



## Wednesday Prayer

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – You're only with me a little longer?

**Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."**

**John 13:33-35**

This past Sunday I had a conversation with another parent of young adults, a friend who was feeling concern over his recent lack of engagement with his kids, especially as it relates to their faith. This is commonly the time young people disengage with the church of their upbringing, and also a time parents struggle with this. Both natural outcomes.

I, too, have young adults that have shifted to just Easter and Christmas church-going habits. But I'm not too concerned, as I see how they are showing Christ's love for others in the world in who they are and how they engage in community. We have conversations about finding "church" in their lives, however that looks for them right now. We sing "*For health and strength and daily bread we praise thy name O Lord*" in a round when together with our extended family. We join in peaceful protests together – whether that's marching together, or engaging in online conversations around social justice topics, or participating in Cherish All Children's 5K together to support our work.

In today's Gospel, Jesus was preparing the disciples for a life without his physical presence, towards a life where they would carry out his work in the world. He was gentle with them, using the endearing term "little children" (however I don't recommend that with our young adults!), and letting them know they will not be abandoned – he will always be with them. All children, our youth, our young adults, need to know they will not be abandoned – we will always be with them. Especially for young people who may not have this support within their families, we can be the church and love them unconditionally through our actions and through our work together as Cherish All Children.

**Eternal God, we need your presence in our lives just as young people need us to be the consistent and loving presence in their lives. Help us to bridge the gap from childhood to young adulthood, supporting and unconditionally loving the young people in our lives and communities. Amen.**

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Join us to learn about our [Safe & Healthy Relationships Youth Guide](#), and how YOU can make a difference in keeping children and youth safe and bring this resource to your faith community.

**Lunch & Learn: Safe & Healthy Relationships for Youth**

**Thursday, May 19, Noon-1:00pm CST**

Find out more and get the Zoom link [HERE](#)

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.