



Wednesday Prayer

8th Sunday after Pentecost – Sighs too deep for words

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26-27

We're in the midst of stressful times. The global COVID-19 pandemic is surging in the US creating not only major health concerns, but also micro- and macro-economic problems and concern about how our children can best be educated this fall. Children are online more during this pandemic, giving predators even greater access to them. The fight for justice is taking place in our streets, with some resorting to violence. The political landscape is divisive and vicious as we prepare for a presidential election. Many are feeling overwhelmed, and the thought of something as broad and intense as carrying on the mission of fighting sex-trafficking can seem to be too much. Sighs too deep for words.

Paul reminds us that God is here with us. When we might struggle in carrying out our Cherish All Children promise of prayer, Paul reminds us in this letter to the church in Rome that "the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." When we are mired in confusion and worry, the Spirit is with us to intercede "according to the will of God."

This is an eschatological promise, hope to the end of times. Faith is not a magic wand that brings about the changes we think should happen before our eyes. We might not see evidence that our prayers, educating, engaging and advocating are making a difference right now, today, in our own corner of the world, but in God there is hope. God will make all things right, according to God's will. Even if you feel that you can't form a prayer to save your soul, know that God IS saving your soul, and bringing hope to all, including those held in the injustice of sex-trafficking.

Spirit of hope, hear our sighs of despair and intercede for all the saints with sighs too deep for words to bring about God's will in the world. Amen.

Written by Kay Kinkel, MA, MSW, a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and Mental Health Therapist and an Advisory Board member with Cherish All Children.

A note from Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director – Prayers answered!

At first, this seemed a hard time to hold a fundraiser for our work – an active, joyful 5K in the midst of a pandemic and the killing of George Floyd. And then, the Spirit interceded and so many came together in their own communities to support Cherish All Children – together we raised over \$19,000! Thanks be to God. Together, we will work to end systems of oppression and injustice that deeply affect people of color as we act to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking.