

FEBRUARY 12, 2017
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY



We belong to one another and to Christ.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:21-37	Teachings of Jesus
Monday	James 4:7-12	Do not slander one another
Tuesday	Matthew 18:15-20	Responding when sinned against
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Working together for God
Thursday	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Choose life, not death
Friday	James 5:12-20	Remember to pray
Saturday	Psalms 119:1-8	Praising the law of the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 5:38-48	Jesus teaches about love

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I planted the seeds, Apollos watered, but God made them sprout and grow. **1 Corinthians 3:6 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, help us to grow in our faith, so that our beliefs are matched by our actions. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, we thank you for this day of life, for food to eat, and gifts to use. May your commands we treasure and your ways we gladly choose. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ be the center of your life and growth. May you live as God's servant that your days may be filled with God's peace.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Bind Us Together, Lord



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Is it good or bad to have rules and laws to live by? Explain your answer.
- Why does God give us laws to follow?
- How does Jesus's teachings in Matthew 5:21-37 help us to live in community?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9.

Paul notes that people can have misplaced loyalties that overshadow our unity in Christ. Paul reminds us that what matters is that God is the one who gives us our growth in faith. Make a list of all the things you are passionate about and to which you feel a strong loyalty. Read each item you have listed then say, "**but only God gives the growth**" (verse 3:7b). Then offer a prayer that gives thanks to God for the Christian community that helps followers of Jesus to grow in faith. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE



Our texts this week remind us of the importance of living together in peace and unity with care for the needs of others. Identify someone you could visit or talk to who may feel alone or simply in need of a caring conversation. Be an example of serving your neighbor with love.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Since the time of the early church, Christians have used Matthew 5:22-24 as motivation to be reconciled to one another before receiving Holy Communion. That is why, in the worship service, passing the peace to one another with words like "Peace be with you," or "The peace of the Lord be with you," come prior to the Holy Communion liturgy. Passing the peace in worship reminds us that forgiveness and reconciliation are essential to maintain loving and healthy relationships. In your daily life, experience God's reconciling power by greeting others via phone, text, or personal conversation with the words of the resurrected Jesus, "Peace be with you" (Luke 24:36b; John 20:19b and 26b).

