



Wednesday Prayer

16th Sunday after Pentecost – Stories of the generations

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 145:3-5, 8

Do you have stories that have been passed on from generation to generation in your family or church community? These beloved stories are shared to carry both the joys and the sufferings forward from one generation to another, weaving history and experiences together. We share Biblical stories with our Sunday School children to teach them about God's mighty acts and help them wonder about what this means in their own life. Jesus was always telling parables (stories) to challenge adults to think more critically about God's mercy and love and how they might act with justice and care for those most vulnerable.

At this year's National Sexual Assault Conference*, over 5,000 of us came together virtually to hear stories about Bold Moves we can make to end sexual violence. In the last session, "[Reimagining a World without Sexual Violence](#)", Ariel Jacobson from the Resonance Network shared that sexual violence prevention is "a sacred responsibility to the generations that came before us and to those who will come after us." Another speaker shared that storytelling is how we hold all the generations together, creating sacred relationships of understanding and trust. All the speakers encouraged us to get in touch with the connection to our own stories provided by our ancestors in order to move forward to create a more just world. Tannia Esparza shared in her imagining how the people got brave and the people realized they could make bold moves. The people who caused harm listened and learned how to start to repair and restore.

We were asked to consider and reflect upon:

- *I dream of a world without sexual violence where...*
- *What will it take to get from today and the world we live in, to the world without sexual violence we dream of?*
- *What story do I need to remember and connect with to create that world?*

Eternal God, you've given us the stories passed from generation to generation, commending your works so that we too might act boldly and justly. As we reimagine a world free from sexual exploitation and all forms of sexual violence, help us to connect to our own stories and make bold moves forward together. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

*View more sessions from the [2020 National Sexual Assault Conference BOLD MOVES](#).