



## Wednesday Prayer

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – A Time to Build Each Other Up

**Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ...So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake...let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:1-3,6,8,11**

We observe the seasons changing outside our windows – bare trees, chilly air, and the anticipation of the holidays approaching. Time reflected in nature and time reflected in our liturgical calendar. As we approach *this* Advent, these words feel so immediate as we grieve the loss of so many lives in Israel and Palestine and strive for solutions to this age-old conflict:

*When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them.*

In this letter to the Thessalonians, these words point to the day when Jesus will come again, at an unknown and sudden time. *God has not destined us for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (v.9).* We are being called to keep alert, to continue on the path of justice and mercy, and to work together to bring light to a weary world.

As humans, we get weary. And as Christians, we are reminded that we are called to build each other up and share the light of Christ with those in our communities. This week I met with college students in one setting and mostly retired congregation members in two different Cherish All Children events. In both, I found people wanting to connect and make a difference in their communities. Whether that's through active participation to support young people or through prayers for the safety of neighbors across the world and prayers for the safety of all children and youth.

As our seasons change, may we continue to work together to build one another up, to protect children and youth, and carry on the mission of Cherish All Children. While we wait for the day of Christ's return, may our waiting be actively motivated and sustained by hope.

**God of eternal life, transform our weariness into action and our troubles into hope as we go through the change of seasons. May we share mutual encouragement and build each other up in community as we await your coming. Amen.**

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Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

\*Our LSS Metro Homeless Youth Services programs could use your help in this season! Building up needed supplies to support young people is critical at this time of year. Visit [Youth Holiday Gifts](#) and request our "General Needs List" to purchase items as a part of your Advent giving.