



Wednesday Prayer

6th Sunday after Epiphany – Blessed peacemakers

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

Luke 6:20-23

This Gospel continues with Jesus turning upside down the riches and the contentment of those who are not poor – a call to wake up and change their ways. We are in a time of waking up from our “poor” ways – whether that be poor in spirit, poor in understanding, poor in learning, poor in truth. February is Black History Month, and I am continuing my engagement in learning truths I may not have known, in opening my understanding to another’s troubled story, and how this impacts our mission of protecting all of God’s children.

Author Osheta Moore, in her book “dear white peacemakers”, shares her core conviction that *“peacemaking is partnering with God to create shalom and that the greatest calling for peacemakers in this moment is to practice anti-racism.”*

Reflecting on Luke 6:27-28 “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” Ms. Moore shares a story of her son being called the n word by a coach at school and the courage and strength it took for her to address the coach with God-like love. She writes,

“Love will look like addressing their actions, holding them accountable, and expecting change. Love may also look like praying for them, encouraging them to do better, and setting healthy boundaries while they are still in-process around race and justice.”

Anti-racism work *is* anti-violence work, turning upside down the beliefs, systems, and structures that have allowed exploitation and trafficking of children to continue in our communities. To learn more, join me in a webinar on February 24 by anti-trafficking scholars [How Did We Get Here? History, Race, Trafficking & Public Health](#).

God of justice and love, I pray that we take your Gospel truths as our call to listen with open hearts, to learn, understand, and work for the justice that will make all free. Amen.

If you’d like to support our work by getting outdoors and active, join in a [Cherish All Children Winter Walk](#)! We’ll send you a warm and cozy Cherish All Children beanie.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.