



Wednesday Prayer

5th Sunday of Easter – Love through Justice

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we ought to love one another.

1 John 4:11

In this season of Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and we, too, feel the relief the disciples must have felt that first Easter of being saved from our own sin and death. We sing "Alleluia!" with relief and confidence in knowing that Jesus is King. But the resurrection does not mark the end of the responsibilities of discipleship. We might be relieved to know that God has justified us by faith through the death and resurrection of Jesus, but we are not relieved of the responsibility to extend God's extravagant love. We can live out our responsibility by loving one another in our work for justice through prayer, education and advocacy.

Martin Luther said, "The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God, and love brings the person to people." The work of Cherish All Children is based on this teaching. Our faith brings us to God in prayer as we cherish and love children by praying for their safety and for those who have been exploited or trafficked. And, we encourage others to pray with us. Love brings us to people by providing safe places for children and youth to gather and establish healthy relationships. Loving people goes one step further through educating youth and adults to prevent exploitation, and serving as advocates for justice so that all might be freed of the bonds of those who exploit children and youth.

During these days of Easter, celebrate the love of God and the gift of new life that comes to us in the resurrection. Revel in that relief! But don't let it lull you into an apathetic relief from our responsibility as disciples to do justice. Feel the strength and power that comes through it, and then empowered by the Holy Spirit, reach out to others in that love. Reach out through your work with Cherish All Children and through the many ways we can act for justice.

God of justice and love, we raise our thanks and praise to you for the love and salvation that comes to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Empower us through your love to continue to do justice in our world, country, and community so that all may have justice and know your love. Amen.

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