

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of September 18, 2016**

**When You Are Afraid**

*The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guide-posts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers.*

**READ:** Comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

*Ephesians 3:17-19*

**REFLECT:** Jesus fell on His knees, weeping and praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was alone, separated from His beloved disciples, and He needed to make a confession to His Heavenly Father. He was afraid. In His divine power, He knew exactly what His future held—an agonizing death on the Cross. In His humanness He feared that future, and He confided that fear.

These dramatic moments in Gethsemane tell me two things. Even when God doesn’t choose to change the circumstances, He sends an angel and the strength for us to cope. And secondly, prayer prepares us for our challenges. Jesus’ doubts became determination through the process of prayer. You and I have the same source of power available to us!

*Carol Kuykendall*

**PRAY:** *Father, please use my prayers to turn my doubts into determination.*

**DO:** Confess your fear to God and meditate on Christ’s fear as He faced the cross.

**ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website ([evbapt.org/archive](http://evbapt.org/archive)). The full Pause to Pray is used in our Wednesday prayer time. An abbreviated version appears in the Sunday bulletin.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Dr. David Lauber’s message—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts (Pastor Dave and Jennie anticipate retirement, tentatively late spring 2017). See Pause to Pray for specific prayer requests. See the Succession Planning page on our [website](http://evbapt.org), with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process. Pray for the meeting of the Succession Planning Group on Tuesday as they consider several options available to us, with the potential of moving toward congregational action this fall. (There will be an Open Forum on October 9 at 11:15am, at which time we will bring the latest updates and have time for questions and comments).

*\* A podcast of the sermon and PDF files of other material will be posted on the website by Monday.*

*Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website ([evbapt.org](http://evbapt.org)), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”*