



Wednesday Prayer

4th Sunday after Epiphany – Relationship to God and others as one

He has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

This passage is commonly understood to be not only the summary of the teachings of the eighth-century prophets, but the classic summary of what Yahweh required of all humankind. This one verse is the ultimate Cliff's Notes for the people of Israel. Jesus' reiteration and extrapolation of this passage in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) brings these mandates forward for the original disciples who literally walked with him, and for today's disciples who strive to live in this interface of justice, compassion and spirituality.

At first glance, it might be understood that the first two mandates of doing justice and loving kindness are about our relationship with others, and the last mandate refers to our relationship to God. But the power of the verse comes in understanding the correlation of the three mandates, that all three refer to our relationships with others, *and* all three relate to our relationship with God. They are inextricably intertwined. The measure of one relationship is the measure of the other.

The name and the work of Cherish All Children lives into this interface of our relationship with others, especially those who are vulnerable to injustice, and our relationship with God, through prayer, advocacy and action. In connecting with youth, parents and community members in prayer, and with words and actions of welcome, compassion and advocacy, we draw them into relationship with a liberating God who loves and frees them. Doing so is part of our own humble walk with God and strengthens that relationship. The measure of one relationship is the measure of the other.

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and free the oppressed. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness and always journey humbly with you. Amen.

Written by Kay Kinkel, MSW, LICSW, a Behavioral Health Professional with LSS, a member of the Cherish All Children Advisory Board, and a member of St. John's Lutheran in Shakopee, MN.

**In this final week of National Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month, we hope your prayers and actions will lift up those who are most vulnerable, and that our work together in partnership continues to raise up all children and youth into loving, safe and healthy relationships.*

Visit [Cherish All Children's Resources](#) to engage further and connect with us for ongoing support!