



## Wednesday Prayer

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – To Listen eagerly with an open heart

**A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.”**

**Acts 16:14-15**

I can picture what Lydia must have been like. Capable yet humble; a community leader yet open to guidance; a strong member of her family who cared for their spiritual well-being. A seeker of truth and a host to travelers, perhaps with graying hair and kind eyes. She let the spark of the Gospel into her open heart, and it kindled a flame of faith in her home.

Was there someone like that in your life when you were young? Someone who listened without judgement, explored the big questions with you and supported your faith journey? I knew many such women growing up who played a role in shaping my faith as a child and adolescent: Edna Hong, Lois Brokering, Pernelle Hoenke DeVore, Jeanne Narum, my mother Ruth, and many others.

Maybe the world needs more Lydias! Do you have the opportunity to be like Lydia? Do you listen eagerly with an open heart? Do you cultivate healthy relationships with young people who may need extra support? Maybe it's providing a little boost by noticing their kindness, or maybe it's checking in with them about their mental health. Maybe it's a gesture to let them know they are not alone.

**Mothering God, open our hearts to eagerly hear your Word. Open our ears and eyes to the struggles and hopes of the young people in our lives. Open our hands to offer care and support where it is most needed. Amen.**

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Written by Gay Gonnerman, a member of Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer, Minneapolis, MN, where she leads the Faith Formation ministry. She is also a development officer for a Twin Cities nonprofit and Advisory Board Chair for Cherish All Children.

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](#)