



Wednesday Prayer

Christ the King Sunday – The immeasurable greatness of his power

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.
Ephesians 1:17-19

We are living in the anxious times of a worldwide pandemic. Many of us are feeling fear and despair about the spread of the disease, and possibly even feeling imprisoned with the restrictions recommended or imposed due to the re-escalation of the COVID-19 crisis. The thousands who bear the symptoms of the illness surely feel imprisoned by restricted breathing, intense pain, long hospitalizations and separation from their loved ones. When imprisoned, whether mentally, physically or both, it's human nature to focus on one's own anxiety and discomfort and lose sight of hope and the concerns of others. Yet even though Paul was in prison and his life was at risk when he wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus, his heart was full of hope and his prayers were for others, not his own situation.

Prayer is foundational to the ministry of Cherish All Children as we strive to keep children and youth safe. Our prayers are especially needed as children and youth are restricted from healthy outlets like school, church and extra-curricular activities. They're bored and their time online is increasing, which puts them at greater risk of contact with perpetrators. They need our prayers more than ever right now. Cherish All Children is also reaching out online in many ways during the pandemic, so don't assume that you have to wait until life is "normal" again to continue bringing hope by advocating, educating and equipping.

As our liturgical church year comes to a close this week on Christ the King Sunday, follow Paul's example and break open the prison of despair by remembering the hope that comes to us in the kingly power of Christ Jesus. In that hope, pray for others, especially those with COVID, our health care workers, emergency responders, and youth who are imprisoned by the sex-trafficking industry or are in danger of being exploited. Be mindful and share the hope of "the immeasurable greatness of his power" today and every day.

Gracious God, comfort and heal our anxious hearts with hope, and break us free from the bonds of fear and despair. Empower us to pray for all who have lost sight of the hope and strength that comes to us each and every day through the kingly power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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