

# A Place of Power

*Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant  
all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him,  
“To you I will give their glory and all this authority;  
for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.  
If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”  
Jesus answered him, “It is written,  
‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”*

In the wilderness,  
nothing makes sense  
as once it did  
We are strangers  
in a strange land  
surrounded by  
desolation and death  
deprivation and disease  
injustice and insecurity

Trusted institutions  
have abandoned us  
Honest leaders are  
nowhere to be seen

In the wilderness,  
we wonder  
why God allows this

Why me? why us? why them?  
Why here? why now?

Why not step in  
and make things right  
once and for all?

There are no quick solutions  
no easy answers

In the wilderness  
we are tempted  
to cut corners  
to take back power  
to let any ends justify our means

*Make your complaint to God  
- about the state of your soul  
- about the state of the church  
- about the state of the world  
Take a felt pen and write your  
complaint to God on the black cloth.*

There are no easy answers  
to the pain of the world  
Hold the despair of your soul  
Hold the struggle of longing  
Hold the hope that a change might  
come

*Offer a prayer to God for people and  
situations that weigh on your heart.*