



Wednesday Prayer

15th Sunday after Pentecost – Clear Instructions

“Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, ‘When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.’ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.” Amos 8:4-7

Trampling on the needy, brokering the poor as commodities one can own and sell, these ancient and current practices make me weep. Where is God when our children are being bought and sold? The text reminds me through the prophet Amos, that God is here, watching, remembering, and probably weeping too. God is with us, and has given us clear instructions on what not to do!

Children and youth are not products for the marketplace. There should be no buying or selling of human beings. It’s just that simple and yet so challenging to eradicate. But try we must and we must lift each other up in this effort so as not to despair. Baby steps are steps. And when we combine our steps, progress can be made.

Valley of Peace is one of the three pilot congregations that launched Cherish All Children. We pray for every one of our youth from baptism through age 25. We partner with the elementary school across the street, providing school supplies, KidPack weekend food, winter clothing, books, and tutors. We support Avenues for Homeless Youth. We are advocates, having assisted with the passage of Safe Harbor legislation with an active email/phone tree of people ready to write, call, or visit our legislators. We have moments of great energy, and times when we despair.

Loving God, Creator of all that is, you have promised to not give up on us. Help us to not give up either. Lead us on the path to caring for all of your children, to love and value them as you do. You’ve given us clear instructions, help and guide us to follow them. Amen.

Written by Nancy Rogness, Faith Formation Leader at Valley of Peace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, MN; Former Minneapolis Area Synod Task Force Leader; Sexual Assault Survivor.