



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Wednesday Prayer

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

A nation of rebels...Forgive us.

He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them. — Ezekiel 2:3-5

On this day, as so many of us will be celebrating our nation's Independence Day with family and friends, I imagine that we would prefer to not think of ourselves like the people of Israel, as a nation of rebels who have rebelled and transgressed against God.

Yet, I believe that these are words we need to heed. God continues to send prophets - that is you and me - to proclaim that what we have done to children and young adults and what we have left undone in terms of advocating and working for justice is not God's will. So we do well to humbly and simply say to those who have been wronged, "Forgive us." As we do so, we will open ourselves to healing and relationship.

O God, you are always ready to give us an open ear and for that, we are ever grateful. So we come today asking you to forgive us for being a nation that has rebelled against you in countless ways and continues to do so. The ways in which we have sexually exploited children and young adults or turned a blind eye to their cries of suffering are particularly egregious. Awaken us by your Spirit and through our partnership with Cherish All Children may we bring light and hope and healing to those you call us to be in relationship with. Amen.

Today's Wednesday Prayer was written by Pastor Jonathan Zielske, of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Glenwood, Wisconsin.

Please also pray for healthy conversations amongst parents, children, extended family, and friends, that we don't shy away from difficult subjects of faith and justice, but rather listen, learn and grow in Christ.