

## Summer Series Week Three: 5<sup>th</sup> August

### Theme - Being Transformed to Transform

Notices and Welcome

**StF 783: Ubi Caritas**

**StF 18: Be still and know**

#### **Prayers**

Spirit of God,  
Breathing, blazing, blessing,  
Inspire our worship,  
Ignite our passion,  
Inform our action.

**We wait for you, Spirit of God.**

Spirit of God,  
Dancing, delighting, descending,  
Move through our lives,  
Melt our hearts,  
Motivate our loving.

**We wait for you, Spirit of God.**

Spirit of God,  
Opening, offering, outpouring.  
Reveal truth to us,  
Renew our faith,  
Refine our discipleship.

**We wait for you, Spirit of God.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we seek to be moulded by you.  
We come knowing that we are not worthy,  
But because of your forgiving nature we have a place as your children.

**Prayer of Confession using StF 424, verse then chorus, interspersed)**

***Sing StF 424 verse 1***

Leader: When we have despaired, finding our pilgrimage dry and exhausting.  
**Forgive us.**

Leader: When we have failed to see your abundant gifts before our eyes.  
**Forgive us.**

Leader: When we have looked for old comforts rather than looking to new life.  
**Forgive us.**

***Chorus: Freely freely...***

Leader: When we have missed our way and forgotten the focus of our faith.  
**Forgive us.**

Leader: Help us to find again your providential way,  
Refresh us with your life-giving word,  
Cleanse us with the water of life.  
**Forgive us, in the name of Christ. Amen**

Silence

Leader: Know that your sins are forgiven,  
walk in the confident knowledge of God's generous love  
And live in the strength of the good news of Christ.  
Amen.

***StF 424 Verse 2 and Chorus***

All power is given....  
Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,  
The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
To you be glory and praise forever.  
From the deep waters of death you brought your people to new birth,  
By raising your Son to life in triumph.  
We praise you for calling us to be your holy people.  
Remain in our hearts,  
And guide us in our love and service.  
Help us to let our light shine before others  
And lead them to the way of faith.  
All honour and glory and thanks are yours.  
And praise and worship belong to you.  
Forever and ever!  
**Amen**

**Reading from Holy Habits pg. 53/4 "It is this mission ... Honoured and worshipped"**

**StF 253: Jesu Tawa Pano**

Reading: Acts 2:42-47

## Reflection: Being Transformed to Transform (Ramona Samuel)



A friend has, for the past few weeks, been photographing the metamorphosis of caterpillar to butterfly in her front yard. One of the most striking photos was the one in which the butterfly has made its way out, leaving the cocoon behind, mangled and empty. Butterflies are lovely to look but their process of transformation is far from beautiful, and to the onlooker, may seem long and arduous.

I'm reminded of a story told in which a gardener observed a butterfly struggling as it made its way out of its cocoon. It was said that the gardener, perhaps wanting to help the struggling creature, took a pair of scissors and snipped a bit of the cocoon so that the butterfly could emerge with less struggle. Imagine his surprise when the butterfly surfaced wounded and

unable to fly properly, because its wings had not developed properly. What the gardener failed to realise was that the struggle was part of the beautification and maturing process of the butterfly.

Transformation sounds fantastic. We all want to experience some form of it, but our impatience can sometimes be our downfall. Like the butterfly, we need to work through the mess and difficulty before we can emerge looking pristine. Most people do not look at a butterfly and think "there goes a flying caterpillar". No. What we see is a beautiful creature flitting from flower to flower, exposing all of its beauty in the process. The sad thing is, many of us live like caterpillars, not realising what our potential is; perhaps some of us have started our metamorphosis but were short-circuited by a "helpful" person, and so we limp through life, unaware. The good news is, unlike the butterfly, we have the opportunity of a second chance. Through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, we find ways of strengthening and developing our core so that we can operate to our full potential. And like the butterfly, which through its very appearance, affects those who come into contact with, we too, through our own transformation, can bring transformation to those around us.

*(Photo courtesy of Deborah Maynard Jarvis 2018)*

### StF 706: Longing for Light

#### Meditation:

When we have experienced transformation; when we have tasted of something that is more than us; it is then that we move forward to that which is greater than us. Transformation begins in us but its very nature demands that it not be contained. Transformation is ongoing, it is visual, and has far-reaching potential. The early Church grasped this concept and so their transformation inevitably touched the lives of those around them. (Read Colossians 3:12-17) What stands out to you in those few verses? Are there areas in your life that does not match what the test reveals? How is your own transformation causing a ripple effect?

Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you where in your life transformation is needed, and how might that inspire others to be transformed themselves. Act. Look around your church and community. How might you help to bring about transformation? Give thanks to God for his transforming power at work in the world. *(Written by Ramona Samuel)*

### **StF 471: Lord I come to you**

Prayers of intercession and dedication during which the **StF 782 Thuma Mina**, will be sung while people come forward to light candles as a sign of their dedication to God.

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of wisdom, as your prophets of old saw unlimited possibilities and called people to faithful living,

Grant us the vision needed to change your world.

Where the voices of greed drown out the voices of the needy,

Where children die through malnutrition,

Where countries are devastated by AIDS,

Grant us the courage to make a difference, and:

**Send your Spirit to bring new life.**

Where the shouts of despair drown out the whispers of the hopeful,

Where peace appears to be an unobtainable dream,

Where well-being is measured in how much we own,

Grant us the courage to make a difference, and;

**Send your Spirit to bring new life.**

Where the laughter of the arrogant drowns out the whispers of the broken-hearted,

Where depressed people find only stigma and rejection,

Where refugees are unwelcome and uncared for,

Grant us the courage to make a difference, and;

**Send your Spirit to bring new life.**

Where the alleluias of the self-righteous drown out the prayers of the faithful,

Where churches are dying through lack of vision,

Where people of faith distrust each other,

Grant us the courage to make a difference, and;

**Send your Spirit to bring new life.**

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask

In the name of your Son:

We pray you to accept and answer our prayers,

Not as we ask in our ignorance,

Nor as we deserve in our sinfulness,  
But as you know and love us in your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

As our Saviour taught His disciples we pray;  
**Our Father, who art in heaven...**  
**AMEN.**

As we move to the front to light a candle as a sign of our dedication to God, we will do so with the following Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19

Or do you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own?

### **Offering**

**StF 503: Love Divine**

### **Blessing**