



## Wednesday Prayer

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent – God’s Love through Children

**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

**John 3:16-17**

God sent his Son into the world as a baby, a child who would speak truth and love to all. I was so fortunate to experience this love in the world these past couple weeks – God’s love shining brightly through the children and elders I encountered.

God’s abundant love in the world showed up as I visited a village in San José Las Rosas, Guatemala as a delegation of ILAG, Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala. This village had experienced the isolation of Covid without visitors for three years, and we were greeted with gracious hospitality and love. One of the elders showed us how he planted the entire hilly field by hand each year. He shared how the land and harvest come from Dios, nuestro creador; God, our creator. This Sunday’s Psalm 121 seems so relevant:

*I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

During worship, I felt God’s love in the world as a young girl inched closer and closer to me until her legs were side by side with mine and she rested her head on my shoulder. I heard God’s love in the songs our two young adults led with the children. These young adults who are in a time of their lives when they’re not attending worship, but the love of God shows through in their pure joy and connection with the children as they joined in song and dance.

God’s love was present in one of the long bus rides where I shared Cherish All Children’s work with ILAG’s president, Pastor Karen Castillo. She is a wise and strong advocate for women, girls, and all children and community members, promoting education and faith formation. We discussed possibilities of translating our Cherish All Children Youth Guide for use in Spanish speaking communities – a very exciting way to expand our prevention work!

Finally, back in my home congregation, God’s love shone through a 7-year-old as she made the sign of the cross on my forehead with ashes. Entering the Lenten season in love.

**Loving God, you continually bless us with your love, providing your Son and the children among us to continually show us this gift. Amen.**

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Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director and member of Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Join us each week for our [Lenten Prayer series](#), to keep children and *all* who provide support to youth in our prayers as we journey through this season of Lent.