

Offertory Resources

*By Emily Mumma
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Invitation to Giving

Remember....
A stingy planter gets a stingy crop;
 A lavish planter gets a lavish crop.
I want each of you to take plenty of time
 To think it over, and
Make up your own mind what you will give.
 That will protect you from sob stories
 And arm twisting.
God takes pleasure in the giver who delights in giving.
As one Psalmist put it:
 Such a giver throws caution to the winds,
Giving to the needy in reckless abandon.
 That person's right-living, right-giving ways
 Never run out, never wear out.

Prayer of Blessing *Begin with a moment of silence to "remember"*
We're sure glad You are not a stingy god. No!
You are a lavish God...so lavish we are often unaware,
 Do not recognize what a lavish Giver You are.
With these gifts we offer our thanks and declare the
 Manner of our living, by the manner of our giving.
In the name of Jesus, Your most lavish gift. Amen

Based on II Corinthians 9:7-9 paraphrase MESSAGE by Eugene Peterson

Invitation to Giving

This is inventory time. You have spent money to get here, to buy new clothes, to buy food, to buy things to have fun and entertainment. Now comes the time to spend for God.
The fun of giving is a sign of life. A fruit tree gives fruit and we know it is alive. When it no longer gives fruit, we know the tree is really no longer alive. The person who spends only for self is no longer alive with God's love.
To give is to live. To give shows the manner of our living.

Prayer of Blessing - *In a moment of silence, take inventory.*

Just as Jesus asked His first disciples, He asks us just now, "How much bread do you have?" God is able to multiply beyond what we can imagine ... when we give what we have. Thank you, God, for trusting us with so great a mission.

We give now in the name and after the manner of Jesus who, while on earth was known by His giving. And we ask that You multiply our gifts, even as You did centuries ago. Amen.

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