

Today we gather, as we always do on Saturday/Sunday, to worship, to hear God's Word, to share God's meal of grace, and to be sent into the world to do God's work. Specifically, today, we gather for another purpose as well: to offer to God our commitments of time, talent, and treasure to share through King of Kings in 2025.

During our Stewardship Emphasis this fall, we've been thinking not only about our commitments for 2025 but also about the legacies we might leave for family, congregation, and community. We've pondered a simple definition of stewardship. Can you say it with me? "Stewardship is everything we do... once we say 'Yes' to God." Let's say that again: "Stewardship is everything we do... once we say 'Yes' to God." We've looked at several kinds of legacies: financial legacies left to us by members in their wills (such as those of Janet Nelson Nickerson and Marj Zercher and Mariann Tienken); legacies of talent such as planting the seed of our congregation, nurturing our relationship with the Scouts, or designing our sanctuary; and gifts given by family members in memory of their beloved, such as the altar ware or the bells or the chimes or a bench or a tree.

We've also remembered other kinds of legacies: the "the long-lasting impact of particular words, events, or actions of our members in the past that persist into and influence the future." Last weekend we considered dramatic legacies in our public life left by people such as Katherine Drexel, Paul Robeson, Zitkala Sa, Pauli Murray, and Phillips Brooks—legacies of a black Catholic university, musical recordings, justice for native peoples, the legal arguments for *Brown vs. The Board of Education*, and songs like *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.

We also recognized that a legacy need not be huge to be impactful. We thought about how our small acts can make a great difference, how a simple action can change a life, and how we can let our light shine, even if, to us, it might seem to be such a little light that it is worthless.

As you prepare to make your commitments to God's work at King of Kings in 2025, it might seem that you have very little treasure or very little talent or very little time to give. It might seem that you have nothing to offer as a legacy to family or King of Kings or your community. But last week Jesus reminded us that even a cup of cold water offered in his name can make a difference. Whatever you have to give, God blesses it and uses it for the good of God's people, and God blesses you as you grow in giving!

In our theme Scripture for this Stewardship Emphasis over the past month, we have heard over and over again, in the reading of the Scripture and in the Benediction, that God is the source of whatever we have to give. Peter, in this theme Scripture, reminds us to serve one another "with whatever gift each of [us] has received." Each of us has different amounts of time available to give to King of Kings; each of us has very different kinds of talents to offer; each of us has different sorts of financial resources to share. As each of us listens to God's invitation to make commitments of the gifts we have received from God, no matter how large or how small, God takes what we share and uses it to bless all of us. And then God sends us into the world to reach out with God's love, whether through our livestream or ZOOM, at

our Summer Concert Craft Table or our December 25 Holiday Meal, through the efforts of our Hospitality Team or our Social Ministry Team, in our welcoming of Al-Anon or AA or Narcotics Anonymous or the Relatives as Parents Program Group.

How will you share “whatever gifts you have received” from God—of time or talent or treasure—so that, together, we can continue to reach out with God’s love in our families, among our congregation, and into our community? As we each share the “gifts [we] have received, join me in saying with St. Peter, “May God be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ!” AMEN