

***A Prayer to Produce the Fruit of the Spirit***

*Loving God, we pray that our lives would show forth the beautiful fruit of the Spirit, which is rooted and grounded in your love, and produced in a life that is walking in spirit and truth.*

*We pray that the life of Christ may guard our spirits and rule our lives so that we may truly be open to the leading and guidance of Your Holy Spirit. Teach us to walk in spirit and truth, to depend on Your sufficient grace, and to fulfill the new commandment You gave to the Church, to love others as Christ loved us.*

*We pray that we would take every opportunity to demonstrate Your love to others, in action, attitude, mood and motive. Help us to show forth Your love not only with our lips but in our daily lives, by giving ourselves to Your service, and by walking in holiness and humility of spirit all the days of our lives. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

*Adapted from "Knowing Jesus - Prayer-for-the-Fruit-of-the-Spirit"*

The fifty days of Eastertide (*Easter to Pentecost*) gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and ponder what it means to be a faithful disciple in today's world. **Who does God need us to speak in behalf of? What does God want us to proclaim? Where does God need us to put our Christianity into action?**

**Yes, there are many challenges that surround us:** the pandemic continues to re-shape our sense of "normal", gun violence continues to erupt in unexpected places, incidents of racism and prejudice are evident, God's creation continues to moan, as wind and water bring damage and destruction, and struggles to maintain life continue.

**It is here on earth, in the midst of this pain and uncertainty that God calls the church into being.** Together, as the people of God, we are filled with the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These gifts enable us to speak for the most vulnerable; instead of thinking of ourselves, we dare to step into the shoes of another and give them voice. In a world filled with fear and hate, God asks us to proclaim **LOVE** for all God's children! It is through our daily walk that God's love is put into action. God counts on us to witness to the HOPE that is possible as we turn our eyes towards Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us.

I invite you to join me in celebrating the Gifts of the Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, May 23.

*Grace and Peace be with you and those you love! ~ Pastor Jane*