



Wednesday Prayer

Eve of Epiphany – Rekindle the light inside

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Isaiah 60:1-3

In the Biblical time this was written, the people had suffered under the world powers of the day; they were in a time of dark despair. The prophet Isaiah instructs the people to arise out of this despair, rekindle the light within them and shine outward to restore the community.

We all want to know we can make a difference in our world, but sometimes it seems so much bigger than any small act I can accomplish. You may work multiple jobs to make ends meet, care for an elderly spouse or parent, run around fulfilling all the activities of a busy family, or be homebound wondering how you can take action. You may think “Where is the time to do more, to let my light shine? The problem is bigger than me.”

And then we remember that yes, it is bigger than me, and that God is the light within us. So we can shine our light through a conversation with a young person struggling in some way and let them know *we are here to listen and love them unconditionally*. We can shine our light by reading an article about preventing sexual violence and *share what we learned with others*. We can shine our light by attending an event in our communities that supports young people experiencing homelessness, addictions, or other risk factors that could lead to sexual exploitation. We can work within our churches to create safe and welcoming spaces for young people to experience true community and boundless grace.

There are countless ways we can let the light shine in our everyday actions. As we begin a new year, let’s pray together to find God’s light within us, and do our part to support the safety of children and youth.

God of glory and light, shine within us and rekindle our spirits to act in ways that support the health and safety of all young people in our communities. Amen.

*A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
(from hymn “O Holy Night”)*

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.