



## Wednesday Prayer

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – Here am I; 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 am I; send me!”  
Isaiah 6:8**

This verse from Sunday’s first lesson portrays a willing and excited servant of the Lord. And in reading the full lesson of Isaiah 6:1-13, we’re introduced to a vision that the prophet Isaiah has – a vision filled with a mighty and powerful God sitting on a throne, six-winged seraphs flying about, one touching Isaiah’s mouth with a live coal to blot out his sins. Following this, he hears the Lord’s request and answers “Here am I; send me!”

I think I may have looked for the closest place to hide out until all the scary chaos had calmed. Or, maybe not. When I speak to groups about the scary and chaotic world of exploitation and trafficking, the most common question I get is, “What can I do?” [“Here am I; send me!”]

Reading further, to Isaiah 9-13, we hear that the people will not listen, they are unwilling to hear it. This makes me think of another common response when talking to faith communities about the issues of exploitation and trafficking of children, “Oh, that doesn’t happen in *our* community.” Sadly, we know this happens in communities across the United States, in cities, suburbs and rural areas. Thankfully, we know we can come together to raise awareness, share safety measures with young people, pray for their safety, and take action.

Bishop Patricia Lull of the Saint Paul Area Synod, called for [“Committees for Public Witness”](#) to work boldly in some of the most challenging aspects of community. Cherish All Children has a Saint Paul Ministry Team working as one of these committees and we’re inviting Minneapolis church members to join us. We met recently to affirm our commitment and create goals for our work together in 2022. “Here am I; send me!” If you’d like to find out more to start a multi-church group in your area, please reach out! Recognizing these pandemic years have been difficult, maybe this is the time to re-energize our commitments together for the safety of children in all our communities.

Here’s a fun and active way you can get started in February or March – join in a [Cherish All Children Winter Walk](#)! Get outdoors and support our vision of raising healthy generations free from sexual exploitation! We’ll send you a warm and cozy Cherish All Children beanie.

**Almighty and powerful God, help us to willingly and excitedly claim, “Here am I; send me!” as we work together for safe communities. Amen.**

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Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.