

**Trinitarian Congregational Church**  
**TakeOut**  
**November 14, 2021**

**Bells**

**Announcements**

**Prelude** "Jesus Loves Me"

**Call to Worship** Suzan Smith

One: Let us worship God who is gracious, merciful and trustworthy.

**All: We open our hearts to God's presence.**

One: Let us take refuge in the one who supplies all our needs.

**All: We place our hope in the God who cares for us.**

One: God calls us to faithful, Christ-like service.

**All: In obedient love, we will use our resources for the good of all.**

**\*Gathering Prayer** Suzan Smith

God of majesty and goodness, we have been drawn us together to praise you and celebrate your wonderful deeds. Here we remember your faithful presence and guiding hand, your generous provision and your innumerable blessings, your profound mercy and your high calling. We ask that you move among us today and reign within the lives of each one gathered here, that our faith may grow, our love expand, and our hope find fulfillment. Encourage us and strengthen us that we may walk in all your holy ways. Amen.

**Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, reign without end. Amen, amen.

**Scripture**

The books of Chronicles were originally one book in the Hebrew text. It's title, "Daily Matters," like the English title "Chronicles," indicates that the material in these two books recounts the most important affairs in the lives of Israel's leaders, especially the kings. The major thrust of the books is to trace the record of how God's people stewarded their responsibilities as heirs of the Davidic covenant. In this passage David is praying for God's blessing as Solomon will undertake the building of the Jerusalem temple.

1 Chron 29:10-18

Suzan Smith

<sup>10</sup> Then David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly; David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever. <sup>11</sup> Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours;

yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. <sup>12</sup> Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. <sup>13</sup> And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name. <sup>14</sup> “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. <sup>15</sup> For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. <sup>16</sup> O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. <sup>17</sup> I know, my God, that you search the heart, and take pleasure in uprightness; in the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. <sup>18</sup> O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our ancestors, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you.

As was mentioned last week, inner strife plagued the church at Corinth. Paul wrote to resolve the disagreements, restore unity to the congregation and reestablish his role as leader. The main issues of the book include handling dissension within the church, false teachings, church leadership and the unique dilemmas of Christians in the world. The issue addressed in the reading today, focuses on financial support for the church and for the poor.

2 Cor 9:6-15

Rosemary Dawson

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup> for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Who have been the most generous people you know? What is it about them that has stood out in your mind? Was it a particularly large gift, or was it something else? As I began to think about that question, three people were especially memorable. Andy Cabot, who is quite wealthy, and Don and Mabel Thomas, who lived by their social security checks in a small trailer park. I personally never saw their bank accounts, and I didn't need to. I knew by their spirits and their actions that they were gracious, generous people. It didn't matter how much they had – it's what they did with what they had.

Today in Scripture both David and Paul are celebrating generous people, and they are encouraging us to find that same gracious, generous spirit in us. The passage we heard today from 2 Corinthians is the tail end of Paul's exhortation about giving. And so often, because we cut it out of context, we miss it's import. We hear 'do not give reluctantly or out of compulsion' and we jump to 'well then, since I don't feel "enthusiastic" I don't have to give. Well, yes and no. Because, you see, Paul is writing to a group of Christians, who, for all their many faults, had an amazing characteristic of gracious, cheerful giving. In the previous chapter Paul remembers the profound origins of the Corinthian's gifts. He noted that "Despite severe trials, and even though they are desperately poor, their joy has overflowed in a wealth of generosity." (2 Corinthians 8:2) These people were not anyone a stewardship committee would tap for an offering. They were persecuted, impoverished and disparaged. Not only did they not have the bank account, there were not expected to have the hope or courage to give. Yet, in the midst of all their difficulties, their spirits rose up to 'abundant joy and a wealth of generosity. – Not something anyone would expect.

So, when Paul started saying 'sow meagerly, reap meagerly, sow abundantly, reap abundantly' he was speaking words of encouragement to those 'abundant sowers'; and he layers on word after word of encouragement.

"God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, you will have all you need, enough for to you abound in every good work."

The more you are enriched by God the more scope there will be for generous giving, and your gifts, administered through us, will mean that many will thank God.

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce an abundant harvest from your generosity.

In other words, as the Message puts it our gifts will grow and produce

"full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way".

Such giving – a gracious, generous, open-handed and open-hearted generosity not only pleases God, it glorifies God. It gives expression to our obedience, our commitment to the Gospel and it reflects God's generous love and care in sharing our resources, both for the church and for the world.

That indeed is an indescribable gift from God, and I think it is both an encouragement and a challenge for us. Too often we, including me, get our ideas of giving 'all turned around'. We think first of 'what do I have, what do I need, and what do I want. Then I'll give, maybe.' But God is calling us to something greater and something deeper. God is calling us, even through giving, to himself. Over and over Scripture reminds us of God's profound self-giving, in Creation, in Redemption, and in Sanctification. God is always giving; and we have been made in God's image! We too are at our best

when we give, and not simply our ‘stuff’, but our very selves, As Paul said ‘They gave themselves first to the Lord, and then to us. And their giving then simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives’. (2 Corinthians 8:5, the Message)

This is the marvel of God - empowered giving. It is founded, not on our circumstances, not on our wants and desires, and not on our feelings. It is founded on the love of God that leads to joyful, gracious giving.

May we receive this indescribable gift of God and excel in this awesome ministry of grace. Amen.

### **\*Hymn**

### **Called as Partners in Christ’s Service**

Called as partners in Christ's service    Called to ministries of grace  
We respond with deep commitment    Fresh new lines of faith to trace  
May we learn the art of sharing    Side by side and friend with friend  
Equal partners in our caring    To fulfil God's chosen end

### **Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayers of the People**

Loving God, thank you so much for the deep grace of giving. Thank you for all you give, from the days of creation, to this day and to all the days yet to come. Thank you for the gift of your Son’s redemptive work, and the transforming work of your Spirit in and among us. Thank you for inviting us to share in your joy and love as we share with others your abundant goodness. We long to see this blessing grow in our lives and so we come to you now, asking for your renewing power and grace.

We pray for your church and for this congregation. May we recognize your gracious presence with us and affirm one another’s good hearts and faithful deeds. May a spirit of generosity spring up among us as you lead us in your true purposes for this church. And may our lives honor you through our service and our giving, so that others may give thanks for your abundant care.

We pray for our world. Grant to all our leaders generous, compassionate spirits that see the suffering of the world and strive to bring about equity and peace so that all nations and all peoples may know the fullness of life. We pray also for all who are suffering today. Grant your healing to the ill, your comfort to the sorrowful, and your aid to the needy. Grant that we may be faithful in extending to them caring, helpful hands. We especially remember the needs of .... and we thank you for your faithfulness goodness to...

We praise you, Gracious God, for all your goodness to us, through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray...

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

### **Choral Response**

Remember Me

## Offering

We have received great blessings from the hands of God. The air we breathe, the lives we treasure, the love we know, the mercies we experience are all gifts from our Creator. We are privileged to say thank you as we dedicate a portion of our resources for the ministry of the church and its mission to the world. Let us pray...

You have dealt wondrously with us, Gracious God. We have gathered together to praise you and to join our efforts together for the good of all people. May these resources be used to encourage all people to know you more fully and serve you more effectively. Equip us for every good work, that the world may come to know your abundant grace. Amen.

## Doxology (choose the one that is best for your faith)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below,  
praise him above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that Love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen

## \*Common Commission

**Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage,  
holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-  
hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving  
the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## \*Benediction

Go now into the world

May God make you rich in every way so that you can always give freely.  
May your generosity lead many people to give thanks to God. 2 Corinthians 9:8-11 adj.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

## Postlude "Be Thou My Vision"

(Walking out music) "Sunday Joy"

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music provided by Chris Harris