



**July 31, 2022**

**Melville United Church**

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**Melville United Church**  
**July 31, 2022**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

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Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

**Welcome**

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, who challenges us to look beyond the material.

We gather in community today – July 31, 2022 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person. We encourage people to come out to worship in the sanctuary. There is ample room to socially distance, and you are welcome to wear masks if that is comfortable for you. For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

We gather in this season after Pentecost also called Ordinary Time, a season of the commonplace and regular, the everyday time, between the feasts and grand celebrations. It is the regular time in our lives when faith lives, grows and sustains. Green is the colour for the season, evoking nature, growth, vitality, freshness, harmony, endurance and fertility. It is associated with healing and rest—the depth and stability of blue combined with the warmth and joy of yellow.

**Announcements**

- We welcome and offer thanks for **organist Peyton O'Brien** who will be sharing his musical gifts with us today
- **The Melville Garage, Plant and Bake Sale** will continue for one more weekend, **Friday July 29 and Saturday July 30 from 10-4** both days. Your donations are still appreciated. They will be accepted in the Fellowship Hall Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:30pm. Contact Lorna Bevcar for details.
- **Away on Vacation** – Rev. Lynda will be away on vacation from **August 10th to September 5<sup>th</sup>**. If you have a pastoral care emergency in that time, please contact Alison Rainford and she will connect you with the ministry personnel who is covering at that time. Worship services will be covered by Tom Watson and Ruth Cooke. Many thanks to all those looking after ministry matters in my absence. Blessings for the remainder of your summer!
- **Knox Presbyterian Church in Elora** is holding an online Silent Auction during the month of July. Items can be viewed at Knox's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/knoxelora](http://www.facebook.com/knoxelora) or in person at Knox Church Saturdays in July from 1-3pm. Winners will be notified on July 31. The event will wrap up with a Hootenanny on July 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 6pm with the No Name Band and Friends. There will be hotdogs and ice cream available and the hat will be passed.
- **Melville Photo Directory**: There have been two sessions of photos taken for the directory. There will be another session on **Wednesday, September 21st**. Please contact Lorna for your appointment. Everyone who has their photo in the book gets a free book and an 8" x 10" photo.
- **Kairos Blanket Exercise – Save the Date!** The Kairos Blanket Exercise has been developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and educators. It is an interactive and experiential teaching tool that explores the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the land we now know as Canada. It is a 2 to 3-hour workshop and will be offered **at Melville on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 1:30-4:30pm**. It is intended

for those 14 and over, and is limited to 25-30 participants. Please contact Rev. Lynda to reserve a space.

- As more and more people find their dollar shrinking, and having to decide between rent and three meals a day, the demand for food bank assistance rises. We ask you to prayerfully consider if you are able to **support the food bank**, either with a donation of food, or financially.
- **Indigenous-Themed Summer Reading List** – for anyone who is interested Shining Waters Regional Council offered a list of recommended readings on Indigenous history and contemporary relationships. The list is located on the bulletin board across from the Chapel.
- **Ukraine Appeal**  
The invasion of Ukraine is costing precious lives and creating a humanitarian crisis as people flee to safety. Many millions of people, displaced from their homes, are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Many have lost friends, loved ones, and property; struggle to meet their basic needs; and face an uncertain future. **United Church Mission & Service partners are responding to the rapidly unfolding crisis—visit our website at <https://united-church.ca>, scroll down to Ukraine Crisis and click on the Act Now button to find out how you can show your support and make a gift.**
- **Gifts with Vision** These gifts are perfect for those difficult to buy for people. There's no going out, no standing in line, no wrapping. And you will be helping out those in need near and far. Items address healing and reconciliation, leadership, counter racism, wellness and safe spaces, education, poverty and hunger, the future, Mission & Service. Gifts range from \$5 to \$140. Gifts include food for the north, help build a well, purchasing Covid vaccines for the Global South and East, and much more. You can find the full catalogue at [www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca).
- **New Gifts with Vision for Ukraine**  
**A gift of \$25** will provide families fleeing Ukraine with a **hygiene kit** containing items like toothpaste, laundry detergent and disinfectant  
**A gift of \$38** will provide **one food basket** with staples such as cooking oil, buckwheat, canned fish and more  
**A gift of \$40** provides **one hygiene kit plus a supply of incontinence products**  
You can find the full catalogue at [www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca)

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

**Land Acknowledgement** *Peter Chynoweth, Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022, p.33. Used with permission.*

We acknowledge that this land on which we gather for worship is the traditional land of the people of Petun,  
Haudenosaunee,  
Anishinabewaki,  
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation,  
Odawa and  
Mississauga nations. We acknowledge that we live on this land as people who have agreed to share the care and use of this land as a result of treaties—the Simcoe Patent—Treaty No. 4 and the Haldimand Treaty, that outlined the rights and responsibilities associated with our place in this land. May we be people who remember this with thanksgiving and respect.

**Lighting the Christ Candle:** *Bill Perry, Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022, p.34, alt. Used with permission.*

*(If you are watching this on-line or reading it from a page I invite you to take a moment to light a candle, centre yourself and prepare to enter in to a time of worship and prayer. As you light your candle repeat the following words)*

We carry our Christ candle with us as we live our daily lives.

We carry it acknowledging our unique gifts and limitations.

We carry it into our own shadows.

We carry it as we live into the pathway of discipleship to which we are called.

Yet sometimes we become distracted.

At times, we get lost in digression.

At other times, we become disillusioned and set it aside in order to go our own way.

**Today we intentionally light afresh the Christ candle within us and among us,  
naming its light as grace, promise, hope, and full life,  
a strength and power for today and tomorrow.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Call to Worship:** *Karen MacNeil, Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022, p.35. Used with permission.*

In the midst of a busy season,

**we seek Sabbath rest.**

In the midst of sweltering heat,

**we seek refreshment of spirit, cool water, gentle breezes.**

In the midst of an indifferent world,

**we long for acceptance, connection, meaning, and purpose.**

In the midst of uncertain times,

**we hunger for generosity and a shared humanity.**

In every moment, we seek the Sacred revealed in our midst,

**the blessed One who provides for us.**

And so we gather to worship as a community.

**Hymn: You Servants of God**

**VU342**

- 1 You servants of God, your Saviour proclaim,  
and publish abroad that wonderful name;  
the name all victorious of Jesus extol,  
whose kingdom is glorious and rules over all.
- 2 God rules from on high, almighty to save,  
whose Word still is nigh, a presence we have.  
The great congregation God's triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.
- 3 Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son!  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
bow down in deep reverence and worship the Lamb.
- 4 Then let us adore and give as is right,

all glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
all honour and blessing with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

### **Opening Prayer**

Come to us, Holy God,  
as we gather before you;  
**encircle us with your love.**  
Bless us with your sustaining presence;  
**surround us with your grace.**  
Draw us 'round your living Word,  
**and bind us to one another as disciples of Christ,**  
whose Spirit is in our midst.  
**Amen.**

**Call to Reconciliation** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word<sup>®</sup> Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2.** Copyright 2013, alt.*

The truth about us is this:  
we all sin and fall short of the glory of God.  
Yet God promises to pour out grace upon us,  
giving us confidence to show ourselves as we are  
and be freed from shame.  
Trusting in God's mercy,  
let us confess our sin, shortcomings, brokenness before God and one another.  
as we pray together our Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation,

**Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison)** *Nancy C. Townley, **Ministry Matters: Worship Connection: July 31, 2022** at <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4034/worship-connection-july-31-2022>. Used with permission.*

**Merciful God, we live in a society that focuses on gathering things.**  
**We collect, store, gather items, gadgets, even people.**  
**We focus our energies on our collections providing adequate room for them**  
**and yet we bar the door to the needs of others,**  
**of those who have little or nothing,**  
**of those for whom life has been a constant struggle.**  
**We are sorry for the ways in which we have failed you.**  
**Forgive us.**  
**Turn us around to look at the ways in which our wealth, both of substance and spirit,**  
**can be used for healing and hope.**  
**Enable us to be in ministry to those in need and to care for this world.**  
**For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance** *Nancy C. Townley, **Ministry Matters: Worship Connection: July 31, 2022** at <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4034/worship-connection-july-31-2022>, alt. Used with permission.*

Children of God, blessings have been poured upon us  
so that we may use them to help others.  
God walks with us and guides our steps  
as we reach out in compassion, mercy and justice to all in need.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music: “We Are Called”** by David Haas played by Suzanne Flewelling

**...In the Midst: Junk Basket**

**Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be**      **VU506**

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, all for thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

    Take my hands, and let them move  
    at the impulse of thy love;  
    take my feet, and let them be  
    swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

    Take my will, and make it thine;  
    it shall be no longer mine;  
    take my heart, it is thine own;  
    it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

**Prayer of Illumination** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**<sup>®</sup>  
**Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2.** Copyright 2013, alt..*

Holy God,

allow us your wisdom.

By the power of your Holy Spirit  
open the Scriptures to us today,  
that in the Word read and proclaimed  
we might know your truth.

In Jesus' name we ask it. **Amen.**

**Scripture: Luke 12:13-21** *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

*The rich fool who builds bigger and bigger barns*

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,

“Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our inheritance.”

Jesus replied, “Friend, who has set me up as your judge or arbiter?”

Then he told the crowd, “Avoid greed in all its forms.

Your life isn't made more secure by what you own—  
even when you have more than you need.”

Jesus then told them a parable in these words:  
“There was a rich farmer who had a good harvest.

“‘What will I do? The farmer mused.  
‘I have no place to store my harvest.  
I know! I’ll pull down my grain bins and build larger ones.  
All my grain and goods will go there.  
Then I’ll say to myself: You have blessings in reserve for many years to come.  
Relax! Eat, drink and be merry!’

“But God said to the farmer,  
‘You fool! This very night your life will be required of you.  
To whom will all your accumulated wealth go?’

“This is the way it works with people who accumulate riches for themselves,  
but are not rich in God.”

**Prayer** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2.** Copyright 2013, alt..*

God, we trust that you have our best interests at heart. *Col. 3:1*

As your Word is broken open,  
remind us that we have been raised with Christ,  
and inspire us to seek the things that are above,  
through the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share  
find a response that is worthy of you,  
most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.

**David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.**

**Reflection: To Have and to Hold?**



Have you ever found yourself in the unfortunate position of having to sort through another's worldly possessions/affairs after they have died? Sometimes it's just a lot of work at a point when emotions are running high, and that lot of work can stretch over months. Sometimes it's happening at the same time as a whole host of documentation must be dealt with. Sometimes there is a lot of stuff that has to be sorted out, disposed of or relocated.

Presumably, that sort of thing is what has happened in our reading for today. One brother comes to Jesus, and seeing him as a teacher/rabbi who has the position and standing to determine legal matters, asks him to order his brother, who will be his elder or eldest brother, to give him his share of the inheritance. The Law of Deuteronomy 21:16-17 prescribes that the firstborn son receives a double portion of his father's main estate, and the firstborn is responsible for deciding whether to keep the estate intact, or divide it among his brothers. Here it seems the eldest brother wishes to keep the estate intact, while the younger wants his share, so he comes to Jesus, asking him to settle the dispute.

Jesus is not willing to rule on dividing the estate. His comments about greed and having more than one needs suggest that Jesus questions the younger brother's motives for wanting the estate divided. Unfortunately, this scenario is one that not only arises in Jesus' time, but through history to the present.

And then Jesus offers a parable about a rich man who has so much grain harvested that he doesn't know what to do with it, or where to keep it. Now the one possibility, is that he could trade for it or sell it, but he doesn't seem to want to do that. In deciding to tear down the grain bins he has and build bigger ones, he is choosing to keep his grain out of the market, perhaps until the price is higher and he can gain more from the sale of it. Of course, what will drive the price higher is demand, from people who have difficulty obtaining grain. So this landowner with his piles of grain and larger grain bins, is withholding it from the people who need it.

As the landowner toasts his success and looks forward to a time of leisure to come, he is informed by God that he will die that very night.



In the past I have read this parable as speaking about the consequences of greed, that it is important that we do not focus on the material things, because, as Don Henley sings in the song Gimme What You Got, "you don't see no hearses with luggage racks." To have spent one's life amassing material possessions is not how Jesus would have us live.

We might think, when God tells him his life is up that night, that the rich landowner got what he had coming, for being so greedy, and for withholding his good fortune from the people, so he can become even richer. It could be read as a starkly negative lesson from Jesus.

But this time when I was reading commentaries on the text, I also came across another view. As I have learned, parables don't tell a story straight; there's always a slant, a twist somewhere. Geoff Wilfong-Pritchard notes that when the rich landowner is considering what to do with his bumper crop of grain he is talking to himself. And when he is celebrating: "then I'll say to myself: You have blessings in reserve for many years to come. Relax! Eat, drink and be merry!"

It seems the landowner is talking to himself because there is no one else around. No one to celebrate with, no one to even consult about how to deal with the unprecedented harvest of grain. Jesus challenges him: to whom will all your accumulated wealth go? And as well as a question about any heirs, it may be that there will be no one to mourn at his funeral. It seems his sole focus has become his wealth.

Now this text can seem pretty judgy: we live in a society where so many of us have more than we need. Just look at the demand for storage units and bigger and better of just about anything you can name. So what does this say about us? Will we be stripped of our wealth? Our possessions, to prove a point? I think as has been said before, that it's less about our wealth than what we do with it.

And this view of Jesus' parable says that making room for others in our lives, considering their needs and helping out as we can, seeking and prioritizing relationship is what kin-dom living is all about.

I was speaking with someone the other day who shared that while they were recovering from illness in respite care, they befriended other people, tried to help them out, and it sounded to me, like generally sought to brighten their day. Given their own need to recover, they did not have boundless amounts of energy to expend, but rather than save it all for their own healing, they expended some of their energy on the well-being of others. And in the process, it sounds like, came to have relationships with people they encountered, bringing comfort and companionship to all.



When I was thinking about this scripture reading, the image that came to mind was hands. The one who is consumed by their wealth has hands tightly closed around their stuff, clutching it to themselves with all their might. The one who treats their wealth lightly has hands open, seeking the

hand of another, or holding out something of theirs in offering to one in need. The stuff, the accumulation of things in our lives can be a barrier to community and relationship, diminishing the quality of our lives. The accumulation of shared experience, of understanding, of openness to the other, rather than seeing them as a means to an end, or competition, can enhance the quality of not just our lives, but the quality of their lives too.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.  
Amen.

**Hymn: Just As I Am VU508**

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 4 Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**Joys and Concerns**

- **Birthday:**
  - Patty Duncan celebrated on Sun. July 24th

**Preparation for Prayer**

Let us practice the art of Praying with our Eyes Wide Open, that in seeing the world and those within it we are called to tend we may be *opening the eyes of our hearts to all in need around us* (Lamont Koerner '81 MDiv God Pause for Thursday, September 16, 2021 from Luther Seminary):

**Prayers of the People** Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®** *Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2*. Copyright 2013, alt.

Call: Gracious God,

Response: **hear our prayer.**

God of heaven and earth,  
in your wisdom you made the whole creation  
and called it good.

You have lavished your creatures  
with beauty and sustained us with your grace.  
Even so, we are distracted and seduced

and wreak havoc on the world you made.

Humbly, then, we pray to you for  
comfort and healing and peace, saying,  
Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For those who declare war, those who wage it, and those who  
suffer from it . . .

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

For your church, that we may overcome divisions and live in  
the unity given to us in Christ . . .

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

For your creation, that the earth's wounds may be healed  
and we may become better caretakers . . .

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who fight despair, struggle with addiction,  
or live without hope . . .

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are ill, and all who care for them . . .

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

For the secret burdens of our hearts . . .

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your mercy,  
we entrust these and all our prayers to you,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **Minute for Mission: Gifts with Vision at Work in Ukraine**



Hungarian Interchurch Aid distributes relief supplies in Ukraine.

*Credit: ACT Alliance/HIA*

During peaceful times Kharkiv has a population of 1.5 million people—larger than Calgary and just a bit smaller than Montreal. But since the Russian invasion in February, half of those people have fled the city for safer places. Those who are still in Kharkiv are the people who can't leave: because they have nowhere to go, because they're unable to travel, or because they're taking care of others who must stay.

Grocery stores in Kharkiv are closed, public transit has stopped running, there is no electricity or running water, and many roads and buildings are unsafe. Although the daily Russian air raids have ended there are still intermittent rocket attacks and people still spend time in shelters. Add to this the fact that most people who are still there live in poverty or are disabled, and it's clear that those who are left in Kharkiv are the ones least able to survive without help.

ACT Alliance member Hungarian Interchurch Aid has recently been able to bring relief shipments to volunteers in Kharkiv, like Sergei Babin. Babin and his team are providing those who are unable to leave the city with food and other items they need.

"We are grateful for any kind of help, as the people of Kharkiv have been suffering from this serious humanitarian crisis for many weeks now," he says.

Providing emergency food and hygiene kits([opens in a new tab](#)) is one way your generous support of Mission & Service partners is helping support Ukrainian refugees.

Thank you for your compassion.

### **Offering Invitation**

Because God first loved us,  
we are made to love one another.  
For the sake of the life of the world, let us offer ourselves,  
our time, and our possessions as signs of love.

### **Offering Hymn: What Can I Do**

**MV191 OneLicense #A-740237**

What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

**Offering Prayer (in unison)** *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for July 31, 2022 (Pentecost 8/Trinity 7/Proper 13/Ordinary 18 - C) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

**We offer not only our gifts, Compassionate God,  
but our time, so we might spend more moments with the lonely;  
our words, so the voiceless might be healed;  
our hands, that the hungry might be fed;  
our hearts, so that the rejected might find a home.  
We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**Hymn: O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go**      **VU658**

- 1 O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
    may richer, fuller be.
  
- 2 O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
    may brighter, fairer be.
  
- 3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain  
    that morn shall tearless be.
  
- 4 O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
    life that shall endless be.

**Commissioning** *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for July 31, 2022 (Pentecost 8/Trinity 7/Proper 13/Ordinary 18 - C) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

Let us go with God to offer life to those around us.

**We will gather up the broken to offer them healing.**

Let us go with Jesus to wrap people in hope.

**We will reach out to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless.**

Let us go with the Spirit to love all those in our midst who have been forgotten.

**We will take them in our arms and welcome them to our hearts.**

**Change the Light**

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.

I'm not going to put it out, just change it.

See how it is only in one place?

*\*Change Light\**

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.

Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

**Blessing** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2**. Copyright 2013.*

May the God who gives us every good gift  
bless you and keep you in the mind of Christ,

**Postlude “What a Day That Will Be”** words and music by Jim Hall, played by Peyton O’Brien

**Household Prayer: Morning** Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word®*  
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Loving God, as I embark on the adventure of this new day,  
I will imagine you as my mother or father,  
teaching me to walk with cords of human kindness and love,  
a tether as you guide me along.  
Therefore I will not fear failure  
or worry that I will not have enough time or goods  
if I give a little to those in need. Amen.

**Household Prayer: Evening** Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word®*  
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Thank you, God, for the gift of this day.  
Thank you for bringing me home to you.  
As I fall asleep, I will consider your steadfast love for me  
and repeat with my breathing,  
“You are rich toward me, and I am rich toward you.  
You are rich toward me, and I am rich toward you.” Amen.