

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 9:26–31 † 1 John 3:18–24 † John 15:1–8



Reflection by Jeanne Goyette, OP

Today's scriptures prompt us to look at our connections. What connections come to mind? Family? Friends? Community? Earth and the natural world? Organizations which service the needy or promote ecological sustainability? Am I also connected to those unjustly treated? Am I connected to those who have differing political or religious issues? To those who act with violence or racist attitudes? To those we don't even know. Yes, we are all connected.

We are all branches of the same vine, all from the same source of life. Christ the Vine connects us all, remains in us and enables us to bear fruit—the fruit of unconditional love, reconciliation and peace.

Yet there is sometimes a need for pruning. Are there branches that are withered, not life-giving? Connections that are isolating? Non-inclusive? Self-centered? That block forgiveness, hope, or understanding? Can love flow again into these branches through the power of the Risen Christ in us? Didn't Barnabas enable the disciples to accept Saul in spite of their fear and disbelief?

We are called to remain in the Source of Love and allow that Love to flow freely within us and to flow from us to others. May we pray for that grace.

Remain in me as I remain in you that you may bear much fruit.