



## Wednesday Prayer

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas – In the Beginning

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-5**

New beginnings. The baby Jesus brought into the world as the beginning of God's unceasing love for us. New light of longer days. The Christ child as a sign that even in the darkest days of winter, God is with us and bringing new life.

We are longing for light and life to fill our souls as we enter a new year. While I don't make new year's resolutions, I am sure to take time for reflection on what is most important as I enter a new year. What do I want to carry forward from this past year, and what is best to let go of? I am thankful for each one of you, for the work we were able to accomplish through Cherish All Children – new relationships made, more people aware of how they can support young people in staying safe from exploitation, young people trained in keeping themselves safe in both online and in-person interactions. The light of Christ shone through each one of you as you prayed for children and youth throughout the year. These things we will carry forward into 2025.

I will do my best to let go of fear and anxiety, and to support young people in finding safe outlets for letting go of their fears and anxieties as well. I pray that you will reflect on and identify what may need letting go of in order to move forward in our work together. I'd love to connect with you in 2025 to hear what's working in your interactions with youth and how we might better collaborate together. Really – reach out by phone or email!

This piece of sidewalk art caught my attention this week:



Sending warmth if you are cold  
Forgiveness if you are blamed  
Justice if you are persecuted  
Love around the globe

**As we begin a new year, may we send warmth, offer forgiveness, work for justice and spread love. God we pray that your Word may shine through us. Amen.**

---

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.