

A New Stewardship Resource:

The mission of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina Stewardship Committee is to be a clearing house of the best written, oral, visual, and digital resources on Biblical Stewardship for the clergy and parishes of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. To that end, we offer the following four-part teaching or preaching series for parishes to consider using in an upcoming Stewardship campaign.

A Stewardship Preaching or Teaching Series for 2016

Because of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we who have faith in Jesus are reconciled to God. In gratitude for God's goodness, forgiveness, and mercy, our Communion Services says that we are to offer "ourselves, our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice" to God. When Stewardship Season comes along each year, we often talk about sacrificing some of our financial resources to the church; along with our "treasure", sometimes it is suggested that we make a sacrifice of our "time and talent". But since we are to be eternally thankful and good stewards at all times, below is a template for a 4-part preaching or teaching series for Stewardship called "A Living Sacrifice: The 4 Ls of Sacrificial Living". In each part of the series, the congregation will see that we offer the Lord a sacrifice of our Lips (worship), Love (service), Loot (finances), and Life (daily living) as we live our Christian faith with sacrificial gratitude.

Week 1 – Worship: A Sacrifice from our Lips

Suggested Readings

OT: 1 Chronicles 16:23-31

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7

NT: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel: John 4:21-26



Jesus calls us to worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth.

Other Scripture verses tell us that we also worship Him with "shouts of joy". As C.S. Lewis once said: "...worship is the

consummation of joy. Our joy is not complete until it is expressed in worship. It is out of his love for us that God created us for worship. According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, humankind's 'chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.'" Our daily worship as individuals and families and our weekly worship as a church community is how we offer to God a sacrifice of praise with our lips. It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

This week, the congregation will be asked to honestly consider how many Sundays per month they attend corporate worship. When pledge cards are submitted on Week 4, each person will be asked to increase the number of Sundays each month that they engage in corporate worship. This is a sacrifice of worship.



Week 2 – Service: A Sacrifice of Love



Suggested Readings

OT: 1 Chronicles 24:1-26:19

Psalm: Psalm 100

NT: Romans 12:3-8 (9-21) or 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Gospel: Luke 22:24-27

In 1 Chronicles 24:1-26:19, the Levites were separated into divisions so that all of the work of the Temple could be done well to the glory of God. But all of the work of the church does not rest on the shoulders of the clergy. We are a “priesthood of all believers” and all Christians are endowed by the Holy Spirit with Spiritual gifts for the work of ministry. When all members of the body of Christ work together, the Lord Jesus is glorified and the church is edified and the kingdom of God grows.

This week, the congregation will be asked to consider their Spiritual gifts and make a sacrifice of time in service to the Lord and the Church. When pledge cards are submitted on Week 4, each person will be asked to engage in the ministries of the church that they feel called to join. This is a sacrifice of their time.



Week 3 – Loot: The Sacrifice of Generosity



Suggested Readings

OT: 2 Chronicles 5:2-7:10

Psalm: Psalm 65

NT: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Gospel: Luke 12:32-34

Readings this week illustrate the sacrifice of generosity. Pledging to support the ministry of the church is not a sacrifice if it does not impact one’s checkbook. Solomon spared nothing when he made a huge offering at the dedication of the Temple in 2 Chronicles 5:2-7:10.

Our giving to the church is a response to God’s gift to us. God spared nothing to save us from sin and death. He gave His Only-begotten Son to die on the Cross. St. Paul states that this is an indescribably-generous gift (2 Corinthians 9:15). Jesus has given us new life and through His generosity we are born again and made whole. If we truly understand the generous gift that God has given to us, shouldn’t we make a generous response in thanksgiving to all He has given us?

This week, the congregation will be asked to honestly consider how much of their income they offer to the Lord through the church. When pledge cards are submitted on Week 4, each person

will be asked to make a tithe of their income or at least increase their giving as they work towards a full tithe. This is a sacrifice of their “loot”.



Week 4 – Our Life: A Living Sacrifice

Suggested Readings

OT: 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:36

Psalm: Psalm 19

NT: Romans 11:33-12:2

Gospel: Matthew 16:24-28



In Old Testament times, a “living sacrifice” would be considered a contradiction, a paradox. The whole point of the sacrifice was that something was killed to offer life back to God. Jago Wynne, the rector at Holy Trinity Clapham once wrote: “Our act of worship is no longer to bring a sacrifice, but to be one ourselves. We remain living. It is all of us that is being offered. [It’s] about what I say with my tongue. It’s about what I watch...what I think...where I go with my feet.”

This week is the conclusion of the Stewardship Campaign. During the service, the congregation will be asked to submit their pledge cards and offer to God a living sacrifice of their worship, their service, and their money. Perhaps the Baptismal Covenant could be renewed as a sign of offering God their whole lives. With all that we are and with all that we have, we are to honor the Lord. This is sacrificial living!