

## 09-24-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“We have been created in the image of God, who shares life with boundless generosity. It is of our essence to be generous. We participate in life on God’s terms by cherishing the gifts of life, not clinging to them, not hoarding, but sharing from God’s bounty entrusted to us to steward. There is always more. Our generosity enables others to know life as a gift and invites them to live their own lives thankfully.”

- *Curtis Almquist*



Matthew 20:1-16

### Questions for Reflection —

- For what in your life are you presently most grateful? How might you need to pay more attention to the gifts and blessings that surround you on a daily basis? What impedes your ability to notice and be grateful? What would help you to cultivate a spirit of gratitude for all of God’s gifts and blessings? Overall what would it mean for you to live gratefully?
  
- What would it look like for you to offer all that you have and all that you are to the service of God? What does it mean for you to practice boundless generosity towards others? What challenges or interferes with your ability to be generous? What do you need in order to be more fully and freely generous? Where have you seen evidence of God’s generous provision to us as a congregation? How can we more fully and freely allow God’s generosity to flow through us to meet the needs of the community around us?
  
- What do you celebrate most about the diversity in our congregation? How has interacting with people of different backgrounds and cultural expressions deepened your faith journey? What meaningful practices, traditions, or rituals have you experienced as a result of being in relationship with people whose backgrounds are different from yours? What are the implications for our common life together of being open to and accepting of the practices and customs of others?

### Daily Household Prayer

Gracious God, we humbly thank you for all your gifts so freely given: for life and health and safety, for work and rest and friendship, and for the wonder of creation. Above all, we praise you for our Savior, Jesus Christ, for his death and resurrection, for your life-giving Spirit and the hope of sharing in your glory. Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.