



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Announcing new life!

Easter Prayer

April 17, 2017

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that Jesus had said these things to her. John 20:16-18

Over the past couple years, Cherish All Children has dedicated a good deal of time and energy on the topic of ending the demand for sex trafficking.

One of the actions we have promoted in congregations is watching the video [The Mask You Live In](#), which addresses the ways boys and men are socialized, which often results in violence towards others, including sexualized violence.

This past week, I learned of a [new effort to help young men of color heal from violence they have experienced](#). Ryan Shanahan, research director of this initiative, states:

If the young men who are victims of violent encounters are given the help that will allow them to heal from trauma, the researchers believe those young men will become less likely to commit acts of violence themselves. The working hypothesis is that the cycle of violence happens because hurt people hurt other people because they never heal.

In our world today, Jesus would be seen as a man of color.

Today we celebrate Jesus’ resurrected life after the violence perpetrated against him. We also celebrate this new initiative. May it bring fresh healing and hope to the lives of many.

Gracious and holy God, thank you for the hope of Jesus’ resurrection, that love is stronger than violence and death. Help us continue to seek the root causes of sexualized violence. Open our eyes, ears, and hearts to those around us hurting from violence. Help us carry the joy of Easter with us each day as we cherish and serve your children. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

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Today's *Easter Prayer* was written by Deacon Amy Hartman, National Director of Cherish All Children.

Prayers also requested for:

- All of God's children, that their lives and futures are what we are seeking to protect and cherish. May we stay focused on what is best for God's children.
- Exploited children - that they would be rescued and healed; vulnerable children - that they would have safe people and places; perpetrators - that they would stop their abusive and exploitive behaviors; bystanders - that they would intervene on behalf of children whenever possible.
- Protection of Cherish All Children leaders, congregations, synods, and the overall organization, that God would thwart any efforts to undermine this ministry.

Cherish All Children

Cherish All Children is an ELCA ministry that equips congregations to prevent child sexual exploitation.

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We believe that "Love born of faith in Jesus Christ calls us all to attend to, discuss, resist, and reject the system of sexual exploitation" ([ELCA Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation](#), pg. 1.)

You are invited to [give financially](#) to support this ministry. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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