



Wednesday Prayer

2nd Sunday of Advent – And a little child shall lead them

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. Isaiah 11:6

This imagery – wolf and lamb, leopard and kid, calf and lion – describe unimaginable partnerships as a way to open our minds to the coming king, a humble baby who will show nations the way of justice.

On Sunday, I visited one of our dedicated Cherish All Children churches, with the baptism of the pastor's baby boy a part of worship. As she held this little one, promises were made to nurture him in faith and prayer, and to teach him to care for others and work for justice and peace. The Children, Youth & Family Ministry Director provided the name of a person in the congregation who will regularly pray for this child as a part of their Cherish All Children ministry. Little children looked on in the beauty of these moments.

As we travel through the Advent season of waiting for the little child, listen for the messages of young people as they work for justice and peace. Here are some messages I have observed recently:

"I'm thankful every day because I met good people like you who treated me like a human being with worth and dignity." ~ A 16-year-old boy in the Survivor Care of Love146

"It doesn't matter and it shouldn't matter what the victim was wearing, because a crime is still a crime, and victim-blaming isn't an excuse for it." ~Joshua Carley, Visual Arts Sophomore at Texas A & M reflecting on the "What Were You Wearing?" exhibit in their student center exploring sexual violence myths

*"After escaping an abusive relationship, I stumbled into my brother's church, seeking spiritual shelter and a place to nurse my emotional wounds safely. I was hurting so deeply and felt incredibly broken. I isolated myself socially but still wanted to connect desperately."
~Anonymous, reflection from a Youth Survivor of sexual violence*

Humble Christ child, may we listen to the messages of young people with compassion, commit to work for the safety of all children and youth, and work with them for justice and peace. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.