

Welcoming others: Genesis 18.1-5

Apologies for sending this out a bit late today! We continue with our meditations from the Grandchamp community for the Week of prayer for Christian Unity till Wednesday.

On Thursday we'll start a new series on the book of Ecclesiastes.

“Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last”

(John 15:16b)

• **Genesis 18:1-5** **Abraham hosts the angels at the Oak of Mamre**

• **Mark 6:30-44** **Jesus' compassion for the crowds**

Meditation

When we let ourselves be transformed by Christ, his love in us grows and bears fruit.

Welcoming the other is a concrete way of sharing the love that is within us.

Throughout his life, Jesus welcomed those he met. He listened to them and let himself be touched by them without being afraid of their suffering.

In the gospel account of the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus is moved with compassion after seeing the hungry crowd. He knows that the entire human person must be nourished, and that he alone can truly satisfy the hunger for bread and the thirst for life. But he does not wish to do this without his disciples, without that little something they can give him: five loaves and two fish.

Even today he draws us to be co-workers in his unconditional care. Sometimes something as small as a kind look, an open ear, or our presence is enough to make a person feel welcome. When we offer our poor abilities to Jesus, he uses them in a surprising way.

We then experience what Abraham did, for it is by giving that we receive, and when we welcome others, we are blessed in abundance.

“It is Christ himself whom we receive in a guest.”

[The rule of Taizé in French and English (2012) p. 103]

“Will the people we welcome day after day find in us men and women radiant with Christ, our peace?”

[The Sources of Taizé (2000) p. 60]

Prayer

Jesus Christ,
we desire to welcome fully the brothers and sisters who are with us.
You know how often we feel helpless in the face of their suffering,
yet you are always there ahead of us
and you have already received them in your compassion.
Speak to them through our words, support them through our actions,
and let your blessing rest on us all.

Questions

- When you meet new people do they find you “radiant with Christ”?
- As we pray together for greater unity how are we showing Christ’s welcome to other Christians?
- What are people hungry for in your community?

Go and Do

(see www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo)

Global: Take time to engage with global news stories today. Take action in response to the story that most moves you with compassion.

Local: Contribute in any way that you can to a foodbank, food growing scheme or community meal initiative in your area.