



Wednesday Prayer

The Transfiguration of our Lord – Holding each other up

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. Mark 9:2-9

The Transfiguration is one of those surreal stories of the Bible. The disciples were terrified, they didn’t know what to say, they hear God’s voice telling them to listen to Jesus, and then they’re sent back down the mountain. I wonder what their conversations were with each other when Jesus wasn’t around. I may have thought at times, *“This is getting to be too much. I just want to go back to my old life. This is scary...At least we have each other.”*

This past week included some deep sharing with partners of Cherish All Children who are experiencing pain, grief, and anger over the loss of relatives from Covid-19; concern and care regarding a girl who was missing and has thankfully been located; and lingering trauma shared by survivors of sexual violence. All that’s swirling around us can cause us to cry out as in Isaiah 40:6

The voice said, “Cry out!” And he said, “What shall I cry?”

This passage was raised up in a devotion time this week as we listened to the cries of our friends in Christ, holding each other up and then praying together. We gathered, and carried one another on this journey, strengthened by a wondrous and powerful God.

Our work to share resources to support one another in faith communities may not be considered “mountaintop” experiences like that of the Transfiguration, and yet these daily actions may be just what is required of us. Coming down the mountain, being with each other, holding each other up.

We are each other’s beloved. Our tender care is needed through our prayers, daily actions, support for our young people and for one another.

God of mountaintops and valleys, we come to you with our pains, fears, and loving concern for others. Help us to hear the cries of those in need and come together to hold one another in your loving care. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director, and community advocate for racial justice.