

A Prayer given at our community Prayer Service held  
Tuesday evening in response to the  
Terrorist Attack on the World Trade Centre

God of All,

We in this planet have witnessed an overwhelming disaster which demonstrated the depth of the human predicament which besets the human race. It seems we cannot inhabit the earth without dividing it up into warring factions. We just put the cold war behind us. The threat of atomic massacres has faded. We thought all the wars were little wars that affected only distant peoples.

And now, the most powerful nation in the history of the world appears as vulnerable as any tiny state.

This same human race is capable of the sacrificial service offered up by the fire fighters and rescue workers on the streets of New York.

Our hearts go out to the victims and their families. We scarce can take it in. But we know it involves us also in the human race. Even as we do not know how to think or pray. But we do join our cries to the cries of the world embracing the victims and the bereaved. And especially those whose calling and dedication put them in the front line of the disaster.

God of Hosts, who'd have thought that our tall towers could be obliterated in minutes? Who'd have thought that the greatest and most sophisticated might would not be sufficient to keep us safe? And what will keep us from trusting alone that safety will be gained by the expenditure of greater and more sophisticated power?

Dear God, the fear that was the lot of the have-nots of the earth is now the lot of the haves. Save us from the fear drive rage that will magnify the fearsome state of our predicament.

Dear God, your word once spoke that perfect love casts out fear. We try everything else. Your word made flesh demonstrated that in the army of love only the wounded can serve.

Is that why we try everything else? Have mercy upon us. Don't give up on us. God in your mercy, hear our prayer.