



Wednesday Prayer

21st Sunday after Pentecost – A New Song for A New Day

**O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.
Psalm 96:1-4**

Last week our Wednesday Prayer writer, Gay Gonnerman, wove together the horrifying international events in Israel and Gaza with the hope of the Good Shepherd who leads us through the darkest valleys. This week's Psalm tells us to "sing a new song" and declare the glory of the Lord to all nations. What is this "new song" and how can we possibly sing for joy amidst all the trauma being inflicted upon innocent lives?

Another one of our Wednesday Prayer writers, Meg Corrigan, sent this response to Gay's reflections last week:

"Gay's message stresses that Christ, the Good Shepherd, is with those suffering from the trauma of war, hostage taking, and sex trafficking. As a survivor of a sexual assault at gunpoint, I know how difficult healing from severe trauma is. Whether trauma comes all at once and is over quickly, as mine was, or the trauma is experienced over and over, trauma is hard to process. And for those suffering from the loss of loved ones to traumatic events, healing may seem to take the rest of a lifetime. God is with us through it all: the dark valley where hope appears an unreachable goal; the reliving of the trauma for days, months, years; the dawning of that new day that comes on the heels of our faith as tiny as that mustard seed. Thank you, Gay, for the reminder that life is sometimes impossibly hard, but God is there for us every small, agonizing step towards His light."

Meg shares that God is with us on the dawning of that new day. Maybe that new day is when we're able to sing a new song to all the world. In our work to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking, we're sometimes met with the traumatic stories of what some young people have endured. Please continue to pray for justice in this world, for a place where youth are safe and loved and cared for. Pray for healing for all who have suffered that they may come to know a new day and feel God's presence with them on their journey.

Healing God, we praise you for your glory even as we search for the hope of a new day. Be with us as we engage with young people, that our words and our actions may bring a sense of safety and your steadfast love. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

*Cherish All Children is coordinating our LSS Metro Homeless Youth Services [Youth Holiday Gifts](#) program this season. You can participate individually or as a congregation in bringing hope and joy to a young person!