

“Natasha Sistrunk Robinson has brought a collection to the forefront that shows the beauty and depth of Women of Color voices and shared experiences. This book takes us on a journey of pain and loss, admiration and respect, inspiration and hope, inspired by an in-depth view of Psalm 37...”

**Latasha Morrison**

New York Times Bestselling Author of *Be the Bridge*

## ABOUT THE BOOK

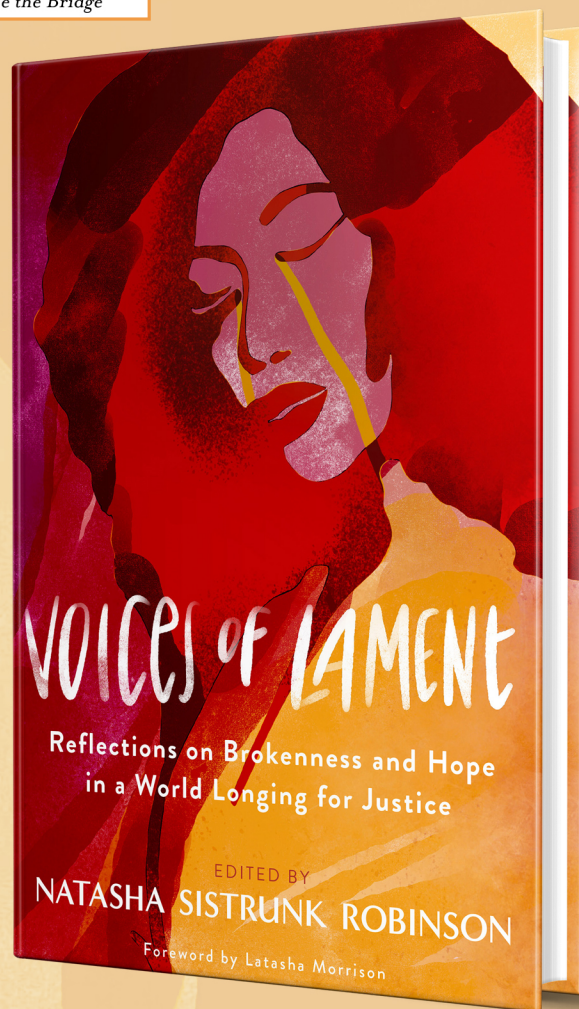
How often do we hear from Christian Women of Color writing for themselves and the world more broadly, about faith and how it informs their distinct experiences with injustice, lament, anger, and hope? Inspired by Psalm 37, with its outpouring of emotion about the human experience, comes a new collection of essays, poems, liturgies and historical reflections from 29 Christian Women of Color. Here are stories that invite empathy and healing, from an inclusive, intergenerational sisterhood of Christian women—writers, clergy, entrepreneurs and more—making public their private pain, while modeling how faith allows them to hold the tension of injustice and heartache with hope and joy.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR



Natasha Sistrunk Robinson is a proud native of Orangeburg, South Carolina, whose leadership skills were recognized early in life and led her to the United States Naval Academy (USNA) and then to the U.S. Marine Corps, where she earned the rank of Captain.

While working for the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., Robinson was actively teaching Bible studies, leading small groups, and mentoring fellow Christians in their faith. In 2014, Robinson earned a Master of Arts in Christian Leadership from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Her blog, *A Sista's Journey*, grew in popularity and led to bylines in Christianity Today, a column in Outreach Magazine, and the writing of her memoir, *A Sojourner's Truth*. Robinson has written five books and Bible studies about faith, leadership, mentoring, and racial healing, and she hosts the *A Sojourner's Truth: Conversations for a Changing Culture* podcast. In 2020, Robinson created T3 Leadership Solutions, Inc. to provide executive coaching and consulting to organizations. Robinson is a popular writer and speaker pursuing her doctorate from North Park Theological Seminary. She lives in Durham, North Carolina with her husband and daughter.



**VOICES OF LAMENT: REFLECTIONS ON BROKENNESS AND HOPE IN A WORLD LONGING FOR JUSTICE**

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# The Contributors

The 29 extraordinary contributors of *Voices of Lament* include well-known and new Indigenous, Black, Asian, and Latina women from different generations, who have answered the call to leadership in their communities. Their unique and personal contributions here include poems, liturgy, essays, prayers, and historical profiles of faithful women who have embodied the Psalm's theme.

The contributors include global leaders Sandra Van Opstal, Tarah-Lynn Saint-Elie, Noemi Chavez; award-winning contributors Patricia Raybon and Marlena Graves; theologians Kat Armas and K.A. Ellis; church and community leaders Kristie Anyabwile and Mariah Humphries; poets Grace P. Cho, Mazaré, and Ifueko Fex Ogbomo, and so many more voices of reflection. Art from Patreece Lewis, an Atlanta-based art teacher, therapist and muralist, appears throughout the book.



## Three Questions for Natasha Sistrunk Robinson

### **What may people miss about how the Psalms speak to modern life?**

The Psalms reflect the emotions and needs of real people, they are great entry points for anyone to engage with the Bible. The prayers, laments, songs, reflections, and history shared throughout the Psalms reveal authentic anguish, desperate need, AND purposeful petition. When we are looking for the right words to express ourselves, when we think that we are alone in our suffering, when we are angry or afraid, when we are convinced that God doesn't know, understand, or has forgotten us, the Psalms give us words of hope to sing.

### **Is this a book for Christian Women of Color only?**

This is a book for all Christians. When we think about leadership and theology in the United States, the typical practice is to seek the counsel, teaching, or example of white men. It was important to me that this book include women leaders, theologians, creatives and women who represent Christianity. Therefore, for white men and white women to engage with this book as teachable students, which I hope they do, reflects an act of humility.

### **Editing is a new role for you—what was it like? How did the group come together?**

It has been my honor and privilege to cast vision, pray, curate, partner in writing, champion, support, and lead this dynamic group of women because of what I know to be true. Faithful women know how to lead in the dark. As an act of faith, I invited Women of Color within and beyond my immediate network to do in public and through their writing, what so many of them have learned and continue to practice in private. In this way, we have created a community of love, hope, and mutual understanding and this project opens the doors of opportunity for more new and different Christian voices to be heard.