



## **Fear Not**

### **A Midweek Prayer service**

**INVOCATION:** In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

#### **CONFESSION :**

**Leader:** Desiring to know the Living God in all His awesome, intimate glory, we now prepare our hearts in silence.

**Leader:** Lord, we come here tonight each with our own fears. Afraid of an uncertain world and of our place in it. Afraid, too, of how You are calling us to live and to love. *“In God I trust, I shall not fear, What can mortal man do to me?”*

**All:** Lord we know that we have made decisions, spoken words, taken actions, and nursed grudges that were rooted in our own fears. Forgive us. Help us to see that You are real and present, not only in the heavens, but in all the ordinary anxieties and frustrations of our days. *“In God I trust, I shall not fear, What can mortal man do to me?”*

#### **ABSOLUTION**

**Leader:** Tonight, Jesus Christ, the light of the world, has heard the fears of your heart and your longing for His peace. And from the still point of all eternity He is—even as we speak—leading you back to the Spirit of hope. In His name, your sins are forgiven. Fear not! *“In God I trust, I shall not fear, What can mortal man do to me?”*

#### **TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**Leader:** *Tonight we will listen to God’s Word using an ancient prayer practice called lectio divina, which means divine reading. This form of contemplative prayer is rooted in the biblical promise that the Word of God is living and active, and thru His Word God speaks to us, each in our own way. As we read the verses aloud, you’re invited to listen for a word or phrase or image that tugs at your heart. Then, after the reading, we’ll have a time of silence for you to ponder that word or phrase: to ask yourself what you know about it. What meanings or memories or associations it has for you. What other ideas or images come to mind as you consider it.*

**God's Word for tonight:**

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

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**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**Leader:** May the wisdom born of this time of prayer guide our feet in the days to come. **Amen.**

**HYMN:**

**DEVOTION**

**Final TIME OF Silence**

**REFLECTION PRAYER**

**Leader:** I invite you now to clench your fists. From this closed grip, we begin our prayer: "Lord, we know that this is our default setting, clinging to our own ways, tightening up in the face of uncertainty. But You have shown us once again tonight that You are calling us to live like this. As we move through the coming days, Lord, help us to approach the world with soft hands and open hearts. When we are tempted to turn in on ourselves, remind us that fear is the enemy of hope. Reawaken the Gospel Call you've given to each of us: that as we have received, so we pass on to others. That as we have been loved so freely, so freely we love.

**Leader:** We invite you now to offer up the prayers of your heart, either silently or aloud.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

