

Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 26, 2022
“Kid-friendly” Eucharist

Galatians 5:1, 13-25
LUKE 9:51-62

THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

[I invite the kids up front and we sit, with a picnic basket in our midst.]

Anybody here like going on a picnic ? [I raise my hand, invite kids and others to do so, including the people on Zoom.] This is a GREAT time of the year for a picnic: warm & sunny and school’s out for summer !

Another thing that’s great about summer is the **fresh fruit** you can get. Anybody curious about what’s *in* this picnic basket? [Hands.] O.K. [I pick the first kid.] Put your hand in the picnic basket and pull out *one* thing. Wow! This piece of fruit ____ comes with a *spiritual fruit attached* — no extra charge. Can you tell me something about this spiritual fruit ? Can you give me an example? [Index cards are taped to each fruit with “Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Each kid gets to pick and discuss in turn until the basket is empty. Each literal fruit begins with the same letter as the spiritual fruit: Lemon (“Who loves lemonade?”), blueberry Jam, Peaches, Pears, Kiwis, Grapes, Figs, Granny Smith Apples, Strawberries.]

St. Paul tells us in today’s first reading from the Bible about **spiritual fruits** — if God’s Spirit is working in and through us, people can *tell by our behavior*.

Spiritual fruits are *always* in season, are *free* (no inflation here), *never* have supply chain issues, and when we *share* them, we have just as much as we had when we started, if not *more*.

So, let’s shout them out [in whatever order, all nine.]

Now, who wants to take some of these literal fruits home? [I distribute them.]
Enjoy and spread the FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT.