

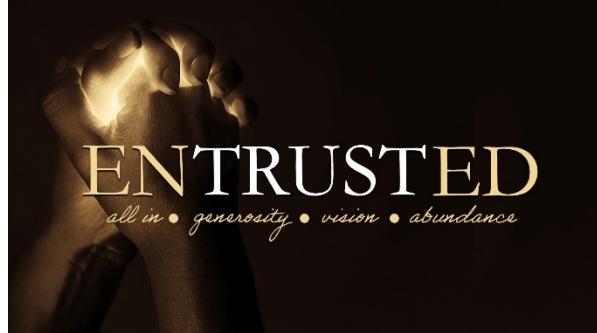
Northway Christian Church

Beyond Sunday

A Worship Guide for Energy, Engagement and Enduring Change

Worship: Entrusted

Use this guide as a weekly tool to reflect more fully on our worship in the days beyond Sunday. Each week in this Entrusted series we will have the opportunity to consider a faithful response to stewardship as we make our way toward Thanksgiving. Light your Christ Candle and say the opening prayer each day, then focus on the spiritual reflection for the current week. The weekly calls to worship are included as a weekly prayer offering in preparation for your reflections. If you are using this worship guide as a group, select a member to read the “one” line, with everyone else responding with the “all” lines. If you are using this guide singularly, offer both pieces in a unified prayer. Questions are posed for pondering; sit with them and reflect on the questions, perhaps you can journal with them to go deeper. This guide is offered to provide some support for engaging and energizing in your spiritual formation beyond Sunday; may it bless your journey and result in enduring change.



Light your Christ Candle

Pray

Dear God, we come seeking you and desiring to deepen our faith in formation through these reflections. As we move into and through this autumn season, guide us to experience more of you, more of your peace, more of your presence, more of your desire for us and more gratitude in response. Help us to hear your voice as we read your word. Open us to your wisdom. Make us new, renewing us day-by-day. Hear our prayers as we lift those who are both near and far, those who you have laid on our hearts and brought to our minds. We place our faith and rest our hope in you, knowing Christ is with us, Christ is in our midst. Amen.

Reflections Beyond Sunday:

Week of October 31 – All Saints Sunday

Scripture: Mark 12:38-44

Worship: Entrusted - All In

Call to Worship:

One: God, we come worshiping you this morning.

All: With thankful hearts we are grateful for what you have entrusted to us.

One: We learn the lessons Jesus shared through his stories.

All: We read the text seeking your truth.

One: The scripture tells us what it means to give with abundance

All: God help us to give not from our abundance, but with abundance.

One: You are worthy of our praise God – meet us in this sacred space

The passage this week provides a glimpse of Jesus's values. In the first section, Jesus denounces the actions of scribes who liked to be affirmed publicly. In the second, he upholds the generosity of a widow who is all-in with her offering. While I don't think Jesus is asking each of us to give our last two cents, he is making a point of comparing desires and faithfulness.

What are you understanding from these two illustrations? And how might they inform your approach to making an offering and checking your own desires?

Week of November 7

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-14

Worship: Entrusted - Generosity

Call to Worship:

One: God, we come worshiping you this morning.

All: With thankful hearts we are grateful for what you have entrusted to us.

One: We learn the lessons Jesus shared through his stories.

All: We read the text, seeking your truth.

One: The scripture tells us what it means to be a cheerful giver

All: God as we give cheerfully and may your blessings be abundant.

One: You are worthy of our praise God – meet us in this sacred space

This week in worship we looked at generosity in action. The worship text shares important life lessons about how God desires us to approach giving. While Paul doesn't say to prayerfully approach the decision, it is certainly implied that we should be making up our minds about how much we are intending to give. And it's probably a good idea to come to that decision prayerfully, so that we can carry out the plan cheerfully and not reluctantly.

Re-read the passage a few times this week and look for the words or phrases that stand out each time. Sit with these lessons and prayerfully consider how Paul's words might speak to your heart as you approach this season of stewardship and the blessings you have been entrusted with.

Week of November 14

Scripture: Luke 6:37-42

Worship: Entrusted - Vision

Call to Worship:

One: God, we come worshiping you this morning.

All: With thankful hearts we are grateful for what you have entrusted to us.

One: We learn the lessons Jesus shared through his stories.

All: We read the text, seeking your truth.

One: The scripture tells us what it means to forgive and give as we have received

All: God as we consider our offerings, let us remember the gifts we have received.

One: You are worthy of our praise God— meet us in this sacred space

In worship we explored the topic of vision this week. Why might it be important to include vision in the conversation about stewardship? Perhaps we need a clear view of what we are committing to, to be fully committed. And we need to see where we are going to lead others along the way. This week's passage makes a similar point, warning us not to blindly leading ourselves and others into a pit!

And on the topic of seeing, we are challenged to see ourselves wisely and rightly before we try to come to the aid of another. All this guidance follows a verse that is a favorite for some: ...Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back," (Lk 6:37b -38). As you read this verse in the context of the passage, can the verse have more than one outcome, based on the measure we use to give?

Week of November 21

Scripture: Matthew 6:24-34

Worship: Entrusted – Abundance

Call to Worship:

One: God, we come worshiping you this morning.

All: With thankful hearts we are grateful for what you have entrusted to us.

One: We learn the lessons Jesus shared through his stories.

All: We read the text seeking your truth.

One: The scripture tells us what it means to love our enemies.

All: God as we answer your call to care, show us the way.

One: You are worthy of our praise God– meet us in this sacred space

This week's worship focus on abundance is centered on serving and not worrying. We are provided with the warning that we cannot serve both God and wealth or money. We can only serve one and whichever we choose will be at the detriment of the other. So many of us try to be multitaskers in so many areas of our lives, however this is one area that it just doesn't work to try to do two things at once. Jesus urges us to choose carefully.

When we do choose wisely, we are well positioned not to worry about our “life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear,” (Mt:6:25). Not worrying about any of those things is a nice break. This is possible when we put our focus on serving God, rather than our own personal needs. We are assured in scripture that God not only knows what we need but is our faithful provider. Consider these truths as you prepare to celebrate this coming Sunday, what we consecrated in worship this past Sunday.

As we move towards Thanksgiving remember this encouraging word:

“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today,” (Mt. 6:34).

Act

What might you do to as an act of thanksgiving today? How can you bring the reflections you have engaged in these past weeks and the presence of Christ into your everyday activities today? Is there a movement that is emerging from your Entrusted journey you could share with another to encourage them?

Share

Let us know about the ways you are experiencing God's presence during this Stewardship series. Have you discovered something new through your spiritual reflection? Do you have questions? Would you like to explore something further? Are you feeling called to something new, could a pastor to act as a partner in faith to process it with you? Let us know how we can aid you in your journey as we commit this year to engaging with energy while seeking enduring change.

Email us at mail@northwaychristian.org or call us at 214-361-6641, we look forward to hearing from you.