



ARISE

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."*

Isaiah 60:1

FROM FATHER AARON

Dear Immanuel Anglican Family,

I love watching the sunrise over Lake Michigan. There's something about those first rays of light breaking through the darkness that brings hope, energy, and a deep sense of beauty. It reminds me of what God is doing in our church. We've seen His light at work in our lives, drawing us closer to Him and to each other. Now, as we step into this next season, we believe He's calling us to arise and shine with His light in even greater ways.

This booklet is a guide for our ARISE initiative, which is not just about raising funds—it's about expanding our trust in God and deepening our unity as his Bride.

Together, we are learning to live more fully in the freedom and purpose that comes with a generous life. Over the next few weeks, we'll be diving into sermons and small group discussions that explore what it means to live as generous disciples of Jesus. You'll find space for reflection, opportunities to process in community, and practical next steps for growing in your trust of God's provision.

I know that conversations about generosity can bring up all kinds of feelings—maybe excitement, but also maybe hesitation or even discomfort. If you're feeling unsure, I invite you to bring those feelings to Jesus. This isn't about pressure; it's about invitation. Jesus invites us to bring our honest hearts, to trust Him more deeply, and to watch how He moves in our lives when we take that next step of faith. This booklet will help guide you through that process, with tools and content designed to support your spiritual growth.



Inside, you'll find several key sections that will walk us through the ARISE initiative together:

- ➔ **Defining Moments** in our church's history that have shaped who we are today.
- ➔ **Goals for ARISE** that lay out where we believe God is calling us in this next season.
- ➔ **A detailed breakdown of our ARISE Fund**, which combines our Spiritual Beacon ministry, mission, and building needs into one unified fund.
- ➔ **A Journey of the Giver guide**, which will help each of us reflect on where we are in our personal generosity and where God might be leading us next.
- ➔ **Reflection questions and content** based on the sermon series to help us explore these themes more deeply in community.
- ➔ **Fun artwork & a Malcom Guite poem**

We're trusting God to lead us as we step into this new chapter. Laura and I are praying that this journey will be marked not just by financial milestones, but by stories of how God stretches and surprises us as we grow in our faith and generosity.

I'm so excited to walk this path with you, and I'm grateful for how God has already been at work in our church. Let's arise together, trusting Him to lead the way.

With love and gratitude,

Aaron Damiani
Rector, Immanuel Anglican Church

DEFINING MOMENTS

PALM SUNDAY 2012

Aaron & Laura Damiani meet with founding members to pray and discern God's call for a new Anglican church plant in the city of Chicago.



MAY 2013

First retreat at Camp Hickory, first baptisms, and the Spirit give us the name Immanuel.



JANUARY 2018

Began monthly support of our first missionary partners, Tyler and Lara Patty, to be followed by Michael and Kayla Parker five years later.



2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

FEBRUARY 2013

A Chicago Anglican Launch Team is formed, meets at JPUSA's Garden Room to pray and plan outreach events.



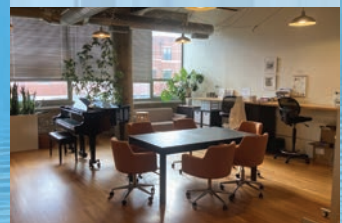
OCTOBER 6, 2013

Launch Sunday at Uplift Community High School.



AUGUST 2014

In a leap of faith, we begin renting office space, now known as **The Ministry Center**. Immanuel continues to celebrate new members, new ministries, new forms of outreach and new leaders raised up.



FALL 2019

First service at 640 W. Irving Park during Chicago Teachers Strike; Susan Raedeke is ordained to the Diaconate.



SEPTEMBER 2020

Church re-launches in person and began a long-term lease at 640 W. Irving Park.



2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

SPRING 2020

Immanuel pivots with online services, city groups and a confirmation course



JULY 2023

Instead of losing our lease, we gain over 1K new neighbors from Central America. Migrant Ministry Team is formed to meet their practical, personal and spiritual needs.



ARISE

2024

ARISE Initiative begins!

PRAYER

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.” Isaiah 60:1

Above all else, we beleve God calls us to prayer.

Following our 40 days of prayer, we invite you to continue praying for Immanuel during the ARISE Initiative and ARISE Giving Season.

- ➔ **Pray** that the people of Immanuel would be firmly established like the roots of a tree (Psalm 1), rooted and grounded in love, that Christ may dwell deeply in our hearts as we become like Him (Ephesians 3).
- ➔ **Pray** that the presence of Christ would be a continual flow of living water to the people of Immanuel (John 4, John 7:37-38) and that the presence of God would overflow to fill our city as God makes roads in the wilderness and streams in the dry lands (Isaiah 43:18-21).
- ➔ **Pray** for new works of grace and mercy in us as we grow in generosity. Pray that God will help us step out in faith and walk upon the water with Him (Matthew 14:22-29).



Kristine Bredemeier, 2015

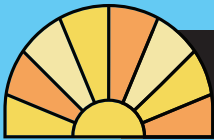


Sarah Bertsche, 2017

ARISE

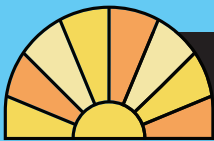
GOALS

OUR ARISE INITIATIVE HAS TWO GOALS



PRIMARY GOAL

100% engagement for every one of us who calls Immanuel our church home to grow in our own stewardship and generosity: to trust God with more of our resources and watch him provide for us in loving and surprising ways.



SECONDARY GOAL

Raise \$2.6 million dollars over the next two years. This single ARISE fund will not only support our ongoing ministry, mission and outreach opportunities for the next two years (\$1.3 M) but also grow our building reserves (\$1.3M), preparing us to purchase a church facility.

ARISE

ONE FUND

The One Fund is designed to keep things simple.

Rather than calculating one giving amount for the general fund and another towards a building, **the ARISE Initiative invites you to set the total amount you will give to Immanuel over the next two years in tithes and offerings.**

ONE amount to ONE fund.

Every **ARISE** gift given to Immanuel will go toward our ongoing ministries and mission in Chicago and a permanent home for our church family.



**WE ARE INVITING EVERYONE
TO COMMIT TO GIVE TO IMMANUEL**



OUR GOAL FOR THE ARISE ONE FUND IS \$2.6 MILLION DOLLARS

If we reach this goal, Immanuel's plan is to use the \$1.3 M to support our ongoing ministry and mission in Chicago and \$1.3 M to grow our building reserves.

However, by giving to a single fund, we build flexibility into the financial structure, empowering the Parish Council to make minor adjustments to the final numbers to best advance Immanuel's mission.



Example Commitment Card

ARISE

CALCULATE HERE

\$ _____ What I / We normally give
+ in **ONE YEAR.**

\$ _____ My / Our expanded **ANNUAL**
= generosity for ARISE

\$ _____ **X 2 YEARS =** ↓

\$ _____

+ \$ _____

Gifts from My/Our stored resources
(stocks, possessions, property, etc.) \$ _____

= _____ ↓

\$ _____

My/Our two-year commitment to the ARISE Initiative
(November 2024 - December 2026)

SPIRITUAL BEACON BUILDING

\$ 1.3 MILLION

WHY DO WE NEED A BUILDING?

Sustainable Growth: Urban churches see significant growth after establishing a permanent location, as transient individuals connect more easily with churches that offer stability.

Community Trust: Local residents are more inclined to trust and join a church anchored in the community and committed for the long haul.

Long-term Investment: We are not here temporarily; we're making a lasting commitment to Gospel ministry in Chicago for generations to come. Renting spaces limits our ability to serve effectively.

Enhanced Hospitality: Owning a space allows us to extend greater hospitality to our neighbors, create a hub for Immanuel's community life, and implement a sustainable mercy ministry to meet local needs.

WHY IS NOW THE TIME TO PURSUE A BUILDING?

We are losing our current worship space. 640 W Irving Park, now owned by a developer, will soon be converted into a high-rise senior living complex.

Ownership reduces risks. While renting has some benefits, it also leaves us vulnerable to the sudden loss of a worship space, rising rents, as well as the limits on hours of usage. We need to reduce these risks as soon as God allows by pursuing ownership.

After 11 years, our leaders and structures are ready to take the next step into a building initiative.

SPIRITUAL BEACON MINISTRY

\$ 1.3 MILLION

HOW WILL THE ARISE ONE FUND SUPPORT ONGOING MINISTRY?

Maintain current operations. Reliable projected income will allow Immanuel to continue Her ministry through Sunday services, discipleship, pastoral care, city groups, community outreach, and worship arts.

Dream for the future. Funds beyond normal operating budget will be used to begin testing our capacities for expanding ministries. Immanuel's leadership teams (Staff, Clergy and Parish Council) will discern together with Fr. Aaron which initiative(s) will be pursued first.

With open hands, we hope and dream that in the next decade Immanuel will:

- ➔ **Turn every ministry into an outreach opportunity:** Double the impact of our Sunday worship services, expand our third space outreach events, and make City Groups more hospitable to the unchurched.
- ➔ **Build a robust pipeline of discipleship** for ages 11-30. Begin to reverse the flow of formation: build a missional + mature next generation.
 - ➔ Including a vibrant youth group, a campus ministry partnership, and a young adult residency program that equips them for missional living.
- ➔ **Establish a central mercy ministry** in our community that cares for vulnerable children and families.
- ➔ **Strengthen the support systems for our families and single adults** for long-term urban flourishing.
- ➔ **Become a church for the nations:** doubling the number of missionaries we are sending abroad.

NEXT STEPS

We invite you to go on a spiritual journey with God and take a step of bold faith in your generosity. Please join us and:

Pray Boldly

Ask the Lord to move your heart and everyone in our church family to Arise to a higher level of spiritual growth and giving.

Commit confidently and give generously

Ask the Lord what bold and sacrificial giving looks like for you and your family. Commit confidently trusting the Lord to use and multiply your gifts to His glory.

Share your story

As God grows you through this journey, consider telling your story to encourage others.

TWO YEAR GIFT CHART

As you pray about how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a tool. Allow it to inspire and challenge you towards greater generosity as we embark on the ARISE Initiative together.

\$2.6 MILLION GOAL

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO-YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
2	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$8,333	\$400,000
3	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$300,000
4	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$300,000
6	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$300,000
8	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$1,667	\$320,000
10	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$300,000
12	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$833	\$240,000
14	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$140,000
18	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$135,000
20	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$100,000
26	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$65,000
				\$2,600,000

KEY DATES

October 20- November 17, 2024

Engage in the ARISE journey with Immanuel and your City Group. Prayerfully consider what God might be inviting you to give to the ARISE initiative.

November 17, 2024: Commitment Sunday

Having determined what you'd like to give to ARISE, bring your Commitment Card to church for a time of devoting our ARISE offerings to God as a congregation.

November 24, 2024

The ARISE Giving Season begins with Giving Sunday, when ongoing giving commitments begin with your first and best gift. We will conclude the ARISE Sermon Series, share the total dollar amount of our collective commitments, and celebrate together in thanksgiving to God.

November 24, 2024 - December 31, 2026

The ARISE Giving Season will continue through the end of 2026 and every gift given will be to the ARISE Initiative. We will celebrate all God has done in and through us with a culmination celebration.

FAQS

What is the relationship between the ARISE One Fund & the current Building Fund?

The current Building Fund was opened upon the request of Immanuel members who were eager to begin giving to our future home. Money given to the Building Fund is restricted to that purpose only and will be used for that purpose. As we all give to the ARISE One Fund, Immanuel's Parish Council will periodically designate money from the One Fund into the Building Fund so that we can together watch that number rise! These internal designations are more flexible because they can be adjusted if that is in the best interest of Immanuel.

What is the Parish Council's plan to allocate funds into the Building Fund?

Immanuel's Parish Council will evaluate actual giving at the end of each fiscal quarter and move money from the ARISE One Fund to the Building Fund.

Why is my Commitment Card important?

November 17 is Commitment Sunday, when we invite everyone to pledge what level of giving commitment they would like to contribute over the two years of ARISE. Most importantly, they are a physical symbol of an ongoing inward commitment to growth in the Lord through generosity. Commitment cards are valuable because knowing projected income 1) will help staff and parish council discern how to prioritize ministry over the next several years and 2) help us know what we can afford in a building. Banks consider pledged fundraising to be an asset in deciding how much to lend for a mortgage.

For more information about the ARISE Initiative, Immanuel's Building Fund, and giving, please visit arise.immanuelanglican.org.



Jill Fager, 2015

REFLECT ON YOUR JOURNEY AS A GIVER

This is not a set of steps to earn God's favor but a helpful way to understand and evaluate your growth in generosity.

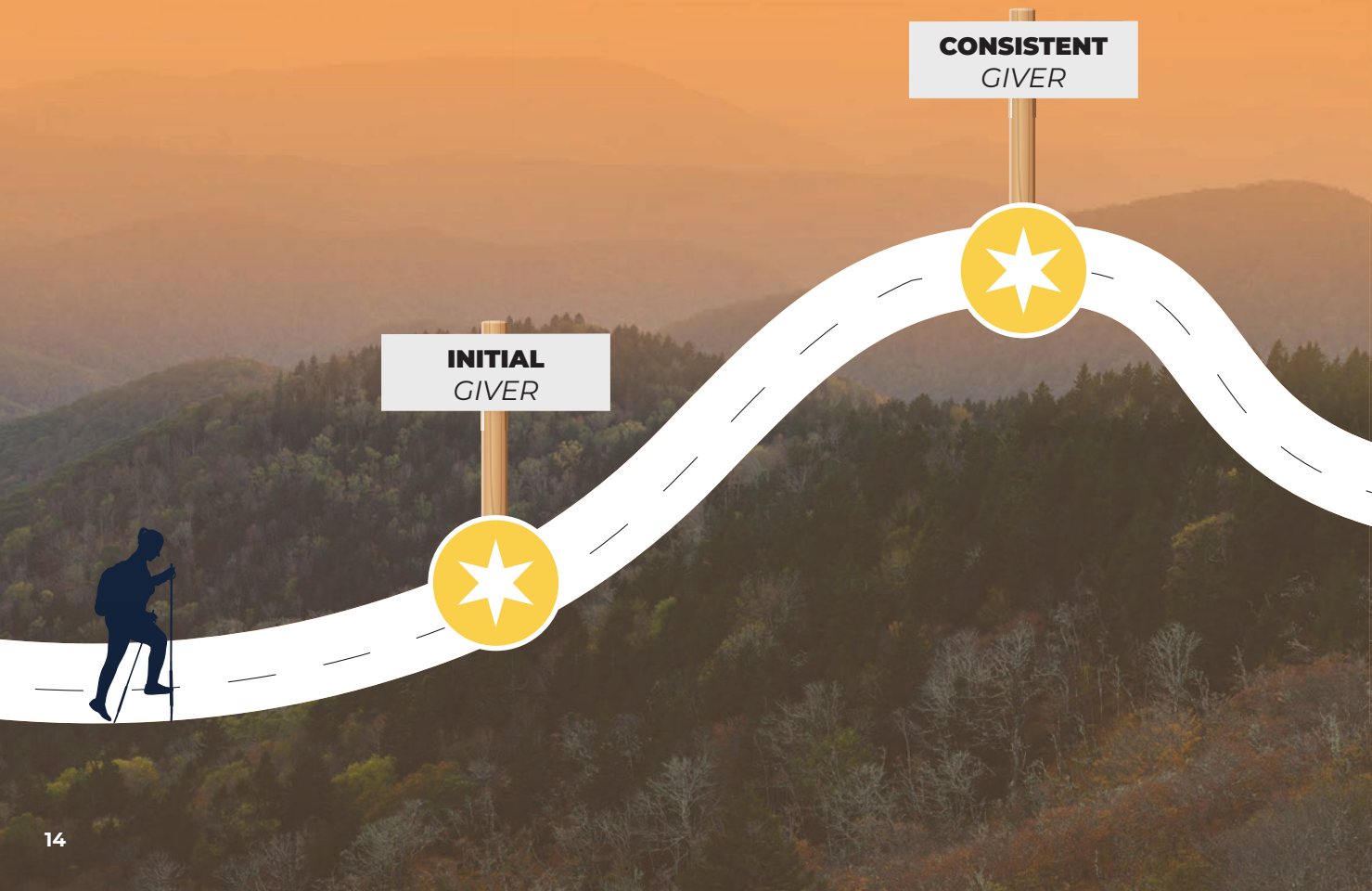
DRAWING YOUR JOURNEY

Take a moment to draw a simple representation of where you are on this generosity journey. Feel free to depict yourself in any way that reflects your current posture:

- Are you excited and ready to give?
- Are you slumped over, tired, or feeling forced?
- Or perhaps you're on a joyful adventure?

Next Draw Where You'd Like to Be

- What would it look like to move deeper into this journey?
- How would you like God to move in your life to help you take the next step in generosity?
- Who or what do you want to have with you on the journey?





BEGINNING YOUR JOURNEY

You've not yet explored giving monetarily to the church. You are curious and open to taking this journey with God, but you have reservations and concerns, too.



INITIAL GIVER

You've taken the first steps in giving in response to Scripture or the prompting of the Holy Spirit. You recognize that you possess resources to contribute to the flourishing of others: perhaps you give spontaneously to the church, a cause, or a special offering.



CONSISTENT GIVER

You are committed to exercising the discipline of generosity by giving regularly. You may make recurring gifts or set aside money monthly or annually to give away. You've seen God provide for you as you trust him with your resources.



COMMITTED GIVER

Giving generously is your first priority for your resources: you commit to tithing before setting your monthly budget. You problem-solve to orient your regular expenses and spending around your giving, rather than the other way around.



CREATIVE GIVER

You expend creative energy to be intentional with your money. You make glad sacrifices and lifestyle adjustments to step into a creative and surrendered life of generosity. You have fun with your giving! You're always on the lookout for new ways to join God in blessing others with your resources.



ADVENTUROUS GIVER

Rather than an arduous journey, you realize you've been on a treasure hunt all along, collecting stories of God's faithfulness through generosity. You are less concerned with what you are giving and more concerned with what you aren't yet giving and why. You trust God with 100% of your resources and your generosity has reshaped how you live your life. Your generosity goals govern your short and long term purchasing decisions such as homes, cars, investments, or vacations.

COMMITTED
GIVER

CREATIVE
GIVER

ADVENTUROUS
GIVER

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE

YOUR MONEY STORY

We've all been formed in our relationship to money by our experiences, environments, communities and families.

1. What has propelled you in generosity so far?

Think back on your life—was it the example of someone close to you, a family tradition, or perhaps a time when God's Word spoke deeply to you? Reflect on how God has used these moments to shape your giving.

2. Tell your story of money.

Take some time to reflect on your experiences with money:

- Was there a moment when God provided for a specific need?
- Is there a hurtful experience around money that still impacts you today?
- Do you have any hopes or dreams related to money that remain on your heart?

Our money story is part of our spiritual journey.

And like the disciples on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24), Jesus will join us along the way, hear us out, and reveal himself to us in a fresh way that will change us forever.

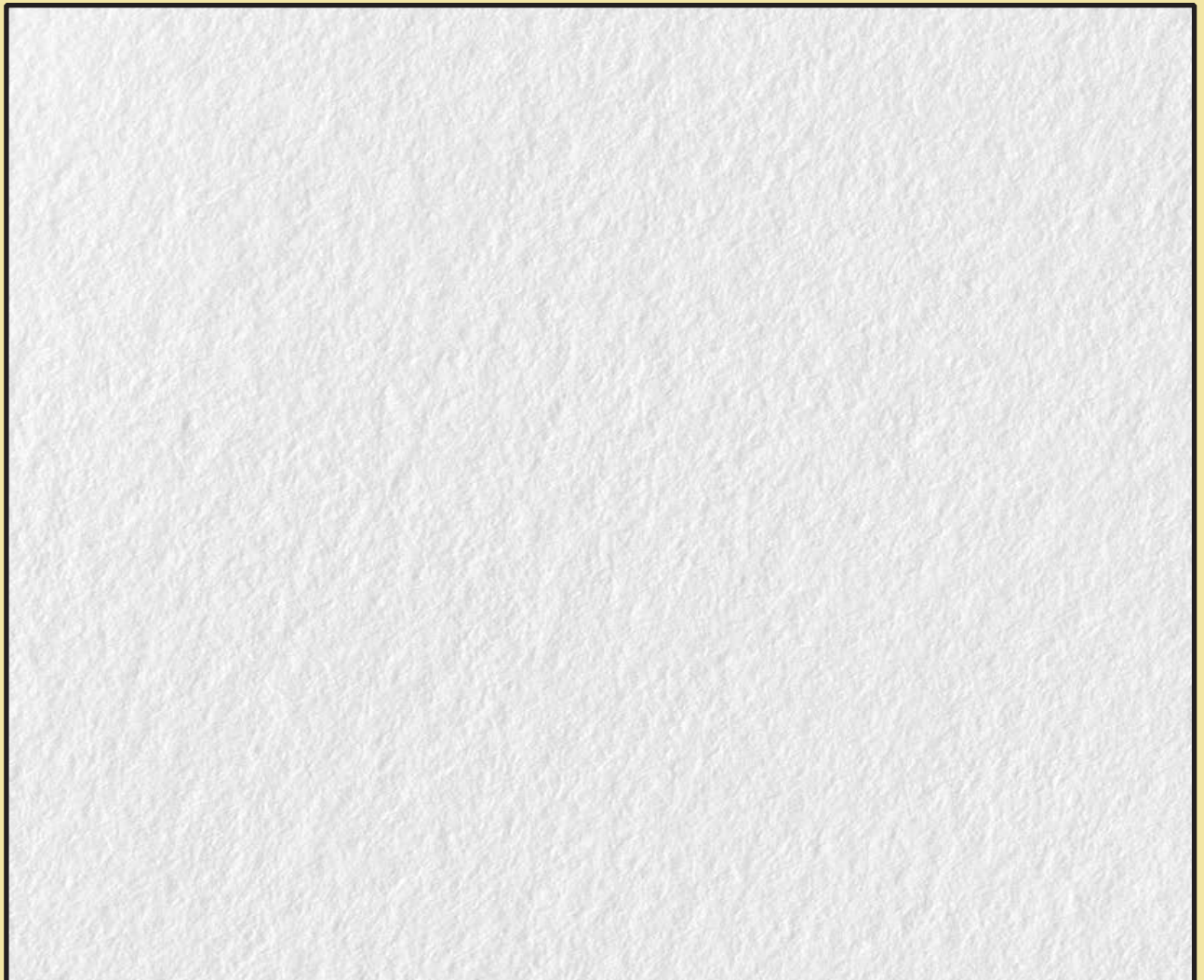
CREATIVE REFLECTION

After reflecting on your Journey as a Giver and your Money Story, use this space to creatively look forward in hope.

Draw your biggest hope for your future.

Write a set of poems remembering a moment of provision in your life, God's character, and the adventure of generosity you want to join him on.

Create a word cloud capturing the Holy Spirit's movement in your life around Generosity.



LIVING AS IF

The Giver of all gifts asks me to give!

The Fountain from which every good thing flows,

The Life who spends himself that all might live,

The Root whence every bud and blossom grows,

Calls me, as if I knew no limitation,

As if I focused all his hidden force,

To be creative with his new creation,

To find my flow in him, my living source,

To live as if I had no fear of losing,

To spend as if I had no need to earn,

To turn my cheek as if it felt no bruising,

To lend as if I needed no return,

As if my debts and sins were all forgiven,

As if I too could body forth his Heaven.

- Malcolm Guite

SERMON SERIES

REFLECTION RESOURCES

*On the following pages you will find the weekly Scriptures that Fr. Aaron will be preaching from during the **ARISE Sermon Series**.* The primary goal of ARISE is to grow as disciples of Jesus in trust, courage, and love as it relates to generosity. We encourage you to spend time individually with these Scriptures in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you to a word or phrase that stands out to you. We've provided prayer invitations, questions, and space to journal or sketch your reflections.

We encourage you to join with others in follow-up conversations around the weekly sermon through city groups.



Sarah Bertsche, 2017

**If you aren't already in a city group, join a short-term
ARISE group at immanuelanglican.org/citygroups**



SERMON SERIES REFLECTION / WEEK 1

October 20, 2024 / Trust / ARISE LAUNCH

SCRIPTURE - MATTHEW 25:14-30 (ESV)

14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

PRAYER INVITATION

Pray for a way to give spontaneously this week. Then listen throughout the week to how the Lord may lead you to bless someone.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Think about a time you trusted God with something in your life: what happened? What do you think about God as a result?

- What role does comparison, hurt or cynicism play in your ability to trust God and other Christians with your resources?

- In what area of your relationship with money might God be calling you to freedom and abundance?



SERMON SERIES REFLECTION / WEEK 2

October 27, 2024 / Security

SCRIPTURE - LUKE 12:13-34 (ESV)

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” 16 And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ 18 And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

22 And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 26 If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! 29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. 30 For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

32 “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

PRAYER INVITATION

Prayerfully identify one thing you have that you do not need: either give it away, or sell it and give the proceeds to someone in need (Luke 12:33).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How has money’s promise of security kept me from generosity? Kept me from freedom in other areas?

- What does Jesus teach us about his Father in this passage that challenges or comforts me? What does he teach us about ourselves?



SERMON SERIES REFLECTION / WEEK 3

November 3, 2024 / The Good Life / Feast of all Saints

SCRIPTURE - LUKE 6:20-26 (ESV)

20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. 22 Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! 23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

24 But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 25 Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. 26 Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets."

PRAYER INVITATION

Practice fasting (abstaining from food) or abstain from another of life's conveniences such as spending, social media or television.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- When I think about "the good life," what comes to mind?

- In what areas of life do I keep striving for more, believing it will bring me greater fulfillment?

- In what areas of life do I want more of God's presence, power, or provision?



SERMON SERIES REFLECTION / WEEK 4

November 10, 2024 / Money and Eternity

SCRIPTURE - LUKE 18:18-30 (ESV)

18 And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 19 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" 21 And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 23 But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. 24 Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 26 Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" 27 But he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." 28 And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." 29 And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, 30 who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

PRAYER INVITATION

Ask the Lord to reveal a barrier to you building up "treasure in heaven." What is one small act of generosity you can do this week that would counter the barrier you feel?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What feelings or thoughts come up when you hear, "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God?"

- Use your imagination: what could it look like for you to receive "many times over" from God as you trust him with your resources?



SERMON SERIES REFLECTION / WEEK 5

November 17, 2024 / The Joy of Generosity / Commitment Sunday

SCRIPTURE - LUKE 19:1-10 (ESV)

1 He [Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. 4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." 8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

PRAYER INVITATION

Practice confession: consider a time you have withheld from God or those in need out of selfishness or fear. Confess to God, a friend, or your city group and receive God's forgiveness and love for you.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What do we learn about Jesus from his invitation to Zaccheus?

- If you had limitless resources, what would bring you joy to give your resources to?



SERMON SERIES REFLECTION / WEEK 6

November 24, 2024 / Thanksgiving / Giving Sunday

SCRIPTURE - I CHRONICLES 29:10-15 (CSB)

10 Then David blessed the Lord in the sight of all the assembly. David said,

“May you be blessed, Lord God of our father Israel, from eternity to eternity. 11 Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. 12 Riches and honor come from you, and you are the ruler of everything. Power and might are in your hand, and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name.

14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? For everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your own hand. 15 For we are aliens and temporary residents in your presence as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.”

PRAYER INVITATION

List some of the gifts the Lord has uniquely given to you. Pray for specific ways to use those gifts (think Time, Treasure, and Talent) to generously give back to the kingdom of God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How does recognizing that everything you have comes from God change how you view your hard work, accomplishments, and possessions?

- In what areas of life are you tempted to take credit for your success or status?



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