



## FEAR

*In response to John 16:25-33*

Lord, lately it seems that no matter where we turn, we are inundated with voices that amplify our fears. Some of us fear for our health, or the health of a loved one. Some of us are afraid that things will never go back to "normal." Some of us have feared for our own safety. Many of us, when we look deeper within, will find a fear that things are spinning beyond our control. We might even feel a deep-seated fear that there is just no way you could ever forgive us for falling into that sin that clings so closely once again.

And yet, when we see you on the night you were betrayed, even as you prepared to go to the cross and die, we find that your concern was that your followers would find peace. When it seemed very much like things were not as they should be, you knew that you were right where you were supposed to be. You had come from the Father and were now preparing to leave the world after finishing the work you came to accomplish. Nothing that night was beyond your control, because you hold all creation together. And what was true on that darkest of nights is no less true today.

Lord Jesus, turn our fear to joy as we remember again that you have overcome the world; you have put death to death! May we have a peace that comes only through knowing and trusting the truth about the risen Christ. May we take heart because we know that our redeemer lives, and that in a glorious and mysterious way, despite our present circumstances, we too share in the overwhelming victory that is ours in Christ. Help us to remember that there is certainly nothing in all creation that can separate us from God's love for us in Jesus our Lord. Let us remember that our sure hope is in Christ who will hold us fast: may we cling ever more closely to him.

Amen