



Wednesday Prayer

8th Sunday after Pentecost – Make a Path

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹²The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Psalm 85: 8-13

What is your context in reading Psalm 85? I was drawn to verse 11 *“Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.”* I’ve been spending a lot of time outside recently, watching what springs up from the ground in a new location we’ve recently moved to, and looking up while on walks to observe the trees and the cloud formations. I’ve marveled at the variations in tree color and their vibrancy after a particularly wet spring and early summer. Others may be suffering from the flooding in many areas and struggling as they tend to the land. Our contexts are completely different, yet I pray that God’s steadfast love and faithfulness will meet us all where we are.

If I think of righteousness as what is just and good in the eyes of God, I cannot simply live in my own awe of nature, but I also must work toward the flourishing of all. What does this look like in the context of Cherish All Children? Children and youth are going to camps, the ELCA Youth Gathering, and hopefully engaging in many outdoor activities with family and friends. We also know that some young people don’t have these same opportunities. This Psalm ends with the phrase:

“Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.”

How might our work make a path for youth in need of someone to walk alongside them, to help keep them safe, to show them the beauty in God’s creation?

In this season, I pray that we each may reach out to a young person in our lives and communities to support their growth and to share God’s goodness.

Creator God, as we stand in awe of all that springs up from the ground and all you have placed in the skies, refresh us. May we seek what is right and good for all, preparing paths of righteousness so all may flourish. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.