



Looking Out My Window, October 15, 2021

Jesus says “Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10). What have I freely received? Can I even begin to grasp the answer? The air I breathe, the love people share, the little kindnesses of the moment, the gift of a meaningful worship service, the measure of health I enjoy, a lovely sunrise, the sound of an owl in the darkness—the list goes on.

The Bible says that every good and perfect gift comes from God (James 1:17). Can I reframe what I am receiving as gifts of God’s love?

What am I freely giving? Does it even come close to expressing what I am receiving? In all candor, I don’t think so. The word “stewardship” in church parlance gets reduced to how much money I give each year. This year, I hope we can enlarge the concept and center our focus in these two questions: “What have I freely received?” and “What am I freely giving?”.

In worship, you have been hearing testimonies from Christ Church members and receiving materials about giving. As you hear those personal stories and read the materials you receive, I invite you to focus on those two questions. I will be excited to see you stretching yourself to give of your money as an expression of gratitude and to give of yourself in worship, witness, and service.

Your financial giving through Christ Church undergirds the staff and empowers the community for more sharing and extends your service into areas you cannot personally engage. And, that giving extends your witness beyond Valdosta into diocesan ministries and the wider Episcopal Church. Your self-giving in worship, witness, and service will bring Christ’s love into the lives of others.

I encourage you to give prayerful thought to your financial and service commitments for this next year. “Freely you have received. Freely give.”

God’s peace,

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