

# DAY 5

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021



Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit

*(cf. Jn 15:5-9)*



Coloured windows in the chapel at the Community of Grandchamp

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WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

# DAY 5

*“You have already been pruned by the word...”*

**(John 15:3)**

## **Letting Ourselves be Transformed by The Word**

Deuteronomy 30:11-20    The word of God is very close to you

### **MEDITATION**

Jesus calls us to abide in Him, as branches of the true vine. He calls us to bear the fruit of God’s healing and reconciling love. Just as a fruit matures we are being transformed by the word of God. The word of God is very close to us. It is a blessing and a promise of happiness. If we open our hearts, God speaks to us and patiently transforms us. He removes that which prevents the growth of real life, just as the vine grower prunes the vine.

*Silence*



# LETTING ONESELF BE TRANSFORMED BY THE WORD

## Matthew 5:1-12

## Blessed are you

3 *Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

4 *Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.*

5 *Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the Earth.*

6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.*

7 *Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.*

8 *Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.*

9 *Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.*

10 *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

11 *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds  
of evil against you because of me.*

12 *Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same  
way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

## Silence

PRAYER : *These words are recited daily by the Sisters of the Grandchamp  
Community in Switzerland:*

Pray and Work that God may reign.

Throughout your day

Let the Word of God breathe life into work and rest.

Maintain inner silence in all things

So as to dwell in Christ.

Be filled with the spirit of the Beatitudes,

Joy, simplicity, mercy.

## QUESTIONS

- If your church(es) were to live the “Beatitudes” each day what difference would this make to the communities they serve?
- What does it mean in our world today to be blessed by God?

### **A Prayer Based on the Beatitudes**

**God of the prophets, God of Christ  
we are reminded today  
that your blessings do not necessarily follow the logic of the world.**

**The world believes that the rich are blessed,  
but Jesus reminds us that it is the poor who are blessed,  
the poor in spirit  
and the materially poor as well.  
We pray for a more just world  
in which all have enough and none are left behind.**

**Though we fear death and avoid its inevitable arrival,  
Jesus tells us that those who mourn are blessed.  
Help us to experience the truth of this mystery;  
bring healing and wholeness to those who are sick;  
and comfort those of us who have lost loved ones.**

**While people covet power, Jesus blesses the meek;  
instruct us, O God, in the ways of humility;  
help us to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and marginalized;  
show us your presence in the faces of those the world forgets.**

**Give us a hunger and thirst for righteousness;  
fill our hearts with love, overflowing with mercy;  
make our hearts pure, and give us a vision of your glory.**

# LETTING ONESELF BE TRANSFORMED BY THE WORD

In a society divided by race, gender, class, ideology, sexual orientation, and so many other labels we alone have created, remind us that we are created in your image, each of us a beautiful reflection of you, each of us your beloved child. Help us then to end our conflicts and wars, help us to be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation.

Gracious God,  
you have so richly blessed us with life,  
with love and joy,  
with hope in the midst of despair. Help us to be the salt of the earth. Help us to be the light of the world, sharing with others that which we have received, boldly proclaiming the good news of your love, finding the seeds of your kingdom within us and letting your way grow in our lives and throughout the world.

*Amen*

*[St Joseph's Preparatory School, Stoke-on-Trent]*

## GO AND DO

(see [www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo))

**Global:** Find out more about the Just Scripture initiative and help organise a session connecting the churches in your area with a community across the world.

**Local:** What one act of kindness could the churches in your area take together to be a unified blessing in your wider community?

**Personal:** Read the Beatitudes through slowly (Matthew 5: 3-11). Which of the actions described in the passage are you encouraged to take today?