



Wednesday Prayer

5th Sunday in Lent – Our rock in a weary land

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” John 11:25-26

Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land. My Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in a time of storm. (African American Spiritual) It's impossible to know how many times this spiritual was sung by the generations of African American slaves in our country. Spirituals sustained them through the darkness of their reality by reminding them of the hope of the resurrection, the hope of a better life than what they were experiencing on earth. Sadly, slavery still exists in many forms. Those who are exploited by sex traffickers have no choice in where they're taken and what they're required to do. And racism and oppression are deeply embedded and perpetuated in human trafficking.¹

I've been thinking about those held in sex-trafficking during these days of isolation and quarantine. Most of us have safe, warm homes that we share with people who love us, yet we still complain when we get the directives to “stay home” and “maintain social distance from others”. For many, home is not a safe place, which is what leads many into exploitive relationships in the first place. Those who are trafficked may not have a home or the option of practicing “social distance” from those who might be carrying the COVID-19 virus.

So how do we continue our work with Cherish all Children during these times when we can't even gather in our church buildings? How do we spread the life-giving message of Jesus' resurrection to those who so desperately need to hear it? First, we can ALWAYS PRAY wherever we are. We can also plan for the glorious day when the virus is under control and the church doors will open again. Use this time to plan via email or video conferencing so education and advocacy can continue in our congregations and communities. This week, [Cherish All Children recorded a radio program about online safety](#) while youth are at home and using social media more than ever. Use this time to have conversations at home and to reach out by phone, text, or other devices to youth who may be isolated or in unsafe homes.

Jesus is our rock when we're in a weary land. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Cling to the hope and peace that comes from God and share the lifeline with all who need to hear it.

Blessed are you, Oh Lord; you sent your son to save us from sin, a gift far greater than we could ever deserve. Give us faith and strength and hope to show our deep gratitude with acts of mercy, justice and advocacy. We pray for all who are in unsafe conditions, especially those exploited through sex trafficking, that all might know the true freedom of your redeeming word. Amen.

¹ <https://love146.org/lets-talk-about-race-and-human-trafficking/>

*Link to [Week 5 Lenten Prayer](#)