



Wednesday Prayer

2nd Sunday of Easter – Assurance and Hope

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:3-9

As a sexual assault survivor, I’m not sure these words would’ve brought me any comfort at that time, probably the opposite. I was defiled, I was not protected. Tested by fire, “I failed.” For many years, I continued to carry the shame and blame. Our job in Cherish All Children is to do everything we can to prevent childhood sexual abuse and exploitation. It is also our job to “be” the love of Christ with our abused brothers and sisters – over and over and over again, until a little crack can open to let in light and healing.

We all need that “new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” But first, we need to live out the promise of protection, beyond just words. We need to prove our commitment, our support, and our unwavering love to those who have been harmed. Then and only then, can many of us discover that this love actually started with the one who created us in the first place. We weren’t alone; the love of our Triune God was there, and this Creator wept with us. Those tears are needed for faith to sprout, for love to grow and be felt. New birth into a living hope! Let’s work to prevent this scourge, and let’s work just as hard to be the love and hope and assurance of our living God.

God of hope, give us the blessed assurance that through our trials, past and present, you are always with us. Renew our strength to be the love of Christ through our actions in the world and ignite our hope for healing to bring about new birth. Amen.

Written by Nancy Rogness, Faith Formation Leader at Valley of Peace Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, MN; former Cherish All Children Minneapolis Area Synod Task Force Leader.