



## Wednesday Prayer

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas – In the Beginning

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-5**



New beginnings. The baby Jesus brought into the world as the beginning of God's unceasing love for us. New light of longer days. The Christ child as a sign that even in the darkest days of winter, God is with us and bringing new life.

We are longing for light and life to fill our souls as we enter a new year. While I don't make new year's resolutions, I am sure to take time for reflection on what is most important as I enter a new year. What do I want to carry forward from this past year, and what is best to let go of? I am pleased with the work we were able to accomplish through Cherish All Children – new relationships made, more people aware of how they can support young people in staying safe from exploitation, young people trained in keeping themselves safe in both online and in-person situations. The light of Christ shone through each one of you as you prayed for children and youth throughout the year. These things we will carry forward into 2022.

I will do my best to let go of fear and anxiety, and to support young people in finding safe outlets for letting go of their fears and anxieties as well. I pray that my letting go of these things will open a path for greater calm and ability to listen and be fully present.

What will be new? Who will we reach that is longing for connection and the support of a safe and caring adult? I pray that our new beginnings will bring beauty, light and love where fear and darkness have been.

**God of light and life, fill us with your love that we may go into this new year devoted to our mission, lighting the way for others. Amen.**

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Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.