

Dear Friends,

We rarely stop to give thanks for big things, let alone the faithful stream of little things—like a bird song that is always there, like a heartbeat—bringing us joy. Mary Oliver’s poem, “The Gift,” captures this well. (The poem is presented on the other side of this letter.) When she takes full notice of the mockingbird and “the vigor of his song,” she makes an offering of thanks by playing Mahler for the bird one day. Soon she hears parts of Mahler incorporated into the mockingbird’s song, the gift of thanks now part of the song for another who will listen.

The love of God in Christ has been faithfully sung to us every day of our lives. Each year we, the faithful, intentionally pause to take notice and make a pledge of thanksgiving from our financial resources, trusting that our gift will become part of that larger Song through ministries that feed the hungry, make heard the voiceless, lift up the powerless, and spread the Good News of God’s love in Christ. Our pledges matter. They are like the machine upon which Mahler is played for the mockingbird, making the music of such things as forgiveness, hope, justice, and love tangible in our world. These pledges enable us to continue to have a place in which to worship and offer the sacraments at every stage of life; to offer ministries here and in the wider world that transform lives—in the parish, the local community, the diocese, and The Episcopal Church; and to be a community where it is safe to come and be while sorting out the fullness of the Song.

We have been given the task of being good stewards of all that we’ve been given. Please prayerfully consider your pledge to Holy Spirit and commit to the life and ministry that sings forth from this place. Our presence here is a means of God’s grace, our thanks for the vigor of God’s love sung to the world.

With much gratitude,

Terri+

The Reverend Terri Ann Grotzinger

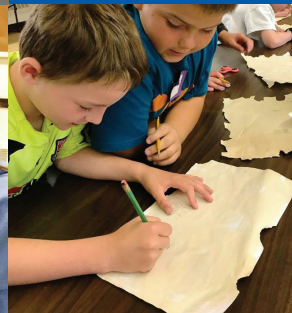


“Being open to giving gladly completes an important circle for me. In good times and in challenging times, the more I give, the happier I become.”

SUE LaROSE

“The reasons we find a spiritual home at Holy Spirit are as numerous as the number of parishioners.”

JOHN CROWLEY



Giving with Gladness

HOLY
SPIRIT
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

The Gift

By Mary Oliver

I wanted to thank the mockingbird for the vigor of his song.

*Every day he sang from the rim of the field, while I picked
blueberries or just idled in the sun.*

*Every day he came fluttering by to show me, and why not,
the white blossoms in his wings.*

*So one day I went there with a machine, and played some songs
of Mahler.*

*The mockingbird stopped singing, he came close and seemed
to listen.*

*Now when I go down to the field, a little Mahler spills
through the sputters of his song.*

*How happy I am, lounging in the light, listening as the music
floats by!*

*And I give thanks also for my mind, that thought of giving
a gift.*

And mostly I'm grateful that I take this world so seriously.



**HOLY SPIRIT
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

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NOVEMBER 5
INGATHERING SUNDAY

Please complete the enclosed Financial Pledge Card and place it in the offertory plate on or before Sunday, November 5. Thank you for your generous support of our Holy Spirit community.

To make your pledge today, please call the church office at (406) 542-2167.

holyspiritmissoula.org