



Wednesday Prayer

4th Sunday after Pentecost – Lives cut short by fear

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:24-31

Fear has been used throughout history to gain power over others. We are seeing fear used today to separate us from one another. Jesus’ message to the disciples is to go out recognizing they will endure suffering and knowing they will need to have complete dependence on God. Fear will not have the last word. All will be uncovered, all secrets known, do not fear. Jesus says, “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul” as humans have used the power to kill as a weapon. But God alone holds our souls, we are counted, we are of value.

This past Sunday, we sang “God, We Gather As Your People” from *All Creation Sings*. I appreciated and have been reflecting on verse three:

Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame, so afraid of who they are and whom they love. May the message now be banished that your love is for the few; may their faith in you renew.

June is Pride month. It is a month to celebrate and value all LGBTQIA+ folks to live as their true selves and celebrate who they are. Too often throughout history those who identify as LGBTQIA+ have had to live in fear and were made to feel shameful for who they are – oftentimes from those who should be the most protective – their own families and faith communities. In our work as Cherish All Children, we recognize that heightened vulnerabilities increase the risk for sexual exploitation and trafficking. When LGBTQIA+ youth are rejected, the consequences can be devastating. Please read more to understand and work toward better support: [How Child Trafficking is Related to Risks for LGBTQ+ Youth - Love146](#), [PRIDE | ReconcilingWorks](#).

God may your presence be known as we work to dispel fear and divisions. May our message be one of love for all, Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director and aspiring ally.