



## Wednesday Prayer

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Reach out

***“Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me... you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (excerpts from John 14:1-6)***

Our hearts *are* troubled. Our minds are troubled. How can we know the way? Jesus’ words spoken as a goodbye to the disciples were meant to calm their fears as he prepared them for his coming death. He knew the grief that was to come, and his words would not take away this grief, but assure them that through him, they must go on living. He goes on to say in verse 12, “the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these.”

In this time of global crisis, we are all collectively grieving in many and varied ways. My inbox is filled with ways to take care of myself, ways to be in community virtually, ways to support youth – because we do not know the way, and we’re accustomed to knowing the way. So, maybe today this Gospel message can lead us to trust in Jesus’ words “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” And then go the next step to “do the works” and reach out to a young person in your life to share a message of care and love. In a time when youth are spending increasing time online, real connection from a trusted adult is all the more important. Find out more at [parentandteen.com](http://parentandteen.com).

This week, commit to reach out to a young person in your home or wider community. We may not know the way, but genuine connection can go a long way towards protecting children and youth from potentially harmful online relationships. Bless you on the journey.



*Chalk art discovered on a walk in my neighborhood.*

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If you'd like to hear how LSS accompanies over 11,000 young people annually as they journey to find safety, stability, and hope – join us for our virtual [Benefit for Youth](#) on Tuesday, May 19, 11:45-12:30. Feel free to put my name down as your “Table Captain!”

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.