



## Wednesday Prayer

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – God is at work in You

**“...at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”**

**Phillians 2:12-13**

A few years ago, while shopping in Target, I overheard a conversation between a little girl and her mother in the next aisle where the little girl was enamored with the hair accessories. The mother patiently indulged her for a few minutes, then proceeded with her shopping saying, “I’m going into the next aisle now.” The little girl shrieked and yelled, “Mommy don’t leave me!” The mom very lovingly replied, “I’m not leaving you, I’m inviting you to follow me.”

Many people have times in their lives, especially difficult times, where they feel that Jesus is distant from them. The church in Philippi possibly felt this way with their founder and leader in prison again because he continued to preach the gospel. We might expect Paul to feel angry and alone under these circumstances, but instead, he writes to the followers in Philippi with joy and thanksgiving. He encourages them to continue to follow Jesus, to live out the salvation they have in Christ because God is at work within them. Paul reminds them that he has not left them and neither has Jesus, and both again invite them to follow.

When we live out the salvation that we have in Christ, we’re not bound by prison walls because our freedom is in Christ. When we live as witnesses to Jesus’ salvation, we can encourage others who are imprisoned by exploitation or injustice, inviting them to follow and to find the freedom and eternal love that comes from following Jesus. God is at work within us.

**God of salvation, you sent your son to seek the lost and invite us to follow him into a life of freedom and salvation. Enable us to always follow him and live out our salvation in faith and in witness to your constant presence, love and grace so that others may come to you as well. Amen.**

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Written by Kay Kinkel, MSW, LICSW, a Behavioral Health Professional with LSS and a member of the Cherish All Children Advisory Board.

If you’d like to see photos of Cherish All Children at the “Just Love” Women of the ELCA Triennial in Phoenix last week, check out our [Facebook page!](#) Then like and follow us to keep in touch!