



October 3, 2023

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

To my Grace Church family,

I am honored and delighted to introduce to you our stewardship program for 2024, *Rooted in Abundance*. As a lifelong member of Grace, I've had the privilege of growing my roots in this loving and nurturing parish from baptism to Sunday school, youth group, confirmation, marriage, and now as a youth leader and member of our vestry and stewardship committee. Because of those who came before me, I've been given the chance to flourish where I've been planted and continue the legacy of our "Church that love built."

Many of us may assume that Grace will always be here, and we may take for granted that it has endured for the past 111 years. Our beloved parish has abided not only by God's provision, but because of parishioners like you and I who have tended to its roots and nurtured it as it's grown into an abundant community. I can only hope that Grace will continue to be a pillar of faith and worship for my future children and their children over the next 111 years and beyond. As our annual stewardship program gets underway, *Rooted in Abundance* is a 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 benefited or suffered – rather we give because of the love we have experienced in the story of our faith.

From the small shoot reaching out from its seed and finding the sunlight, to the mightiest tree, standing tall, showing strength, offering sheltering love to those who need it, Grace is a forest of love. We are those trees, each drawing strength from our community and showering the world with the love and grace we have come to know here. Let us think of our children and grandchildren; let us use our God-given talents and resources to ensure that this forest of love at Grace has deep roots that will sustain for generations to come.

This year, 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 calls 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 Creation that gave birth to us all. Thank you for your generosity and your prayerful consideration of your pledge to Grace Church.

Please be on the lookout for your pledge cards near the end of October and mark your calendars for Ingathering Sunday on November 12, which will feature a delicious taco truck lunch and a special magic show by our very own Wayne Kawamoto.

In Gratitude,

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