Living with open hands

Harvest reflection · Sunday 18 October 2026

Today’s readings

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

6 Remember this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work. 9 As it is written, “He has scattered abroad. He has given to the poor. His righteousness remains forever.”

10 Now may he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 you being enriched in everything for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us.

12 For this service of giving that you perform not only makes up for lack amongst the saints, but abounds also through much giving of thanks to God, 13 seeing that through the proof given by this service, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the Good News of Christ and for the generosity of your contribution to them and to all, 14 while they themselves also, with supplication on your behalf, yearn for you by reason of the exceeding grace of God in you. 15 Now thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!

Luke 12 verses 32 to 34

32 “Don’t be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. 33 Sell what you have and give gifts to the needy. Make for yourselves purses which don’t grow old, a treasure in the heavens that doesn’t fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Readings: World English Bible British Edition, public domain. The quotation in 2 Corinthians 9:9 is from Psalm 112:9.

Learning the generosity of Jesus

Harvest invites us to give thanks: for the earth, for food, for those whose work sustains us, and for the gifts we could never provide for ourselves. Gratitude helps us see our lives differently. What we have received can become a blessing for someone else.

In the story of the man with the barns, Jesus describes someone whose abundant harvest leads only to thoughts of keeping more for himself. His plans have no room for his neighbour or for God. It is a question worth bringing home: when I look at what I have, do I see only something to protect, or something I could share?

Jesus understands the fear beneath our tight grip. Before asking his disciples to give, he reassures them: their Father delights to give them the kingdom. Generosity begins in God's love. We do not give to earn our place with him; we give because we have already been welcomed.

In Jesus we see that generosity in person. He notices those who are overlooked, welcomes those on the edge, feeds the hungry and gives himself in love. Following him means allowing his way of life to shape our attention, possessions, time and money.

Paul's appeal is practical: he is gathering support for fellow Christians in need. His image of sowing and reaping points towards a harvest of righteousness. Giving meets needs, strengthens relationships and leads people to thank God. It is no promise of personal riches in return for a donation.

As we practise generosity, we learn freedom from the constant pull of more. Responsible provision for ourselves and our families matters. So does learning to recognise enough. We can begin with one willing, thoughtful act of sharing, trusting Jesus to help our hearts grow.

A verse to remember

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
Luke 12:34

Pause and reflect

• What have I received this Harvest for which I want to thank God?

• What am I holding tightly? Is fear, habit or the desire for more shaping my choices?

• How might my giving help my heart grow towards Jesus, my neighbours and our church?

• What is one realistic step I can take this week to share what I have?

A practice for the week

Sit quietly with your hands open. Thank God for one gift you have received. Ask: “Jesus, what have you placed in my hands, and how might I share it?”

Choose one concrete response. Give away something useful you no longer need, share a meal, help someone facing a cost, or make time for a person who is lonely. Set aside a few minutes to review your financial giving too. Make a decision you can put into practice this week.

A prayer for the week

Generous God,
thank you for the gifts that sustain our lives
and for Jesus, who gives himself in love.

Where we are afraid, reassure us.
Where we hold too tightly, help us loosen our grip.
Where we see need, teach us to respond.

Give us wisdom in what we keep
and joy in what we share.
Sustain the life of our churches
and make us attentive to our neighbours.

Teach us to follow Jesus
and to live with open hands.
Amen.

Giving

Thank you so much for your financial support. We could not fulfil our God-given vision without the generous offering of your time, talents and finance.

We encourage regular members of the church to contribute to the vision of the church and the activities associated with it.

You can give in many different ways…

1) Parish Giving Scheme

Our preferred way to give is through the Parish Giving Scheme, which offers regular giving or a one-off donation. Please use this QR code or go to Parishgiving.org.uk.

Our parish code is 430643009.

2) On Sundays

Give when the offering baskets are passed around.

3) Contact our treasurer

You can also give by contacting the treasurer, Kathryn Wright.

Our Harvest invitation

Please prayerfully review your regular giving, consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme, or make a special Harvest gift to support our church's life and work.

Give as you are able. Your presence, prayers and care are valued, whatever your circumstances.