



Wednesday Prayer

Holy Trinity Sunday – The truths we cannot bear

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:12-15

This first line in John’s Gospel gripped me as I thought of all the things in just this past month that I have not been fully ready to bear. First, I think of the Sacred Sites tour I attended with other St. Paul and Minneapolis Area Synod members learning the true history of the Dakota people on the land we currently occupy, land taken through manipulation and violence. I think of how this trauma continues as too many Indigenous families bear the pain of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIW-R) happening today. We can listen to their stories and honor these truths.

Next, I think of the horrific mass shootings of children and adults in these last few weeks, and think of how I couldn’t even let my mind go there for about a week until at an Ascension Day breakfast for youth leaders where we listened to the names read of each child and adult. I wept, and thanked these strong leaders for guiding us in this truth-telling. I lit three candles for three young men I know who have died by gun violence and I prayed to the God of love to embrace their families and each one of us.

Finally, I think of the work we do to educate communities and engage them in the work to prevent sexual exploitation of children and youth. It’s *hard* to bear the truth of this violence enacted upon children. We can remember that we do not need to bear this alone. The Spirit is working in and through us, and we are surrounded and embraced by God’s love.

Meda Stamper, in this week’s Working Preacher commentary, beautifully states,

“Even when we do not have the spiritual muscle to be as wise or as loving as we would like, the Spirit holds all the truth of God in us, and as we grow more and more in our love for the one who is truth, we are able to carry a greater weight of glory in and for the world.”

Spirit of Truth, guide us in our care for all, that we may hear all the hard truths and know you are with us to bear our sorrows and embrace us in your love. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Executive Director of Cherish All Children.

If you’d like to support our work together, join us in the [Cherish All Children virtual 5K](#) happening June 24-26. Walk, run, hike or bike in your own neighborhood, enlisting friends and family to sponsor you! Or sponsor me or another participant helping us raise \$20,000 to keep children safe.