

A Prayer in Three Parts - Inspired by Isaiah
by Joyce Munro

I

Because you are acquainted with grief and anger, dear God,
Hear our sobs

for children abused and neglected by those they trust;
for girls and women violated by men,
for wives taught to submit and sacrifice until their spirits have been deadened;
for boys and men treated as objects,
for husbands taught to believe they are not spiritual beings unless they dominate women
and children.

Hear our outrage

at parents, relatives, pastors, youth sponsors, church leaders, teachers, mentors and counselors
who have exploited those in their care.

Oh, God of grief and anger,
Comfort, comfort your people.
Do not forsake us.

II

Because you are the everlasting God, Creator of the universe,
Give birth to us anew;

Leave nothing undone;

Purge shame, overturn greed,

Ransom our sins of relationship;
And show us how to love.

Oh, everlasting God, Creator of the wide world,
Let each of us know we are yours.

III

Because you are the God of gathering,
Shine out!

Shine out

And bestow your Spirit upon us;

Rain righteousness,

Even in the wilderness of our waywardness,
That we may blossom forth;

Plant justice on earth

As you promised,
Without breaking the bruised reed;

In the arms of your grace,

Hold us,

Through deep water or scorching flame,
Mercifully hold us;

Let no one be squandered or lost.

Amen, Amen, Amen.