones close.

Helplessness.

More checking, uncertainty and fear.

Consumed by anger...

Wondering who is next.

LORD SEE OUR PAIN
LORD HEAR OUR CRIES

BUT JESUS...

When you were on earth, you were known as:

A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...

YOU KNOW OUR PAIN

And on the cross as you died for us, you cried:

My God, my God..... Why have you forsaken me?

YOU KNOW OUR PAIN
YOU HEAR OUR CRIES

LORD SEE OUR PAIN
LORD HEAR OUR CRIES