



Wednesday Prayer

4th Sunday after Pentecost – Will you be one of the seventy?

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.

Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

Luke 10:1-6

I missed church last Sunday. And now, mid-week, I’m really missing church. I’m finding I really need that time in community, that time connecting with others who share in faith and in hope, to sustain me through the week. So I’m reflecting on who are the “seventy others” who are greeting me with peace in the midst of this hard week.

I’m also reflecting on who are the “seventy others” who will greet and sustain women who oftentimes have so few choices due to poverty, homelessness, racism – just some of the root causes of exploitation and trafficking – women who now have fewer choices than they had just one week ago. Those who are most vulnerable, those who have been exploited, who did not have a choice of being bought and sold – these women and girls now disproportionately bear the weight of even less control over their own body. As a woman with so many privileges in my life, I pray that I might be one of the seventy others who may sustain another through difficult choices and complex life stories.

[Bishop Eaton’s pastoral message on SCOTUS ruling regarding Roe v. Wade](#) urges that we, as the body of Christ, recognize individual’s moral agency, stating, *“I want to acknowledge that this decision affects many people, especially those whose pregnancies unfold in complex situations and the people who love them. Many now find their moral agency restricted because federal law no longer guarantees access to legal and safe abortion. They already face difficult moral questions, and the Supreme Court decision only adds to their anguish. As our social statement reminds us, we have both the freedom and the obligation to serve neighbors in complex situations. As a church, we are called at this moment to recognize and spiritually support people who are struggling with decisions around pregnancy.”*

God be with us as we serve the needs of our neighbors, listening to difficult and complex life stories, offering peace in a disconnected world, sharing your love with those who need it most. In your name we pray, Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.