

*"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." ~ Luke 1:46-47*

Dear friends in Christ,

Each year, we enter our stewardship season with gratitude for what God has done in and through our parish. This year, our theme—"Tell Out My Soul"—calls us to reflect on Mary's song of praise in Luke 1: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." It is a hymn of joy and thanksgiving, but also a declaration of faith—a willingness to share the good news of God's mercy and abundance with the world.

At Good Shepherd, we tell out our souls each time we gather for worship, each time we reach out in love, each time we use our gifts to serve our neighbors. In our choir's anthems and our children's laughter, in the quiet faithfulness of volunteers setting the altar or visiting the sick, the story of God's grace continues to be told—through us. This season invites each of us to consider how we will "tell out" our own souls in the coming year. How will our generosity proclaim God's greatness? How will our giving reflect our gratitude? Every pledge, every gift—large or small—is a testimony to the faith that God is at work among us, transforming lives through worship, outreach, fellowship, and formation.

When Mary sang her song, she was not yet certain of what the future would bring, but she trusted that God's promises were true. In the same spirit, we are invited to step forward in faith—trusting that our shared gifts will strengthen this parish and extend its ministry into the world.

This year, on November 2nd, we will kick off our Stewardship season by worshiping together at one 9 AM Sunday service and then celebrating the many ways you tell out your souls with a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast immediately following. Throughout the stewardship campaign, there will be suggested discussion questions on tables at each coffee hour, encouraging you to share with one another your stories of hope and faith. I hope you will join us November 2nd and throughout the season as we celebrate the ways in which we give back in faith and hope, for together, we proclaim: "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!"

With gratitude and joy,

The Rev. Whitney Burton

