

*So let the love of Jesus come and set thy soul ablaze
to give and give, and give again, what God hath given thee
-Hymn #9, 1982 Hymnal*



October 5, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's:

We kick off St. Mark's Annual Stewardship/Giving effort this month with the theme, **"Responding to God's Cosmic Generosity."** You will notice we used the new mosaic as our inspiration. In the midst of the real struggles and losses of the pandemic, we want to remember there is still so much for which to be grateful. God's generosity in our lives is without end. God's grace knows no measure. God's love is as vast as the cosmos itself and cannot be limited.

Every day, we are surrounded on every side by God's wild generosity in our lives. Take a moment to think about all the many things we have to be grateful: relationships, skills, opportunities, education, resources. God has surrounded us with astounding beauty in creation, in nature, in our beautiful New Mexico sky and city. One of our Eucharistic prayers reminds us of "the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home." God has given us life itself. Most importantly in our Christian faith, God has given God's very self in the person of Jesus.

God's cosmic, vast, never ending, expansive generosity calls each of us into a life-changing relationship with the living God. We are invited to see our lives as a gift from God. We are further invited to respond by investing ourselves in the work of God in the world, giving back a portion of what God has given us.

Sunday, October 24th will be St. Mark's Cosmic Generosity Celebration Sunday. Everyone who calls St. Mark's their spiritual home or is a friend of St. Mark's will be invited to join the whole community in making a financial commitment to the work of God in and through St. Mark's.

We ask that you take the time to wholly participate in this season of reflection. Do we rush by our beautiful mural or do we take the time to watch the light reflect off the mirrors and glass? Just so, we should take the time to recognize God's gifts, his Cosmic generosity, even when our daily lives are hard. In reflection, in gratitude and thanksgiving, we can continue growing our faith, and respond generously to God in return.

In God's Generous Love,

Lucy Sinkular
Senior Warden

The Rev. Christopher McLaren
Rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church