



Wednesday Prayer

Palm/Passion Sunday – Even the stones would shout with praise

As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”
Luke 19:37-40

How often have you witnessed someone being told “Shhh!” when they’re expressing joy? Children shushed by parents when their joy is spilling out, or adults shushed in the workplace for their laughter being too loud. The Pharisees wanted Jesus to silence the joy and praise of the multitude of disciples excited at his entry into Jerusalem. I love this response of Jesus – Even the stones would shout out! Let the praises ring out!

Each year at my church, we select a “star word” for Epiphany. You pick from a basket, and see if the word is something that speaks to you or that you wish to live into in the coming year. The word I chose was “Praise”. At first, I thought, “Oh gosh, maybe I better pick a different word. These are pretty hard times for praise.” And then I thought, “maybe this is exactly what I need to live into.”

The national organization Love146 that works to end child trafficking and exploitation sent an email this week sharing one of their values: Unfiltered joy. They shared, *“In solidarity with children who are overcoming, we will laugh and play, celebrate the dignity of each person, and cherish the breakthroughs and wins along the way. We hope no matter what chaos you juggle or how heavy it is, you feel permission to have joy.”*

So whether you are praying for the safety of children from exploitation, or from the ravages of war, or from gun violence, or from mental health and other challenges – be reminded that we do not need to hide our joy while we also carry our pain. We are given the promise of God’s unceasing love. Even the stones will cry out and the children will laugh and play. Our praise can be a form of radical love in these times.

Dear Jesus of radical yet humble ways, remind us of the beauty of fully expressing our joy even as we battle chaos and pain. May our praise reflect your never-ending love. Amen.

View our week six Lenten prayer, and share our [Lenten Prayer Series](#) with your church and others so we may keep all children and those who care for children in our prayers.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.