



Wednesday Prayer

3rd Sunday after Pentecost – Urge us on

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
2nd Corinthians 5:14-17

In this passage, Paul reflects on the ultimate love of Christ, a love that brought him from persecuting the church into a ministry of serving Christ. I find encouragement in his words “the love of Christ urges us on.” We so often need urging on as we face the difficulties of our lives and the challenges of our work together. I’m reminded of *long* ago when I ran marathons and the encouragement of people on the sidelines urging me on with “Keep going – You got this!” This was especially important in mile 20 and beyond, when each step was harder and harder.

In this past year, we’ve lost loved ones, and we’ve faced hard truths about how we’ve harmed others as Christians, as the powerful, as the dominant culture. It’s been challenging to keep stepping into the difficult issues of our world. And yet, there is a new creation. In Christ we know to “Keep going – we’ve got this.” The hope and love of Christ I receive each week in worship and with the community of believers urges me on.

This summer Cherish All Children will be writing a guide for Confirmation classes and high school youth groups on Safe & Healthy Relationships. It’s especially important to be present with young people as they move into this next year – as everything becomes new again. Sharing the love of Christ, listening to their fears, joys and sorrows, and equipping them with the skills to enter into safe and healthy relationships. We are all vulnerable right now, in need of each other’s grace. The vulnerabilities of our youth are compounded with the events of this past year and the constant barrage of social media. We can be there for them, providing unconditional love even as sometimes teens may push adults away as a normal part of their development. Keep going – in Christ we’ve got this.

**Urge us on Lord, into a new creation. Give us the strength to share your unconditional love with all the young people we encounter, to guide them into hope and new life.
Amen.**

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

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