



## Wednesday Prayer

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent – God created us for good

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.  
There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;  
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world. Psalm 19:1-4

The beginning of this Psalm celebrates the beauty of God's created world. Many of us have taken time in this past year to be outside, exploring parks or nature in our own neighborhoods that we may have never noticed before in our busy lives. I have taken every opportunity possible to celebrate the beauty of creation as my mode of self-care, sharing stories and pictures with others on social media and on Zoom calls. I even created a [Cherish All Children Winter Walk](#) to get us all outdoors in the healing presence of God's creation (and there's still time to participate!)

I'm also learning the importance of knowing our own story in addition to listening to the stories of others. Lent is a time of self-examination, requiring us to slow down, and to do the hard work of recognizing and repenting for wrongs we have done, known and unknown. Learning our own history in new ways, with a new lens toward a common humanity and justice for those who have been oppressed.

March is Women's History Month. We can take this time to recognize and celebrate all the amazing women that have worked tirelessly for justice. We can also take the time to recognize and honor all those who have been harmed by sexual violence throughout history, and those who continue to be harmed today. And we can pray that our words and actions going forward will celebrate how God created us for good.

**Mothering God, praise to you for your whole creation. Praise to you for the faithful women whose witness has sustained us through the ages. Thanks be to you for Sarah and Hagar; Leah and Rachel; Miriam; Ruth and Naomi; Esther; Mary, the mother of Jesus; the prophet Anna; the apostle Mary Magdalene; Mary and Martha; and the apostle Junia.<sup>1</sup> May we raise up women throughout modern history, and all who hear the cries of the oppressed and work for safe and just communities. Amen.**

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Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director, and community advocate for racial justice. <sup>1</sup>Closing prayer excerpts from [ELCA International Women's Day booklet](#).

[Link to Cherish All Children Lenten Prayers to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation.](#)