



Wednesday Prayer

7th Sunday of Easter – So that we may be one

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. John 17:11-13

Calendars are filling up again – graduation parties, delayed weddings and funerals, in-person visits to a care center where a loved one lives. As we re-enter “into the world”, we may be carefully making decisions about how that might look. What were we involved in before that we may wish to let go of? What is most important that we want to hold on to? What will bring us joy? How do we give and receive the grace that may be needed?

This past weekend, I attended a wedding and visited with friends I hadn’t seen in well over a year. I was a bit apprehensive, as we have varied views on many issues of the day and I wasn’t sure how this may play out. What I discovered was grace with one another as we entered discussions over the weekend. And we shared times of tears and joy together.

“...protect them in your name that you have given me.”

One couple asked to hear more about the work I do with Cherish All Children and thanked me for the ways in which we seek to protect children. We talked about how hard this world is today for young people, for the increased ways children are vulnerable compared to when we were young. We expressed a shared desire to bring people together, to work together for the good of all, especially those most vulnerable.

“...so that they may be one, as we are one.”

Even with our different ideological, political, and religious beliefs; even with the tensions of challenging ourselves and each other to learn how we have harmed; and even as we pursue justice in differing ways – we seek to be one. As we re-unite with others, let us continue our work together to protect children and youth from exploitation. Let us come with a new and open understanding of the injustices that contribute to exploitation and trafficking, working as one in our common goal.

Teacher and Protector, as we transition back into the world in new ways, help us to listen to your teachings, protecting children in your name, and remembering that we are one in you. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director, and community advocate for racial justice.