



## Wednesday Prayer

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – You Belong

**See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 1 John 3:1-2**

“You belong to Christ; in him you have been baptized. Alleluia! Alleluia!” This line reminding us of our baptism and sung during our outdoor Easter vigil was comforting in these difficult days. Our world is striving on so many fronts to honor our common humanity rather than to see only our differences. For us as people of faith, that commonality stems from the truth we hold that all of us are children of God. And that relationship stems from the vast and extraordinary love of God towards us—**all of us**.

The writer of 1 John was exhorting a community that was experiencing division over the belief that it was more important to overcome their differences and focus on their common inheritance as children of God.

Too often, we instead witness the pain inflicted by humans on each other based on differences and on the imbalance of power. And the consequences of that pain span many generations. The writer of John wants us to instead stand together in God’s love against the forces that threaten and endanger us all.

As children of the same divine parent, we are all sisters and brothers, and should look after one another’s welfare. Our faith and our baptism (our adoption into God’s family) call us back to our responsibility to reflect our identity as children of a loving God, to honor others as daughters and sons of the same God, to protect one another from danger, and to work toward justice for all creation.

**Loving God, fill us with compassion toward all of your children, especially those who are most vulnerable to harm by those more powerful than them. Teach us how to break cycles of abuse and exploitation. Help us reflect the good news and the hope of your resurrection to all we meet. Amen.**

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Written by Gay Gonnerman, a member of Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer, Minneapolis, MN, where she leads the Faith Formation ministry. She is also a development officer for a Twin Cities nonprofit and Advisory Board Chair for Cherish All Children.