



**Services – Sunday 7 February, 2021**

**Epiphany 5**

**9.30am** Five Dock – Rev Don Everhart

*Reading:* Isaiah 61: 1-4

*Theme:* "Repairing the walls and ancient paths "

We are glad to have you with us today in worship. It is our hope that you will not only learn more about God, but that you will encounter Him and experience His presence, love and grace for you. He is the creator and sustainer of life, and He wants to give us not only abundant life now, but eternal life with Him.



**DIARY DATES**

**Wednesday 17 February** at 11.30am  
**PAC Meeting** will be held in the church.

**Sunday 21 February**  
**Church Council Meeting**

Written reports are required from the treasurer, minister, PAC, congregation and pastoral care group for presentation to this meeting. Please provide to the church office TODAY for printing and distribution on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Happiness**

by Bruce D Prewer based on Psalm 1

Happiness is the person who shuns unloving ways,  
who is not attracted by apathy or sarcasm,  
but finds delight in Jesus' teaching,  
testing it out by day and night.

Such people are like great red gums  
growing by the riverside,  
flowering every season, defying drought,  
and constantly putting forth new growth.

Not so unloving people;  
they are like grass in a willy-willy.  
When pressure is on they can't take it,  
nor can they stand the company of good folk.

Those who love have their taproots in God,  
the unloving are rootless.

The Lord can work with loving people,  
but the unloving work their own ruin.

**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. *Galatians 5: 22- 23*

The Greek word translated "fruit" refers to the natural product of a living thing. Paul uses the word "fruit" to help us understand the product of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside every believer. This fruit of the Spirit is produced by the Spirit not the Christian. The Greek word is singular, showing that "fruit" is a unified whole, not independent characteristics. As we grow, all the characteristics of Christ will be manifested in our lives.

Yet, like physical fruit needs time to grow, the fruit of the Spirit will not ripen in our lives overnight. Like a successful gardener must battle against weeds to enjoy the sweet fruit they desire, we must constantly work to rid our lives of the "weeds" of our old sin natures that want to choke out the work of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives us the power we need to reject those old sinful desires. We can say "no" to sin and accept the "way out" God faithfully provides (1 Corinthians 10:13) by following the Holy Spirit's leading.

As we give the Spirit more control of our lives, He begins to do in and through us what only He can do – to shape us and grow us to look like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:17 – 18)

Since God's goal for all His children is for us to be like Jesus (Romans 8:29) the Holy Spirit constantly works to rid our lives of the "acts of the sinful nature" (Galatians 5:19) and display *His* fruit instead.

Therefore, the presence of the "fruit of the Spirit" is evidence that our character is becoming more like Christ's.