



## Wednesday Prayer

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Celebrating God’s Blessings

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.**

**He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

**Ephesians 1:3-6**

Celebrating and giving thanks to God for all the blessings we have been given seems a perfect reflection after the generosity poured out by many in support of our Cherish All Children 5K. With over 70 people walking or running across Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, and South Dakota, we honored God’s gifts to us in our giving to others. Generous friends and family sponsoring these 5K participants came together to raise over \$22,000 to support our work! Thanks be to God!

God’s blessings were also present in stories that were shared as folks walked together in their communities. Confirmation students, high school youth, and adults participated together from Holy Cross in Glenwood City, WI. Leaders and members from Faith-Lilac Way, Robbinsdale, MN walked together after Sunday worship. I joined a group from the St. Paul Rotary Club and engaged in many significant conversations as people asked about the work we do.

A recent college graduate wanted to know more about what he and friends can do to make a difference – what are prevention steps he and his friends can take in their everyday lives? We talked about the power of young adults helping to shift the culture, to speak up in ways generations before have not. I shared the work of a student I met who started a group “Football Players Against Sexual Violence” at his college which has now evolved into a larger campus-wide “Athletes Against Sexual Violence” model for healthy relationships.

A retired woman told of a time she was on a flight where the man and young boy seated next to her set off red flags in her mind. When she got up during the flight, the flight attendant asked if she had noticed anything unusual. The flight attendant suspected this was a potential trafficking situation and had alerted authorities to intercept and question the man upon landing. The flight attendant asked if the woman would help stall the man and young boy until others were off the plane. We talked about the importance of education and awareness so that we can work together as protectors of all God’s children. Thanks be to God.

**God of abundant blessings, we celebrate together the love, grace and generosity you give us each and every day. May we live out our lives to love and protect your children. Amen.**

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