



Wednesday Prayer

Ascension of Our Lord – Clothed with Power

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:44-49

I’m drawn to these compelling words in this Gospel from Luke: *“Then he opened their minds to understand”* and *“stay...until you have been clothed with power”*. Words carry deep meaning, and sometimes we’re too busy, too preoccupied, or too closed off to understand. The word power itself holds different meanings for people based on its context and how power has been used or abused in their lives. Here, Jesus assures the disciples they will be clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit.

What if we opened our minds to understand all that Jesus has shared with us in his time on earth? What if we opened up to the power we have been given to serve in this world? My team at LSS Metro Homeless Youth Services has been engaged in deeply intentional work to create a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging road map for our team and the youth we serve. We’ve found some roadblocks in our thinking, especially as it relates to the power to change larger systems. We’ve been coached to reframe these narratives and claim the power that can make positive change begin. Here are a couple of the phrases:

Current Narrative: We don’t have the power to influence the larger organization.

Reframe: We are uniquely positioned to influence and make change within the organization.

Current Narrative: We work within systems that are part of a legacy of racism and injustice. And we are working with people who are deeply impacted by these systems.

Reframe: We work to be anti-racist and to dismantle systems of white supremacy, colonialism, and other structures that sabotage our efforts.

Dear God, we thank you for the power you have given us through the Holy Spirit to make positive change begin. May we reframe our minds to the ways we can impact harmful systems and structures in our work to protect children and youth from exploitation. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.