

RESURRECTION SOUTH AUSTIN

GROWING IN GENEROSITY



A DISCERNMENT GUIDE FOR GIVING

The Good News About Giving

I know we're all coming to the conversation about giving from many different places and histories. Some of you may have been hurt by heavy-handed church leaders using guilt and shame. Others have hurtful experiences from churches that suggest prosperity will result from your giving. Some folks are new to the idea of giving to the church and wanting to learn more, and others have found a healthy way to give as an expression of faith and joy.

Wherever you find yourself in this journey, I think it's important we start with the good news about who God is: God is loving, self-giving, joyful, patient, abundant, kind, and generous. We see God clearly in the Son, Jesus Christ, whose example reveals the good news giving:

True generosity comes from grateful hearts.

This short booklet guides your journey of discernment, prayer, and growth. We realize this can be a tricky topic, with lots of questions, challenges, and even anxieties. I hope we can help resolve some of these to make way for a new chapter in your spiritual life marked by the generosity of God. May you feel freedom as a result of this journey and be filled with hope for the future and excitement to join in the work of God for the sake of others.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn +', with a small cross symbol to the right of the name.

The Rev. Dr. Shawn McCain Tirres
Rector
Resurrection South Austin

Testimonies of Generosity

Celebrating the work of God through the generosity of our people

“I was part of the church before I fell on some hard times. I got a health diagnosis that meant I couldn’t work, and I was very lonely. I needed help. I was so grateful that the church was there for me; they cared for me in all of this, and my relationship with God grew deeper. I’m often confined to my bed, so the church’s giving has made possible all kinds of critical spiritual care and community. It’s a gift to have a generous community like Resurrection that I can lean on. If I didn’t have the church’s support, I don’t know if I would have made it.” - *Ric*

“My wife and I didn’t have a church for over 20 years. We felt abandoned by the church. But when we came to Resurrection with our daughter, we felt welcomed, accepted, loved, and supported as part of the community. It felt good to worship again, and we soon realized this was our church, we were here to stay, and this was our spiritual home. Out of gratitude, we wanted to give back. What this community had meant to our family, we wanted to invest in more of that for others.” - *Nikki*

“One of our clergy invited my wife and I to ask God how He can use us to be of service to others. One of those ways was tithing. We prayed and started giving a small amount. Then we felt led to try to give more, in ways that felt more noticeable and sacrificial, like something that we felt the effect from giving away. Plus, we really believe in the things we’re doing at Resurrection. By giving to our church, we feel like we’re making a positive impact on people’s lives, building kid’s ministries, and helping those in need. Giving feels like we’re expressing spiritual energy in a tangible way. It’s impactful to see how our gifts are making a practical difference as a gift from Christ to the world.” - *Connor*

What is Giving?

Giving is not an answer to scarcity

We're not raising money to fund a church budget, we're raising disciples to participate in the work of God. People are not "resources" to be tapped for more, we are disciples being formed into Christlikeness. Giving is also not an answer to the sense of scarcity that we may have in our hearts or this world, it is the grateful response of a people who have received a great gift.

Giving is an act of worship

In the liturgy, there is an excellent picture of how our giving is a joyful part of our worship life as a church. It's called the offertory, where our gifts are brought forward in response to the lavish generosity of God by the gift of His son, Jesus Christ. As recipients of this gift, we sing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!" and offer ourselves as living sacrifices—all of us—given back to the Lord with gratitude. Those who give online take a token at the welcome table to put in the offering basket to remember that giving is an act of worship.



Giving is a part of discipleship

Our acts of generosity are part of following Jesus. He invites us to take on his manner of life, and his way of doing things. We find that in Jesus' company, our hearts are being changed to become more like his and we participate in God's work in the world.

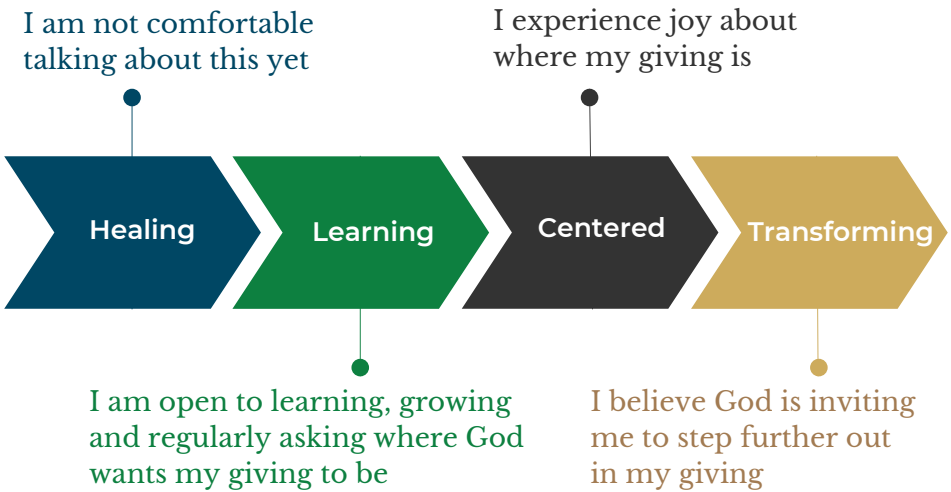
Giving is a journey

It's part of the journey of transformation we're all on together. We never talk about it with pressure or guilt, but always open up space for you to find out for yourself what it is that God is inviting you to do, and then to respond with the support of a community. Generosity involves an intentional growing process.

Growing in Generosity

Generosity is a way in which we participate in and with God. As we give of ourselves, we become part of God’s generous giving to the world.

Use this as a guide to consider where God wants you to be in your giving.



How you can use this guide:

- Consider the above and ask yourself, “What would my next step look like in this growing process of generosity?”
- If you’re ready to consider that, there is a gentle guide to use on the following page.
- We suggest taking time to work through it and pray. If you have a partner, we invite you to do it together.
- This is work for you to keep as you discern God’s invitation in your life.

A gentle way to discern your growth

1. Which of these spaces do you find yourself in today when it comes to your giving?

- Healing
- Learning
- Centered
- Transforming

• Write about where you are at and try express why:

2. Considering where you are at with generosity, in what ways would you be open to growing?

3. Ask God, “Where do you want me in my giving?” and listen in prayer. Write out what you think might be God’s invitation.

A gentle way to consider your pathway

4. What concerns you about growing in these ways?

5. Write a prayer: “God, I know that you love me and care for my needs. In your mercy, receive my concerns about...

Amen.

6. What are some ways I could use some understanding, support, or care from our church?

We are here to help

Our clergy are here for you if there are ways we can pray for you, talk through things, or lend our support. Feel free to contact us at shawn@rezaustin.com, ryan@rezaustin.com, or courtney@rezaustin.com.

Hear the Good News

Reflect on this teaching from Jesus and notice what speaks to your heart.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...

No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?...

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

- Jesus, *Matthew 6:19-21, 24-26, 33-34*

What is the good news for you in this?

Making An Impact Together

We Give Together

Remember that you are not alone but part of a community of people learning to give together with God.

Your Giving Makes a Difference

God has provided everything that our community needs to meet those needs and thrive. Giving to the church funds critical ministries that impact lives and open up space for others to encounter the power and love of God for them.

Here are a few important ways your giving makes ministry possible:

- Family & Youth Ministry
- Pastoral Care & Support
- Neighborhood Outreach



- Adult Formation
- Table Groups
- Mission & Charity

- Online Worship & Media
- Music & Arts
- Sunday Worship Services



God, where do you want me to be in my giving?

Ideas For Intentional Next Steps

Consider these steps to help you with growing in giving:

1. **Plan** your giving so that you have time to think, pray, and prepare.
2. **Prioritize** your giving like the first bill you pay
3. Choose a **percentage** of your income to give
4. Remain open to **progress** in your giving, growing toward your goal
5. If you struggle with finances which makes giving difficult, please reach out for **help**.

Ask, “**God, where do you want me to be in my giving?**” and listen with hope, openness, and trust in God’s transforming work in your life. If you can make specific goals or commitments in your giving, what next steps are you ready to take?

1. Plan

2. Prioritize

3. Percentage

4. Progress

5. Help

Pledging at Resurrection

At Resurrection, pledging is the result of careful discernment, prayer, and planning. We want our people to be able to express what they sense God inviting them to do with their giving in the next year. These commitments are confidential to the vestry and administrator.

Your compiled pledges give us a look at how our community is preparing to invest, build, and grow together in the work of God through our church.

We invite everyone, whether a member or not, to share what you plan to give and how we can pray for you. To set this up, go to rezaustin.com/give or scan this QR code:

Ready to make your 2024 pledge?



Setting up online giving

Please note that your pledge will not set up online giving, it is only a noted commitment to help us plan for ministry. **If you plan to give online, you must also set that up seperately.**

Thank You!

Thanks for taking the time to discern with your community, and thank you for all of the ways that your giving empowers the work of God in our lives and our neighborhood. We hope this guide has given you some help to be intentional about growing in generosity with us.



“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Matthew 6:19-21

LIFE TOGETHER IN THE GOODNESS OF GOD.

Ways to Give

Setup Online Giving

Scan the QR code or go to rezaustin.com/give to setup your easy online giving.

Text to Give

Text any \$ amount to 84321

Writing Checks

Please make checks payable to:
Resurrection Church South Austin
PO Box 150820
Austin, TX 78715



Brokerage Gifts

To gift a stock or other investment contact
finance@rezaustin.com

Contact Us

Finance or administrative questions: finance@rezaustin.com
Pastoral care questions: care@rezaustin.com

Resurrection is a registered 501(c)3, and all gifts are tax-deductible.