



Wednesday Prayer

Christ the King Sunday – The Power of Gratitude (replay)

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1: 7-8

God as the Alpha and the Omega, an all-encompassing presence in our times of need. I looked back at our 2019 Christ the King prayer, what seems a very different time than now, yet only two years ago. I’m choosing to replay it here, as a valuable reminder of the power of gratitude.

As we work hard through all the troubles, fears, changes, and tumults in our world, as we work to be the reformers of the wrongs we see, as we work to support young people through all that society and broken systems throw at them, it’s hard to remember gratitude. But gratitude is essential. “Essential to relationships. Essential to faith. Essential to our wellbeing. Gratitude inspires our praise, frames our requests, and *follows lament as we emerge from painful experiences*.”¹ God is our refuge and strength. God will help when the morning dawns.

As we approach Thanksgiving, let’s commit to bringing the power of gratitude into our lives on a regular basis. I actually have a daily reminder on my phone to pause, breathe, and give thanks. Sometimes that’s what it takes in our full lives.

- ❖ I am grateful for young people, for their honesty, resilience and the pure joy you can catch in their smiles.
- ❖ I am grateful for youth workers, outreach workers, social workers, teachers, and all who raise up the beauty and talents of children and youth.
- ❖ I am grateful for your ongoing prayers for the safety of all children and youth.
- ❖ I am grateful for all who work in the movement to end sexual exploitation and trafficking.
- ❖ I am grateful to all who are able to financially support the work of Cherish All Children.
- ❖ I am grateful for a God of refuge in times of trouble.

Adding now, in 2021:

- ❖ I am grateful for grace and compassion, and I pray for our ability to use these qualities with those who have been harmed by injustice.

Eternal God, you are always with us in times of trouble and in our daily work. Help us to live with gratitude, sharing our thanks with others. Amen.

¹Brad M. Griffin, Fuller Youth Institute, <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/power-of-gratitude-this-season>