



Wednesday Prayer

16th Sunday after Pentecost – HOPE

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Isaiah 35:4-7

The prophet Isaiah provides strong imagery of hope, of life away from fear and desolation into joy and restoration. As we begin a new season of learning – in schools, Sunday School, Confirmation classes, Youth Group, Adult Education – how are we going to share God’s vision for our world? How will we share visions of hope? Opening our eyes and ears to new ways to live together, leaping into new paths, and listening and speaking truth together is a place to start.

We are living in a time of heightened mental health struggles for young people, needing to know that we see them, we are here to listen, and we are here to support. Words like “Be strong, do not fear!” may sound too simple and clichéd if not followed up with intentional conversation about real issues they’re facing in their lives. But how many of us know how to even begin these types of conversations? As we go into this fall season, Cherish All Children will continue to offer resources to engage with youth, to begin developing the relationships that allow us to go deeper into conversations that support youth. Some of these will be our own tools, and others will be from carefully vetted youth-serving organizations.

Here’s our first [“2nd Sunday Safety”](#) tip for youth leaders and others who engage with young people: Who is a Safe Adult? Our hope is that by helping young people identify safe adults in their lives, they will be able to reach out for support when fear, crisis, or danger arises.

God, help us to be a safe adult for the young people in our lives and communities, and share visions of hope amidst life’s challenges. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

Feel free to forward these on to other adults in your kid’s lives or to your youth leader!

[Safe-Adult-Fact-Sheet 6.14.21.pdf \(sharedhope.org\)](#)

[How to be a Safe Adult - Darkness to Light \(d2l.org\)](#)