



## Wednesday Prayer

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Love through justice

**Beloved, since God loved us so much, we ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11**

Following the announcement of the guilty verdict on Derek Chauvin in the death of George Floyd, local Minneapolis TV station KARE 11 interviewed A. L. Brown, a civil rights attorney. The interviewer first asked him about his personal reflections. In his reply he states, "I am relieved that the jury found Chauvin guilty on all three counts, but I want to be clear, that this does not mean that I'm relieved of the responsibility to continue to work for justice." In this season of Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and we, too, feel the relief the disciples must have felt that first Easter of being saved from our own sin and death. We sing "Alleluia!" with relief and confidence in knowing that Jesus is King. But just as the verdict of Derek Chauvin is not the end of injustice in our country, the resurrection also is not the end of our responsibilities of discipleship. We are not relieved of the responsibility to extend God's extreme extravagant love by loving one another through our actions, our prayers, and our education and advocacy work.

Martin Luther said, "The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God, and love brings the person to people." The work of Cherish All Children is based on this teaching. Our faith brings us to God in prayer as we cherish and love children by praying for their safety and for those exploited and abused by traffickers, and by encouraging others to pray with us. Love brings us to people by providing safe places for children and youth to gather and establish healthy relationships. Loving people extends further through educating youth and adults to prevent exploitation, and by serving as advocates for justice so that all might be freed of the bonds of those who exploit children and youth.

During these days of Easter, celebrate the love of God and the gift of new life that comes to us in the resurrection. Revel in that relief! But don't let it lull you into an apathetic relief from our responsibility as disciples to do justice. Feel the strength and power that comes through it, then empowered by the Holy Spirit, reach out to others in that love through Cherish All Children and other acts of justice.

**God of justice and love, we raise our thanks and praise to you for the love and salvation that comes to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Empower us through your love to continue to do justice in our world, so that all may know your love and be saved. Amen.**

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