



## Wednesday Prayer

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – A humble guest

### Psalm 15

**O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?  
Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;  
who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends,  
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;  
in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;  
who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

The psalmist's opening questions connect so literally to experiences I've had in this past week. First, I'm wondering about who may abide in your "tent" here on earth? Who are we welcoming in to the safe places in our communities?

The city in which I live, along with many cities across the country, has experienced an increase in people needing to shelter in tents or outdoors due to so many of life's difficult circumstances colliding. My church has experienced this increase as more people gather, rest, and sleep in the church's garden space. Unfortunately, we've also seen that where the vulnerable gather, others follow to exploit and vandalize people and property. We are meeting with community leaders to learn how to be good neighbors, listening to the needs of our unsheltered neighbors, and how we might provide God's protection through our actions.

The second question asks who may dwell on your holy hill? Again, I'm thinking of this in terms of what holy hills we create here on earth, and how we welcome neighbors and guests to dwell peacefully. I had the opportunity to be a humble guest along with four other Cherish All Children partners at the [Survivor's Memorial](#) celebration to stand together in solidarity, collaboration, and strength. As we walked the pathway up a slight hill to the Memorial, I felt the significance of honoring the truths held by each of them. And then as we gathered in the larger group of supporters, advocates, and survivors, I was humbled to be a guest, to be welcomed into this sacred space.

We heard from the directors of the [Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition](#) and the [Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#), two coalitions working together across the state to create systems of safety, raising up the voices of survivor leaders. As I listened and witnessed the solidarity of all those in attendance, I am so humbled by all who speak their truth, and I pray that we work to create and welcome all to safe spaces.

**Amen.**

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