



## Wednesday Prayer

Holy Trinity Sunday – Here I am. Send me!

**Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?  
And I said, “Here I am. Send me!” Isaiah 6:8**

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, the “birthday of the church”. Birthdays may find us taking stock of our lives over the past year and looking ahead to the coming year. This year that reflective process is particularly poignant, when you consider that a year ago, most church leaders were figuring out how to lead congregations through a long-term pandemic, and we were starting an emotional roller coaster through a year of missing family members, losing loved ones, losing jobs, or figuring out how to do our jobs at home with children also schooling from home. But now, a year later, with the available vaccines, we’re starting to shed the masks, breathe a bit more freely, and look ahead to new life in our families, churches and communities.

What did we learn about ourselves as individuals and congregations in the trials of COVID? How do we move into the light of health and wholeness, out of a life-threatening year into live-giving ministry? It gives me pause to think of the children and youth held in exploitative situations. When will they have this same opportunity to move into the light? The Lord is saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” Opportunities for us to respond affirmatively to this invitation come to us in new and old ways. As we re-open our buildings, we can offer small groups for prayer, education and advocacy on behalf of youth. We can also re-invite youth back into our education and youth programs in a safe place with caring adults. As we shed our masks, we can share smiles of God’s love and compassion. Returning to public spaces re-opens opportunities to watch for youth who might be in danger.

As we enter the season of Pentecost and hear again about Jesus’ ministry on earth, let’s re-commit ourselves to this ministry we have the privilege of leading – working together in the joy of mutual ministry to pray for all children and youth, welcoming them in new ways, educating and advocating for their safety and healing. The Lord is always saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” Now is the time to respond, “Here I am. Send me!”

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, we give you thanks for the gift of grace that comes to us through faith and brings us into your family as your children. We pray that the God who created us, the Savior who redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit that burns in our hearts sends us out to be your eyes, ears, hands, feet and voice in the world to bring light to all who live with the darkness of the threat of exploitation and injustice. Amen.**

---

Written by Kay Kinkel, MSW, LICSW, a Behavioral Health Professional contracted with LSS of MN, a member of the Cherish All Children Advisory Board, and a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Shakopee, MN.