



transforming  generosity

October 12, 2018

Dear Friend,

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry often describes us as “The Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.” As we reflect on stewardship at the Cathedral and in our wider community, let us ask: “What is God calling us to do as followers of Jesus?”

After all, we follow Jesus who loved us so much that he gave his life so that we might know God’s never-ending love for us and all of creation. This brings with it a challenge: to respond to God’s love and grace by giving all of ourselves to God’s work in the world.

In the sixth chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we cannot have two masters. We cannot love God and money. Jesus then says: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” He finishes by calling each of us with these words, “But seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

How would our church —how would we — be transformed if each of us remembered these words of Jesus? We are indeed called to set new priorities. Establishing new priorities for ourselves and for our church means transforming how we think about generosity. That transformation will call upon us to look for generosity in every aspect of our work and in every aspect of our lives. Remember the tenth chapter of Mark’s Gospel: “Jesus, looking at the man, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’”

Jesus calls us to take the long view. Again, he challenges us to give all of ourselves to God’s righteousness and trust in God’s care.

What a challenge! A challenge that brings our spiritual transformation!

I hope you’ll join me as we work together to transform generosity in our church, our community and our lives.

Faithfully,

Stephen Carlsen
Dean and Rector
Christ Church Cathedral

p.s. Click [here](#) find a list of recipients of the 2018 funds given through the generosity of Christ Church Cathedral members. Your generosity impacts real lives in our community. Please consider your gift for 2019 during the next month and bring the enclosed pledge card, completed, to our Commitment Sunday on November 11, 2018.