



They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. – Jeremiah 17:8

Over the past month, you have been hearing about the theme, *Rooted in Abundance*, and its reminder to us that we are inspired to give because so much has been given to us. This is not transactional – we do not give in proportion to how we feel we have benefitted or suffered – rather we give because of the love we have experienced in the story of our faith.

Trees, roots and flowers are good metaphors for the way we dig deep into what nourishes us to transform that goodness into work, service, and joy in a world that needs us.

I am grateful to have been called to lead this annual process of telling the story of our abundance and our gratitude. I love hearing the stories that you will tell about what connects you to St. Matt's and how your family flourishes where it has been planted. Every gift matters, and each gift will be accepted, brought to the altar, and blessed before God and our community **this Sunday, November 5.**

As you fill out your pledge cards, you'll notice that one side is about your financial promises for the year, your **treasure**. The other side is dedicated to how you might want to share your **time** and **talents**.

As you pray about your commitment to our church, please tap into that nourishing structure of faith and generosity shown to us by an extravagant God, a patient Shepherd, and a gathering Spirit who call us to extend our networks and share our gifts with the world.

When you are rooted in abundance, you realize that your giving can be as boundless as the Creator who gave birth to us all. Thank you for your generosity and your prayerful consideration of your pledge to St. Matthew's.

Blank pledge cards will be available, or if you can scan this QR code to submit your pledge electronically:



In gratitude,

Terri Hurst, Stewardship Chair