

Norman Kennedy Presbyterian Church

May 31st, 2020

PENTECOST SUNDAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH:

- A return to worship in the sanctuary is getting closer! Possibly by June 14th **IF** we are willing to have half the congregation attend at 2 different times. More information will come to you as soon as the Elders have time to consider the Provincial guidelines.
- Elders: please reserve June 9th as meeting date to prepare for what may be a limited re-opening for worship services.
- If you have difficulties opening the links to musical accompaniment or special features, contact Taeyang (306-999-5113)- he will give you some guidance.
- **COMMUNION TODAY** – if you called ahead and booked a time, wonderful. Please arrive **only 5 minutes early** so the group before you has time to exit.
- Those who use **The Daily Bread** devotional booklet, the one for June, July & August, it is now available – come by the church to pick up your copy.
- Food Bank Bin is located in the Narthex and you can contribute to it anytime – on Sunday or when the church office is open. Also the recycling bin is available.
- Please take note of this: the NKP website is up and active again. Here's the address: www.nkpchurchregina.ca Check it and our FB page.
- Sunday School lessons and a craft are being distributed to the mailboxes of the regular Sunday School children. Thanks to Sumi, for preparing and distributing these. We'd love to get drawings, colouring sheets and samples of the crafts back from the children so we can make a display at the church. This method of Sunday School will continue for the month of June (even if we return to Worship services here, we will finish out the SS year with take home/do at home lessons.)
- Special music contributions are provided for our 'email' worship services. Thanks to those singing and to Sumi & Taeyang for recording these parts of our worship.
- **'Spring Basket/ Fancy Bag Contest & Auction' fundraiser** event is on this weekend! After your Communion time, please head to the basement to view and submit your bids! The AUCTION will remain open until June 3rd. You will be able to follow the progression of bids by checking the NKP Facebook page, under events. Or you can come to the church during office hours on Tuesday or Wednesday. Midnight on June 3rd will be the close of bids. On June 4th we will announce the winners (you will be contacted) – you can then come to the church to pay and take your basket home.
- **Monthly Prayer Time** – for the month of June, we will meet **Tues, June 2nd at 1:00 p.m.** This is a time to pray regarding the needs of the church family and the ministries of the upcoming month, etc.
- The Missions Committee met last week and they thank you for continuing also to support 'mission' - with the funds available in that account, NKP is able to send out support to a number of organizations and missionaries.

➤ **Financial Update from the Treasurer** (*also in Bulletin last week*)

At the start of the Covid 19 Pandemic I was worried about the finances of the church. We still had a building that required heat, electricity and water just to name a few. We also had salaries and commitments to the National Church, Synod, Presbytery and Camp Christopher. We lost the revenue from TOPS and the Church of the Living God. Envelope receipts were sporadic. We did some adjustments to our income and stopped paying our commitments listed above. This was done until we could grasp exactly what was happening. Soon Synod and Camp Christopher reduced their fees by 50% and 40% respectively. Now with a little more grasp of the effect Covid 19 was having financially we paid all of our commitments as well as 50% of our Presbytery Sharing. The congregation began giving on a regular basis. As an example envelope receipts for the month of April 2020 was only \$28 less than April 2019. We are only half way through May and envelope receipts are already 94% of May 2019. I can only say thank you, thank you for making my job so much easier. Even though this report paints a rosy picture for our finances we must not forget that we have a large deficit built into the 2020 Budget. Please keep this in mind as we go forth in this difficult time.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF GREETING:

Welcome to Norman Kennedy Presbyterian Church! You are the Church! I am the Church! We are the church together! We are the church gathered in spirit but scattered in our various homes. As the People of God, we come together in this common time to worship, to learn, to pray, and to go with God's blessing. Today is Pentecost Sunday which is a significant day to remember and appreciate in the history of the church. The significance of Pentecost is to remind us that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those early believers who were waiting in the upper room as they waited in obedience and expectancy. They were empowered to preach in the languages of the people that day, so we will begin worship this morning listening or singing (as you wish) to a call to worship in both English and the Shona language of Zimbabwe.

SONG OF PREPARATION: *'Uyai Mose'*
'Come all ye people'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMZJFhhTr0I>

Uyai mose, tinamate mwari (x3)
Uyai mose zvino

Come all you people, come praise your maker (x3)

Come now and worship the Lord

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow!

The day of Pentecost has come and we have gathered – each of us in our own place - but united in mind and heart for this time of worship.

We are nothing without you, O Lord.

Send forth your presence and grant us your mercies and love.

Creator God, reign down your Spirit that we, too, may prophesy!

Praise the Lord who sends forth his Spirit!

Praise the Lord who renews the face of the earth.

Jesus Christ, reign down your Spirit that we, too, may see visions!

May the glory of the Lord endure forever!

May the Lord rejoice in His works.

Everlasting Father, reign down your Spirit that we, too, may dream dreams!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; PRAISE THE LORD!

OPENING PRAYER: *(based on Psalm 145:15-16)*

God, the eyes of all look to you in hope,

When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.

We, too, turn to You again, longing to be filled— to eat of the Bread of Life, to drink from Your life-giving streams, to taste Your goodness and live.

As we spend time together in your presence, we pray that you would nourish our hearts and minds, for you are the creator and sustainer of all life.

May this time of worship strengthen our relationship with You, and renew our commitment to live as Your faithful disciples, eager to pass on the love we have received to the world around us. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN OF PRAISE: **#321 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSpYz-Y6qq4>

- 1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.*
- 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?*
- 3.*
- 4. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;*

*Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.*

5. *Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him;
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.*

CHILDREN`S TIME:

*[As we begin the children`s time this morning, in the Sunday School lesson bag you received this week, you will find a **‘Fruit of the Spirit’** card with a banana attached to it. Get this ready now for your part of our Worship service. The song below I think will be a new song for you to learn, but it is a fun one – and the adult congregation will learn it quickly as well and sing along. We sing about the banana in the 2nd verse – and after the Children`s Time you can enjoy it for your snack!]*

- Song: ‘The fruit of the Spirit’
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rezg4jYFoj0&feature=youtu.be>

The Fruit of the Spirit’s not a coconut
The Fruit of the Spirit’s not a coconut
If you want to be a coconut
You might as well hear it:
You can’t be a fruit of the Spirit
Cause the fruit is
Love, joy, peace, patience,
Kindness, goodness, faithfulness
Gentleness and self-control
Love, joy, peace, patience,
Kindness, goodness, faithfulness
Gentleness and self-control
Ohhhh!

[Other verses are about a banana, a watermelon, a lemon, a cherry, and grapes]

- A BIBLE VERSE TO LEARN:
“It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.” (1 Corinthians 12:11)



- SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

I'm pretty sure we all play games. A 'game' is a form of play. It can be a card game, a board game, a game played outside. Most games are competitive. And we all know that the game must have rules. Winners of games are decided by skill, strength or luck. Games are also 'sports' – hockey, football, baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis, golf...

I have some favourite sports and some favourite sport teams [Go RIDERS Go!] What is your favourite sport and team?



In team sports the various players all have different positions to play and different responsibilities. Let's use baseball as our example today. In baseball you might be the pitcher or the catcher, or the out-fielder, or the short stop – those are just some of the positions and titles in the game of baseball. Can you imagine what it would be like if everyone playing baseball all played the same position? How many runs would a baseball team score if everyone played as the pitcher? How would you prevent a player from scoring if everyone played at the 1st base?

This Sunday is a day to celebrate the CHURCH. It is like the BIRTHDAY celebration of the Church. But its not about 1 person in the Church. It's about the whole CHURCH, the whole TEAM. We have a great TEAM at our church – you are part of that team. But to have a great team we need lots of different players – and we need to have different positions and responsibilities. Can you identify the different positions? We have teachers, and greeters, and musicians, and those who fix things, those who pray for others, those who prepare your Sunday School lessons. It is really important that we all do our part to make up the team of the church, the team of Norman Kennedy Church to be as good and strong as it can be. I am happy that you are on the NKP team. Thanks for the part and position you play.

SOMETHING TO DO: I would like to see more of your colouring for our display at the church. I provide here links to some colouring pages and I have also attached them to the end of this service order so you can print them off at home. There is also one picture for the older children or even if any of the **adults** would like to colour one.... Would you please colour one of the pictures about the `Fruit of the Spirit` and send it back to the church You can email it back or take a picture to send or ask Sumi to pick it up from your house when she delivers next week`s Sunday School lesson.

<https://coloringhome.com/coloring/dc6/7rr/dc67rrdc9.pdf>

<https://coloringhome.com/coloring/pc7/8R9/pc78R9pzi.pdf>

<https://www.flandersfamily.info/web/2016/06/05/fruit-of-the-spirit-coloring-page/>

CALL TO CONFESSION, *from Acts 2:21*

“Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Come, then, let us confess our sins to the one who is faithful to forgive.

Come, then, let us adore the one who is mighty to save!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (unison)

Merciful and gracious God,

Our hearts cry out for you to make us whole again.

Even as we celebrate that you have come to dwell within us,

We have sinned against you and abandoned your commandments.

We have been jealous, possessive, ambivalent, and impulsive.

We have not heeded your Word and we have not cherished your covenant.

Help us to glorify you in all times and in all places.

As our souls thirst for your living waters,

Quench our needs and satisfy our love.

That we may come back to you and be sent forth

To fill the world with your mercy and grace.

In the name of your son, Jesus Christ,

And by the power of the Holy Spirit who is at work within us,

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

“Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again,

‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;

If you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ ”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: (sung)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccaFnRYLTok>

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, Mould me,
Fill me, Use me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

(online Bible resource for various translations can be found at www.biblegateway.com)

Numbers 11:16-30 (NRSV)

¹⁶So the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. ¹⁷I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself. ¹⁸And say to the people: Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wailed in the hearing of the LORD, saying, ‘If only we had meat to eat! Surely it was better for us in Egypt.’ Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. ¹⁹You shall eat not only one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, ²⁰but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you—because you have rejected the LORD who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, ‘Why did we ever leave Egypt?’” ²¹But Moses said, “The people I am with number six hundred thousand on foot; and you say, ‘I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month’! ²²Are there enough flocks and herds to slaughter for them? Are there enough fish in the sea to catch for them?” ²³The LORD said to Moses, “Is the LORD’s power limited?^[a] Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not.”

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” ²⁸And Joshua son

of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men,^[a] said, “My lord Moses, stop them!”²⁹ But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!”³⁰ And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 (NRSV)

³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SERMON: ‘A Whole New Way’

The most common catch-phrase of the last couple of months is ‘**a new normal**’. Canada’s chief public health officer, Theresa Tam, has said frequently “We will not go back to what life was like before January of this year.”

But what exactly does she mean – what does it mean for any of us to live in a ‘new normal’?

There are as many definitions or suggestions as there are ‘authorities’ who have prime time slots on every newscast. The list of possible ‘new’ ways in which to ‘live and move and have our being’ is endless. If we think following arrows, wearing masks, keeping our distance from each other (even those we have always hugged),

washing our hands umpteen times per day has been a stressful way to live – just wait, they tell us, for the ‘new normal’.

What might it include? More or most education and work being done from home; robots designed to be cleaners and servers; sanitizing products becoming a multi-million dollar business; wiping and cleaning and wiping and cleaning EVERY surface; one-way sidewalks; cashless everything; virus proof clothing; face-shields at theatres and sporting events; the rules of some sports changed; half empty arenas and stadiums as every 2nd seat is de-commissioned; nose swabs and temperature readings at every travel gate; staycations instead of real vacations!

Is the whole new way of life and living upon us? The idea of ‘**whole**’ – meaning entire, complete, full, total – is somewhat scary. Some change – maybe that’s OK. But a lot of change – change of most things we ‘normally’ do – that’s a different story! No wonder the ‘new normal’ is scary. Scary because change is hard. Mostly hard because there is a both a feeling of loss of what we are used to and a fear of the unknown. Loss and fear are deeply emotional experiences. Yet, we are living in a time when we are told that there needs to be a ‘whole’ new way.

As we read and reflect on the Moses story given in today’s reading from Numbers, we find that Moses was ready for a new way when it came to giving leadership to the 2.4 million God’s chosen people. (*Exodus 12:37 mentions 600 hundred thousand fighting men besides women and children – and so estimates give us this 2.4 million #*).

This passage in Numbers mentions that Moses was bearing the burden of leadership of all those people. And they were not an easy people to deal with. The Exodus story tells us that they were only a few miles away from Egypt when the complaining began – and it continued, from time to time becoming quite intense, and irritating and constant and getting on the ‘last nerve’ of Moses!

When reading the story of the Exodus, I believe one must admire Moses – for his patience if nothing else! The background story of Moses begins with his birth and his life preserved by the loving, heart-wrenching actions of his mother when she placed him in a basket which she floated in an area of the Nile river where she knew he would be found. Indeed, none other than the Pharaoh’s daughter found him, kept him, raised him – and all in a life befitting for a prince. But his was also a life preserved and prepared for leadership as part of a sovereign plan of God. Leadership may have been part of his ‘princely’ upbringing – and that he exercised when he took justice into his own hands against the Egyptian who was beating on a Hebrew slave. The act itself was wrong, although Moses thought at the time, he was doing something of which God would approve. When he was found guilty, he

high-tailed it into a wilderness exile. There his real education and preparation would begin as he would learn much more about God's call on his life.

A story comes from Jewish tradition which sheds some light on Moses character and leadership development – that which would make him a worthy candidate to lead God's people.

The traditional story comes from when Moses made his living while in the wilderness as a shepherd. One day a lamb under his care ran away. Moses chased after him to a brook, far from where he had been. The traditional story says this is how Moses "*came to Horeb, the mountain of God.*" When Moses saw the lamb drink thirstily from the brook, he said, "Little lamb, had I known that you were so thirsty, I would have carried you to the water on my own back!" After hearing that, God said, "Moses is worthy of being the leader of my people." The story continues then to conclude that God was very pleased concerning Moses' willingness to go to such lengths to help another creature – **a willingness to bear a burden on his back for the sake of another.** The whole of the exodus is Moses carrying the people on his back. Indeed it would be, it was a heavy burden.

A rabbi by the name of Abraham Joshua Heschel, in the light of this story of kindness, reflected on his own life – "when I was younger, I used to admire people who are clever. Now that I'm older, I admire those who are kind." To be a kind person is something we should all pursue; selflessness is a trait worth practicing.

That selflessness of Moses was evident in so much of getting Israel out of Egypt. But eventually in his human strength, he was worn down. This is what God addresses in Numbers 11. Moses was such a leader, and being the only leader and the one upon whom the 'the whole burden for this people was laid.' Moses had finally come to his wits end – and in Numbers 11:14 we hear him say - "I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me."

And so here God initiates shared leadership – "gather for me 70 elders...I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them." This was the beginning of a whole new way of leadership. **Spirit-led, spirit-empowered leadership would not be the experience of just one person.** It would be the experience of 70. Not only was leadership shared with these 70, but an intimacy with God whereby they too were given God's words to speak and to prophesy among all the people.

This was a whole new way. Moses would no longer be the sole voice of what God desired to communicate. These elders, from every tribe – a whole new level of respect and responsibility placed on them and in them by the Spirit of God.

In the Numbers reading though, we meet the 2 by the names of Eldad and Medad – it seems they didn't show up at the 'commissioning service' – but they started

prophesying anyway which really concerned Moses' co-leader, Joshua. You can just imagine the scene – the other 68 elders jumped through the liturgical, prescribed hoop and these 2 did not, therefore, in Joshua's mind, they should be disciplined. But that's not how God works – He calls whom He calls; He give His gifts to whom He chooses, He speaks though whom He speaks through, He blesses the ministry of whom He chooses to bless. Moses acknowledges this in his statement “would that **all** the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put His spirit on them!”

The apostle Paul teaches the same in his letter to the believers in Corinth. The Pentecost experience was when the Holy Spirit came upon all – not just on **a** leader, not just on the disciples, or on 70 elders – this was the people of God receiving the power of God, to do the works of God.

Jesus had promised this would happen – for when He was no longer present among His people to make disciples, to preach and teach and heal and serve – then his disciples and all who follow after would fulfill His mission. **And that's us.** You and I are among those to whom Jesus said – “go and make disciples”. In our going, even if just to our family, our neighbourhood, our community we have the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in all our going, speaking and doing.

Because of an event called Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit has been poured out on all God's people, on the Church – and we each have gifts and graces to fulfill a role, to serve and minister in some way. Paul calls them a variety of gifts. Variety is good and necessary. To each one, Paul says, there is a gift given – a role to play, a task to do, a mission to fulfill. We all, pastor and people have a prophetic (*in the sense of speaking and living out God's word*) voice and task for directing people to the truth of God's word.

This is a Pentecost reminder – but it is not just for today. The experience of Moses as he listened to the cries and complaints and needs of the people – led him to feel burdened. God, in love and compassion, prepared and offered a whole new way of leadership.

In our Presbyterian tradition, this is comparable to our theology of leadership – shared leadership, leadership by elders.

I believe our church is blessed with wonderful elders. I can tell you that the elders of this your church are often burdened with heartbreak and discouragement – for we carry in our hearts your pain and grief, your challenges and discouragements. We will weep when you are weeping and we will rejoice when you are rejoicing. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to be an elder among you in the church.

Yet – yet we also know that many of our church family have gifts and abilities that are still to be discovered and can be used for the strengthening of the church. We, myself and your elders, may not be at our wits end as Moses was, but we are longing for, praying for a **greater shared leadership** and involvement of all God's people in this place! And we know this truth from scripture – that God has already given His Spirit and has prepared many with the gifts and abilities to fulfill all our leadership needs. What are the needs you ask?

We are in need of another elder or two -those who would help carry the burden of care and oversight and decision making and work in this church. In the near future we may seek to have an elder election – be in prayer for those whom God may call to this position. We are also in urgent need of a convener for the Board of Managers – this person would give guidance to the needs of maintenance and stewardship. We need teachers and helpers for our children, our youth. We need those who will dream dreams that may provide for and influence our immediate community. We need you.

You're on the team! Maybe your 'normal' has been to see yourself - a regular, faithful, attending, committed member or adherent. And that is an exceptional commitment. But is there more, could there be more of your talents that would benefit the whole church? Maybe a new normal is on the horizon - and in that new normal you and I and all of us will be full team members.

I mentioned in the Children's Time that every member of the team has an important role and position. So together let's practice and develop in every way. And just maybe the new and improved 'normal' will be the kind of change which will make a difference – noticeable in our community and for God's glory!

Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FROM LIVING FAITH (PCC) SECTIONS 4.1.1; 4.2.2 & 4.3.3 (.4 &.5)

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the triune God and is One with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of Life, the Renewer and Helper of God's people. By the Spirit, God is present in the world, the source of all goodness and justice. By the Spirit, God convicts the world of sin and testifies to the truth of Christ. By the Spirit, Christ is with his church.

The Holy Spirit accompanies us on our journey of faith. We may not always be sure of this presence. Yet God's Spirit is with us, sometimes gently, sometimes powerfully, guiding us in the midst of life, our comfort and our help. Christian life is a pilgrimage: it begins, continues, and ends in God.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is seen in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, loyalty, gentleness, and self-control. The Spirit blesses us with various gifts. We seek to discover those gifts and to use them for our Lord. Faithful loving service is a sign that the Spirit is present. The presence of the Spirit is evident where people are made whole, encouraged, and enabled to grow in Christ. Come, Holy Spirit!

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF RESPONSE: / 382 'Spirit of God, descend upon my heart'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymKxTkrRNBA>

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.
2. Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?
All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling:
Oh, let me seek Thee, and, oh, let me find!
3. Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.
4. Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The kindling of the heav'n-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

INVITATION & PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

The Church is called to build up Christ's kingdom, through its life together and through its impact on the world around it. Come, let us build the kingdom with our tithes and offerings, our many gifts and our common vision

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFQ_H4c8WW0

Doxology: *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

***Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Dedication:

We have much to return in gratitude to you, O God, and much to share with the world around us. Bless now these gifts, that they may be signs of your Spirit's movement. And accept them also as tokens of our intent to serve you and proclaim your good news in every way, through the power of your Spirit dwelling in us. **Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC: Cello solo– Leanna Williams (The Swan by Saint-Saëns)

<https://youtu.be/9iuDfrVCSVE>

PRAYERS of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit we need you, come sweet Spirit we pray – come in your strength and your power, come in your own gentle way. Heavenly Father we come to you on this Pentecost Sunday with praise for the presence and work of the Spirit in our own lives and in the work of the Church.

Spirit of God, you swept into the lives of the disciples and in a moment, everything was different, they were renewed and a whole new normal began. You gave them vision, hope and faith.

Come Holy Spirit to us today. Give us new vision and the ability to turn vision into reality. Give us hope for a better tomorrow – hope because we are confident in your love and care – for us and for this world. Give us faith – a growing, confident, true faith that You are in this and with us always.

We fear the new normal that is talked about – the way it may affect the comforts of our daily lives. But we are being told again and again that we must set aside some of our comforts for the good of the community. Help us to be those who will think of others and love in action as well as in words. We fear the way 'new normal' may affect our Church – may we be able to accept change to things that are non-essential so that we can maintain and strengthen those things that are essential.

Guide our elders when we meet to discuss when and how we will return to congregational worship and pastoral connections and the loving support we are and will continue to be with each other.

We pray this morning for those of our congregation in need of a fresh breathe of Your Spirit as their own spirit has become discouraged – for some maybe because of Covid 19, for others because life was turned sour in one way or another. And so, we

pray for those who feel the intensity of grief – the loss of their loved one, the loss of an ability, the loss of /or the strain of a relationship, the loss of companionship, the loss of a much needed activity, the loss of health... Come Holy Spirit and encourage us with Your Presence so that we know we do not walk alone in our grief.

We pray for those who are overwhelmed with responsibilities – for those who have taken on extra duties during these days, for those attending to the needs of the sick or the elderly, for those putting themselves at risk in the course of fulfilling their jobs, for those having to re-write/re-design how they offer their services and thus maintain their living... Come Holy Spirit and encourage us with Your Presence so that we know this too shall pass.

We pray for the people and places of the world in great need. We pray for the places where the Covid 19 virus has been spreading too rapidly and recommendations are not being heeded. We pray for those places and countries where other overwhelming needs of food scarcity and local violence are more important concerns. We pray for the places throughout the United States where anger over racial injustices has resulted in death and danger for so many. May justice, safety and peace come to those places.

Come Holy Spirit, we pray – come now and change us, change our world that we may all know hope and peace and harmony and healing – so that all may come to a saving knowledge of Jesus who taught us that when we pray to say -

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

THE PARTING HYMN: '*Bind Us Together*'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuhIBLp5aHM>

Chorus :

Bind us together Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together Lord, bind us together Lord, bind us together in love

Verse 1: There is only one God, there is only one King.

There is only one body, that is why we sing!

Chorus:

Verse 2: Fit for the family of God, purchased by His precious Blood.

Born with the right to be free: Jesus the vict'ry has won.

Chorus:

Verse 3: We are the family of God, we are His promise divine,
we are His chosen desire, we are the glorious new wine.

GOD SENDS US . . .

Go forth from this place knowing that God has filled you with the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice in the power of the Spirit within and among you, and tell the Good News everywhere you go, trusting that God will translate where needed. Amen.

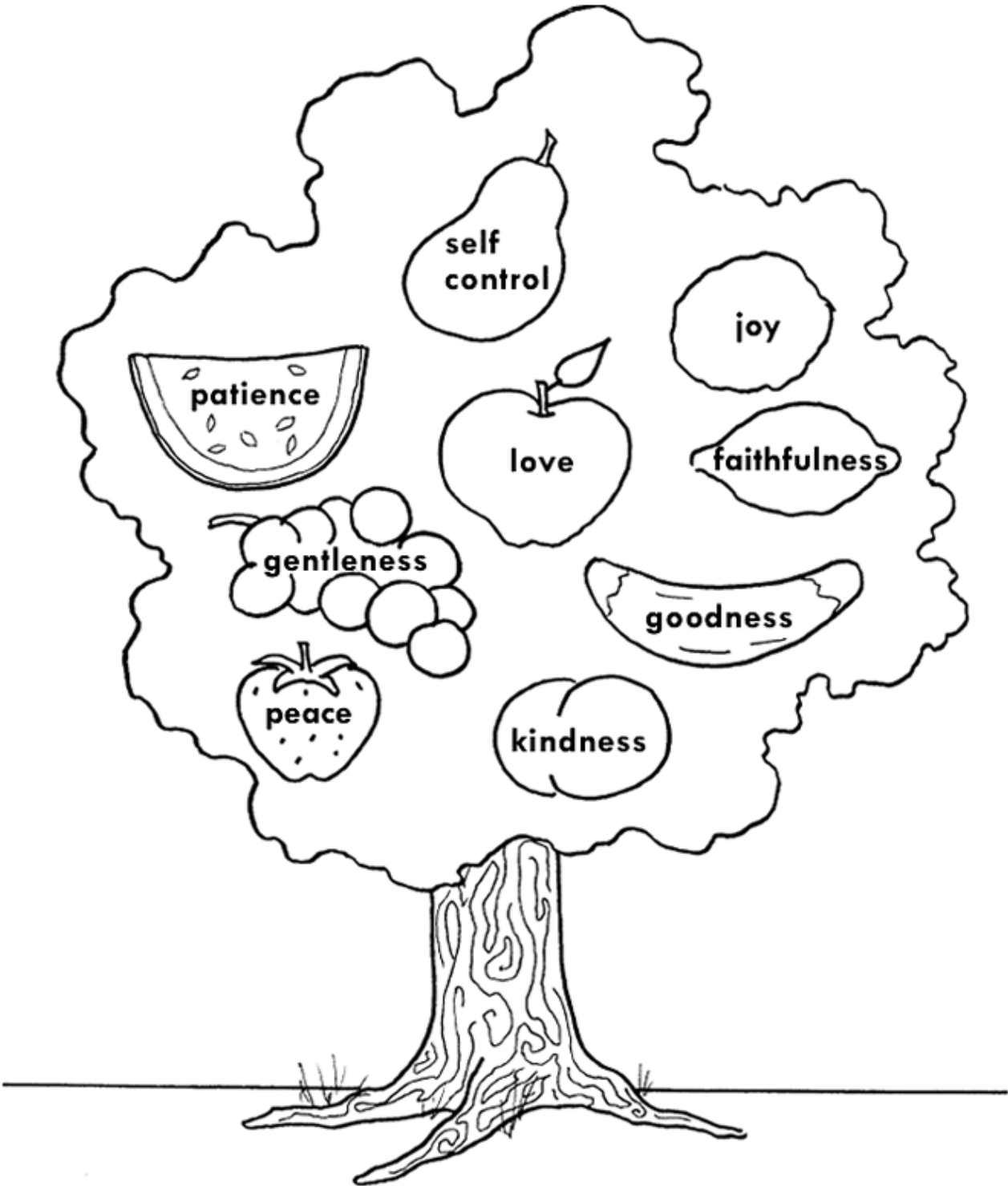
BENEDICTION: Now may *the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.*

GOING OUT SONG: 'O How He loves you and me'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r89NFu8Sn1Y>

Oh, how He loves you and me,
Oh, how He loves you and me,
He gave his life, what more could He give?
Oh, how He loves you, Oh, how he loves me;
Oh, how he loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go,
His love for sinners to show.
What He did there brought hope from despair.
Oh, how He loves you; Oh how he loves me;
Oh, how he loves you and me.



patience

self control

joy

love

faithfulness

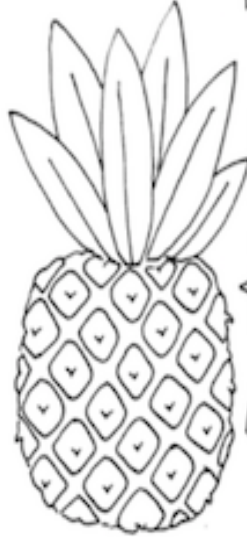
gentleness

goodness

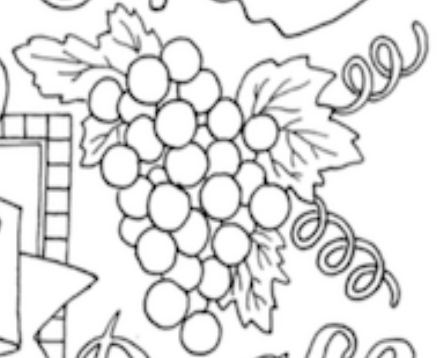
peace

kindness

LOVE JOY



the
Fruit
of the
Spirit

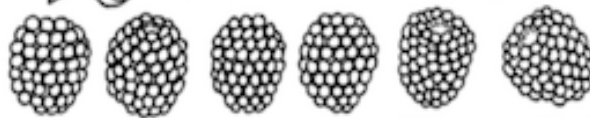


Peace



PATIENCE

Kindness



FAITHFULNESS

gentleness

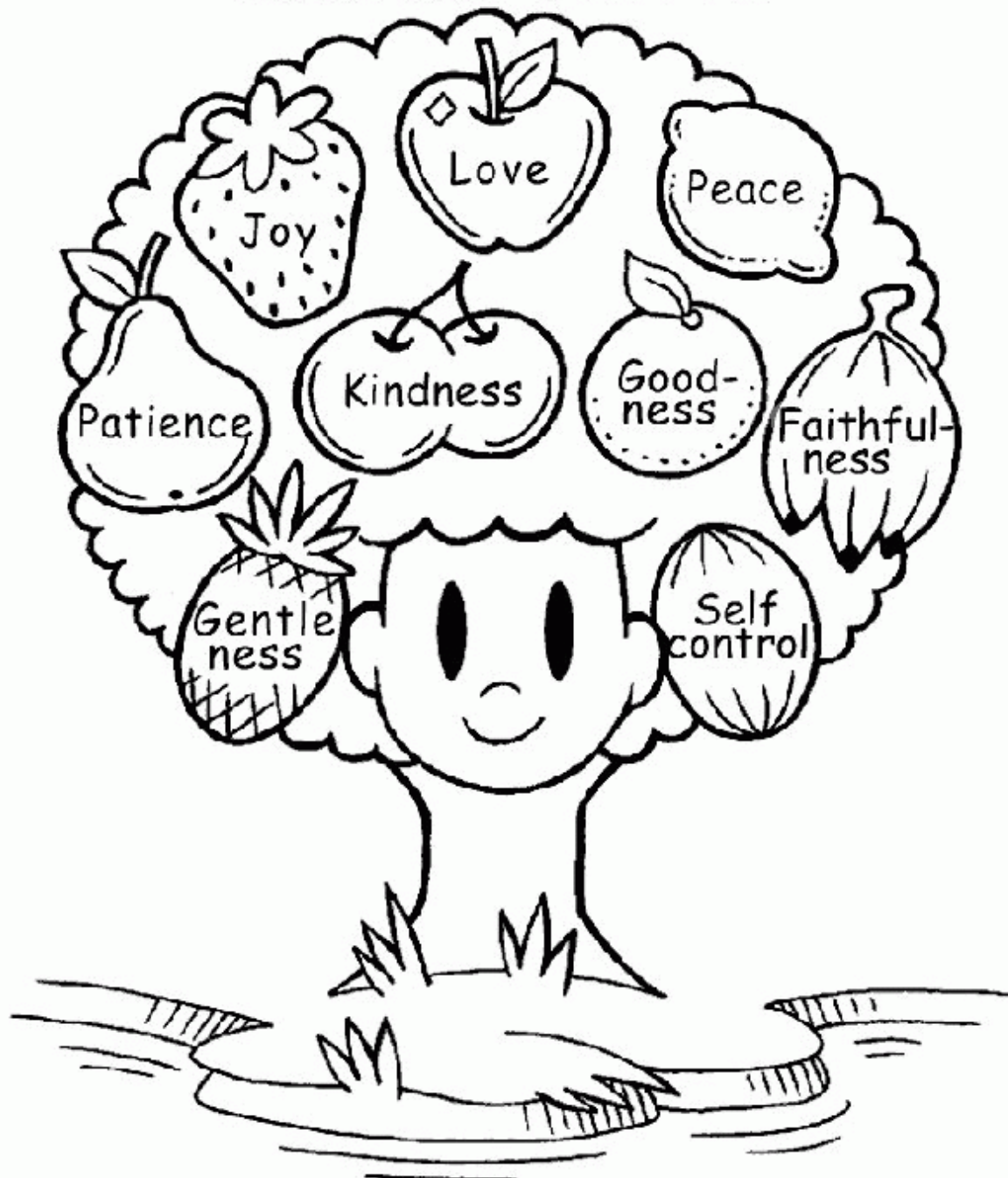


SELF-CONTROL



Fruit Of The Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23



I'm a tree planted by the water

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