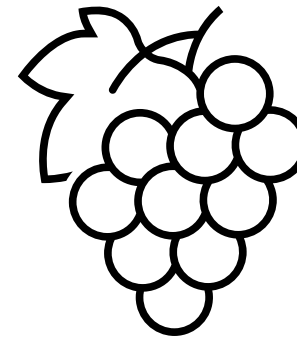


FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
SERMON SERIES



**Living Generously & Intentionally as Faithful
Stewards of our Time, Talent, & Treasure**

Week 1: Kindness & Generosity

This week we focus our worship on coming to understand two qualities of the Fruit of the Spirit: kindness and generosity. When we open our hearts to the Spirit, God transforms our lives. The evidence of that divine grace can then be seen in the kindness and generosity that we extend to others.

Opening Sentence: Now the day has come, we are all together in this place. Captivated by a shining, joyful light, drawn to the warmth we find in one another. May the Spirit stir afresh in our midst. May our common vision be restored. May our dreams of daring be reawakened. We are called to be the Church. We are not alone.

Collect: Almighty God, we come before you with open and willing hearts. Help us to see and be thankful for your abundant blessings. Give us insight, courage and conviction as we choose to be good stewards of the time, talent, and treasure you have blessed us with. Bless our intentions, empower us with your Spirit and infuse us with Christ's redeeming love. Amen.

Prayer Over the Gifts: Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation and for the abundance of your blessings. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Blessing: Go in peace and grace. Startle the world with the power of your story, the sound of your joy, and the signs of your love. Blessed to us is the journey before us. Blessed to us are the friends who travel with us. Blessed to us is the company of Christ on the way. Amen.

Week 2: Patience & Faithfulness

This week we focus our worship on coming to understand two qualities of the Fruit of the Spirit: patience and faithfulness. When we open our hearts to the Spirit, God transforms our lives. The evidence of that divine grace can then be seen in the patience and faithfulness that grow in us as we mature in our spirituality.

Opening Sentence: Loving, ever-present God, we gather in worship as your people in the world. We are called to walk with each other, to talk in faith, and share in love. Guide us in the way, so that we may be able to shine brightly in the world. Amen.

Collect: Generous God, in abundance you lend us your strength to grow in patience and in faithfulness. Help us to hold lightly the fading things of this earth and grasp tightly the lasting things of your kingdom, so that what we are and do and say may be our gifts to you through Christ, who beckons all to seek the things above, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer Over the Gifts: Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation and for the abundance of your blessings. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Blessing: Go in peace and grace. Startle the world with the power of your story, the sound of your joy, and the signs of your love. Blessed to us is the journey before us. Blessed to us are the friends who travel with us. Blessed to us is the company of Christ on the way. Amen.

Week 3: Humility & Self-Control

This week we focus our worship on coming to understand two features of the Fruit of the Spirit: humility and self-control. When we open our hearts to the Spirit, God transforms our lives. The evidence of that divine grace can then be seen when we humble ourselves to accept God's will and in the self-control we exercise when we choose to live intentionally as faithful stewards of our time, talent, and treasure.

Opening Sentence: Eternal God of time and space. The numbers of our days are known only to you. May we use our time wisely and in your service, honouring the gift of life in each day, and using the opportunities you place before us to live and love as Christ taught us. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect: Mighty and tender God, in your loving purpose help us to use and share the gifts you have given us to contribute to your mission. In all things give us the grace and wisdom to accept your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer Over the Gifts: Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation and for the abundance of your blessings. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Blessing: Go in peace and grace. Startle the world with the power of your story, the sound of your joy, and the signs of your love. Blessed to us is the journey before us. Blessed to us are the friends who travel with us. Blessed to us is the company of Christ on the way. Amen.

Week 4: Joy & Peace

This week we focus our worship on coming to understand two features of the Fruit of the Spirit: joy and peace. When we open our hearts to the Spirit, God transforms our lives. The evidence of that divine grace can then be seen and felt when we experience and share the joy and peace in our lives that only comes from being led by the Spirit.

Opening Sentence: O God of steadfast love, as Jesus your Son turned water into wine, help us to transform our hearts, that by your Spirit, we may use our varied gifts of time, talent, and treasure to show forth the light of your love as one body in Christ. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect: God of joy and peace, give us grace to witness to your truth and live as faithful stewards of our time, talent, and treasure, now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Over the Gifts: Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation and for the abundance of your blessings. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Blessing: Go in peace and grace. Startle the world with the power of your story, the sound of your joy, and the signs of your love. Blessed to us is the journey before us. Blessed to us are the friends who travel with us. Blessed to us is the company of Christ on the way. Amen.

Week 5: Love

This week we focus our worship on coming to understand the greatest quality of the Fruit of the Spirit: love. When we open our hearts to the Spirit, God transforms our lives. Paul tells us that it is only by allowing the Spirit of God to work in us that we are able to be free from our own selfishness and self-centredness; free to love others in the way that Christ commanded when he said, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

Opening Sentence: Now the day has come, we are all together in this place. Captivated by a shining, joyful light, drawn to the warmth we find in one another. May the Spirit stir afresh in our midst. May our common vision be restored. May our dreams of daring be reawakened. We are called to be the Church. We are not alone.

Collect: O God of steadfast love, as Jesus your Son turned water into wine, help us to transform our hearts, that by your Spirit, we may use our varied gifts to show forth the light of your love as one body in Christ. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Over the Gifts: Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation and for the abundance of your blessings. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Blessing: Go in peace and grace. Startle the world with the power of your story, the sound of your joy, and the signs of your love. Blessed to us is the journey before us. Blessed to us are the friends who travel with us. Blessed to us is the company of Christ on the way. Amen.