

October 13, 2024

Ten Thirty O'Clock

First Baptist Church

Greenville, South Carolina

## Prayer of Lament and Confession

All-Compassionate One,

We cry out to you.

The winds howl, the waters rise,

And homes, lives, and dreams are swept away.

In the face of this destruction, we tremble—

Not because we believe you are punishing us,

But because we feel the weight of a world groaning under the  
strain of brokenness.

**You, O Lord, are not the source of our pain.**

**You are not the storm, you are not the flood.**

Yet the earth is fractured, torn by the weight of a fallen world.

Creation itself groans, as your Word says,

Longing for redemption, for renewal.

The hurricanes that batter us are not your judgment,

But the echoes of a creation out of sync,

Twisted by the forces of human neglect, greed and sin.

**We confess that in our carelessness and consumption,**

**We have damaged the very earth you entrusted to us.**

**The changing climate stirs the seas and fuels the winds,**

**Turning what was once natural into something more  
destructive.**

**We have scarred your earth,**

**And now we all reap the whirlwind.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

Comfort those who have lost everything,  
Whose lives are shattered by winds they cannot control.  
Be with the displaced, the grieving, the hurting.  
Be with the helpers—those who serve with courage and  
compassion,  
Give them strength as they embody your love in action.

Turn our hearts toward you,  
For You are not the God of punishment but the God of refuge.  
You stand with us in the storm,  
Your presence steady even when the earth quakes beneath  
our feet.

Lord, we long for the day  
When the seas will calm and the winds will be still,  
When all creation will be healed,  
And every tear wiped away.  
Until that day,  
Grant us the strength to rebuild,  
The wisdom to care for your world,  
And the hope to trust that you are with us always—  
Even in the storm.

Amen.

