



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Wednesday Prayer

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:15-20

Martin Luther once stated “He who sings, prays twice.” I grew up in a musical home with a father who directed choirs in many different churches, different denominations. Singing in these choirs was a family affair for us. Martin Luther’s statement hung in our home for many, many years. As an adult I became aware of a change in myself and Luther’s words began to ring true in my heart. Today I find myself smiling or crying as I sing our hymns each week. They become a part of me and ultimately my way of praying. I read recently in the April 2018 Gather magazine that music can offer strength, it can comfort. It can be a spiritual experience. In other words, it can be a prayer.

Raising our voices in song together goes beyond our individual efforts and experiences to become something collective. Something that is more. When we join together singing hymns about our longing for justice or for children, we are hopeful. We can close our eyes and sing the refrain ‘The Lamb is the light of the City of God.’ We are singing and asking for God to come into our hearts that we might give back to others through prayer. Let’s encourage one another to sing these hymns as prayers to God for the sake of children abused and exploited sexually, that they may yet live the fulfilling lives which God has planned for them. Let’s sing for God’s justice and love for those who have made unwise choices and exploit children. Listen to the words this Sunday as you sing and praise God. Think of them as a prayer of grace and hope. Sing and pray twice.

Gracious God, Listen as we sing your praises and lift our voices to you. Hear the words of hymns this Sunday and during the week as prayers of hope and justice for the children being exploited as well as a plea for predators to change their hearts. We pray this in the loving name of Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today’s Wednesday Prayer was written by Dianne Klafehn, Upstate New York Synod Cherish All Children Leader. Please pray for all our leaders throughout the country working to keep children safe and loved.