



Wednesday Prayer

3rd Sunday after Pentecost – Send us out

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Matthew 9:35-38

This Gospel is relatable to anyone trying to hire workers these days, or work a small non-profit with not enough staff to truly do the work as you'd like. There's much work to be done, but the laborers are few. There is deep compassion for the harassed and helpless and a desire to "cure" many injustices we see.

This past weekend we had our annual 5K fundraiser, with the option for people to participate when and where it works best for them (as we did through the pandemic), or to join in walking together along a park trail in Minneapolis. Our participation overall was down from the last two years and I commented during our walk that people's lives have gotten so busy again and there are so many things competing for our attention.

Many of our churches too, are focused on how few there are to complete the tasks of the church. Fewer people may be attending and fewer people are available to volunteer, join council or other teams that have traditionally carried out much of the church's work. Jesus is about to commission his disciples to carry out *his* work and to seek out more and more who will join to do the work of the Lord. "But how?" we might think. Jesus gave the disciples authority to do his work – to "cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons." He sent them to do the work as he had done. Not lesser work, but to go out with the Spirit speaking through them.

I don't have the answers to bringing in "more laborers" but I do accept that God as the Lord of the harvest is ready to send *us* out. We can go forth with prayers for more to join us.

Lord of the harvest, we are a busy people, filled with compassion for those in need and for the safety of your children. We pray that as you send us out, we go knowing the Spirit is guiding us. We pray for more and more to join in this mission, Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

We have raised \$8,600 so far through our Cherish All Children 5K fundraiser. There's still time to [donate](#) and support our mission to prevent child sexual exploitation & trafficking. Thank You!