

Never Meant to Be This Way

a liturgy for sudden loss of life

Today my heart aches, and I choose Your joy. Today my heart wants to pull away, and I choose to lean in.

I heard the news, and my world stopped.

My student.

Gone.

It's not supposed to be this way.

Perhaps I could have said more. Did I even know her need?

So many faces in front of me, so many needs. How did I miss hers?

I bring this deep ache to You. I bring the what ifs and the regrets.

As much as my heart aches, I know Yours aches more.

Your love is deeper than mine could ever be.

It was never meant to be this way.

I thank You that You never meant for this to happen. You desire all to live in the light, and death wasn't in the original plan. Thank You for your patience and graciousness. Thank You for more time.

Thank You that I have history with You. Though death and darkness did not come from You, You often use the deepest of tragedies to create the most breathtaking works of art.

Loneliness. Pain. Hopelessness. Death. They were never meant to be. It's true. It was never meant to be this way.

I thank You that it was never meant to be this way. Thank you for not giving up on us when we gave up on You. Thank You that there is hope when all seems lost.

Moving forward, may this tragedy for one bring life to many. May those who grieve be met with true comfort. May futility be met with hope. May loneliness be met with the truest of friendships. Give Your eyes to see what's underneath the surface, to see the struggling and the forgotten.

It was never meant to be this way, and You know. You see, and You love.

It was never meant to be this way, and one day, it won't be.

Amen