



Wednesday Prayer

5th Sunday after Epiphany – This Little Light of Mine

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

Many of you reading this may be familiar with the popular children’s Gospel song “This Little Light of Mine”. I remember singing this throughout my childhood and loved the actions that went along with the lyrics “hide it under a bushel – NO!” and “all around the neighborhood I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.”

Enjoy this performance of [“This Little Light of Mine” by Greater Works](#), auditioning as best choir group for America’s Got Talent. Comments from some who watched the video include:

“In times like these we have to be lights...I won’t let them dim my light!”

“Thank you Jesus for the little light”

“Be the light! Amen!”

If you watch the video, you’ll see clearly that this Gospel choir embodies the light and brings all their energy into sharing this with others. I’d argue theirs is not the stuff of a “little light”. Mine, however, sometimes feels much smaller, when self-doubt creeps in or frustration with not being able to see quick results in our work to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking. But Jesus says “You **are** the light of the world” not “you *should be* the light”. We **are** the light and we **are** the community that can share God’s glory this very day.

As January’s National Human Trafficking Prevention month closes, and we enter February’s Black History Month, let us be the activity of God in the world today. Let us work together to protect all God’s children, and especially those who have experienced injustice and are at greater risk of exploitation. May our prayers and our work shine brightly for the glory of God.

God, you give us the identity of being light for the world. Help us to live into and embody this gift through the work we do to keep your children safe from harm and change unjust systems. Give us the energy of this Gospel choir to shine, shine, shine. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

**Want to move from Awareness & Prevention Month into Action?*

Join us from wherever you are for a [Cherish All Children Winter Walk](#) anytime February – March! We’ll send you a Cherish All Children beanie or baseball cap with your donation of \$25 or greater, and you’ll be supporting our work all year long to keep children safe.