



## Wednesday Prayer

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – What Should We Do?

**“And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”... Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”.... Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” from Luke 3:7-18**

Three times in these verses from Luke chapter 3 we hear people ask John the Baptist, what should we do? I am not surprised that there were questions of what to do after John proclaims repentance to the crowd he has just called a ‘brood of vipers.’ Of course, individuals would be wondering what repentance looks like for me.

As we wait in this season of Advent to proclaim the Good News of the birth of Christ, we too are among the crowds wondering what do we do? What does it mean to let your light so shine before others that they see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven? This, as we hear in our baptismal liturgy from Matthew 5:16.

In a world that is longing for peace, what does it mean to shine with the light and love of God? In particular, as we think about preventing child sexual exploitation and trafficking, we cry out, what should we do? Where can we even begin? How do we protect all of God’s children?

I do not have the answer, which is why I am grateful for the work of Cherish All Children. I turn to the promises of baptism, the promises that John is proclaiming in Luke 3. At Valley of Peace Lutheran, every time a child is baptized we make promises, like all congregations. But one of the specific promises we make is connecting the child with a prayer partner. This person promises to hold the child in daily prayer from birth until age twenty-five.

As the person who has the opportunity to introduce the ministry of prayer partners, I can say that it brings the family great comfort and joy to know the commitment and care of our congregation. Family members are overwhelmed with gratitude knowing that there is someone who knows their child by name and says their name in daily prayer. I give thanks for Cherish All Children and their work in encouraging prayer as we continue to wonder what should we do. Please know that the simple act of prayer is bringing great comfort to so many families. Please join with me in making a commitment to pray for a young person as a way to proclaim the Good News for all of God’s Children.

**Good and Gracious God, we give you thanks for the baptismal promises that sustain us in our daily life. May you bring to our mind a young person who we can hold in prayer as a way to encourage them and remind them that in their questions and growing they are never alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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