



# Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

## Wednesday Prayer – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

***So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20***

Ambassadors, according to Merriam-webster.com, are special envoys, official representatives to a foreign country. As disciples, we are representatives of Christ's kingdom on this earth. We're surrounded by beliefs and behaviors that are very foreign to Christ's life and teachings, including those who traffic and exploit children and youth. We get mad, we want to stop it, but we can't control the actions of other people. We can only control how we live our lives and the actions we take.

We're called to be Christ's ambassadors in this foreign land, representatives of God's kingdom. When we're diligent in engaging with the world as Christ engaged with the world, we can make a difference. We may not be popular or rich or successful by the standards of this foreign land, but we can offer much more – hope in a broken world. Our embassies are our homes and church communities where people can come for sanctuary from the dangers of the surrounding culture.

As ambassadors, we can model healthy relationships, pray for each other and for those who are suffering in the prevailing culture, and educate and advocate for change. Most importantly, we can be Christ to others, showing another way of being in the world. We can welcome the downtrodden with love instead of judgement. We can be reconciled to God, and we can share God's love with those who need to hear it so desperately so they can also be reconciled to God. While we can't control others who choose to behave in harmful ways, we can continue our work to protect and cherish all God's children. We can control how we live our lives, and thanks be to God, we have a perfect example to follow in Jesus Christ.

***God of grace and mercy, you loved us so much that you came to us in the only way we could understand, as a human being. You lived a life of prayer, teaching and advocating for those who were treated badly by the culture they lived in. We pray that we have the discipline to truly be your ambassadors in the world, to live in a way that we bring your profound message of love and hope to those who have not heard it, especially those who have suffered from human trafficking. Amen.***

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Today's Wednesday Prayer was written by Kay Kinkel, MA,MSW, formerly rostered as an Associate in Ministry in the ELCA, and now a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker.