

## Litany: Creation Groans

*Leader:* A city weeps and drowns in its tears.

*Response:* And your creation groans.

*Leader:* Creation groans as chaos waters uncreate.

*Response:* Cups of suffering overflow, filling the bowl that was once a city.

*Leader:* Creation groans as young and old—and families!—are untimely ripped.

*Response:* The earth convulses, the waters roar and foam in this broken act of earthen terrorism.

*Leader:* Where are You in this? Creation groans. Do you hear it?

*Response:* Creation groans. Are you sleeping warm and dry in the belly of a boat?!

*Leader:* Are you “hovering over the waters” at a safe distance?

*Response:* Can’t you do something about this calamity? Will we all die?

*Leader:* Don’t you hear us cry for the poor of the city?

*Response:* Don’t you hear us cry for the homeless, the lost and hungry?

*Leader:* Or are the cries you hear from us a different kind?

*Response:* Cries about our wonderings: of rising gas prices, of the ripple effect in the economy, and our uncertainty about the future—a future we’ve been designing.

*Leader:* And, worst of all, our selfish pseudo-praise of “Thank God it didn’t happen to us.”

*Response:* Are you lamenting right now over our inability to truly lament? Are you grieving our unfaith to complain believably?

(Continued)

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*Leader:* Something must be said, so creation groans.

**Response:** Creation groans, offering words that we cannot express.

*Leader:* We dare not, for we do not have the faith.

**Response:** Creation groans, yearning to be set free from our voicelessness, from our notions of prosperity and false security.

*Leader:* Creation groans because it wants to be born again.

**Response:** Creation groans, yearning for a glimpse of the long-in-coming New City.

*Leader:* Creation groans because you are not in the wind nor the storm nor the tempest surge.

**Response:** Creation groans because you are in the orphaned child, the poor man and the thirsty woman.

*Leader:* You are in the one whose sweat and tears drip like blood and fill the cup and the bowl.

**Response:** There you are. You and only You.

*Leader:* Creation groans because the tears that fill the city are yours.

**All:** Lord, have mercy on us.

This litany was written by the Rev. Marc Nelesen, Ph.D.,  
pastor of Georgetown Christian Reformed Church, Hudsonville, Mich.  
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