



WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING?

BY LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN
INSPIRED BY LUKE 22:39-46
HOLY WEEK

Why are you sleeping? It's a simple question. In this case, it's a heartbreaking question. In anguish, Jesus prays for God to take this cup from him, though he still insists that God's will be done—an image of undeniable faithfulness.

I imagine Jesus daydreamed of ways he could get out of his imminent torture and death while blood and sweat poured from his body. I imagine his dreams of circumventing this path came crashing down when he found his disciples fast asleep. Why are you sleeping? In my reading of this text, I can feel the profound disappointment and exasperated anger of Jesus as he is almost comically abandoned by his community. In the midst of his most desperate cry for help his support system is taking a nap. This is just one of the millions of ways we as humanity have spectacularly failed in following Christ. I imagine in the moment Jesus awoke the disciples the chilling reality of his coming pain ran up his spine. He would be rejected, abandoned, betrayed, denied, and nailed to a tree.