

Reflection

This Sunday is our last in this period of "Ordinary Time" – so called, not because it is ordinary and unimportant, but because it reflects the rhythm of our daily faith and our choice to love and serve others in our Christian witness.

Today, we are thinking about Giving – a practice that is at the heart of Christian life. We give not only from our abundance, but from a place of trust and thankfulness to God. We'll be reflecting on Giving – of our time, our talents, our resources, our encouragement and our attention. Each of these acts joins us to God as we participate in God's generosity towards us.

The Gospel writer Matthew records Jesus saying to his disciples, "Freely you have received; freely give." Everything we have is first a gift. Giving shapes us and changes us. It encourages us to relax our grip on what we think we own and opens us up to new things. In a world that often measures worth by what we have, Jesus teaches us the deeper meaning of self-giving love.

And so as we gather on this last Sunday in Ordinary Time before Lent begins, may we discover that holiness is formed in ordinary generosity – in giving what we can, in patient service and in quiet compassion. And may our giving, in whatever form it takes, reflect the abundant love that God has already poured into our lives.

Rev Sarah



NEXT SUNDAY 22.02.26 1st Sunday of Lent

10.30am in the Hall



OT Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7
NT Romans 5: 12-19
GOSPEL Matthew 4: 1-11

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St Thomas, Exeter

15th February 2026

Giving Sunday

10.30am in the Hall

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

317 Lord, the light of your love is shining

53 Be still, for the presence of the Lord

464 Take my life

372 O Jesus I have promised

Tuesday 17th February

3.30pm Pancake Party at the Methodist
Church

7.30pm House Group

Wednesday 18th February

10.30am Ash Wednesday service with
Imposition of ashes

Thursday 19th February

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

No Knit & Natter this week

Friday 20th February

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

God of grace, ever creating and restoring, you breathe life into all things and embrace us with an everlasting love; help us to grow in wonder and awe, to embody a spirit of gratitude, and to dream generous dreams; that, in gathering what we have, we may graciously offer ourselves to accomplish what you will, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Exodus 24: 12-end

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' so Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.' Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

2 Corinthians 8: 1-15

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— and this, not merely as we expected; they gave them-

selves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, 'The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.'

Mark 12: 41-44

And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

Post Communion

Loving and righteous God, here at your table we have tasted your goodness and generosity which exceeds all that we can desire or deserve; liberate us from all jealousy and greed, that we may respond cheerfully by offering ourselves, and love and serve others to witness to your glory, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

Would you like to know more about what goes on in our Diocese and wider church? If so, do subscribe to the weekly newsletter *Roots and Shoots*, available through the Diocesan website. Do have a look on the Diocesan website for more information or speak to Rev Sarah.

Are you or is someone you know interested in some creative training? The Diocese is offering some excellent training on pioneer mission from April 2026 to March 2027 (in person and on zoom during evenings and weekends) Please speak to Liz or email for details.

The **House Group** will be meeting weekly through Lent

Thank you to all those who made and helped distribute hearts in our community on St Valentines day. Let us continue to pray for an outpouring of God's love here in St Thomas.

There will be **Crafternoon** sessions in the Hall on the 5 Sundays in Lent starting on 22nd February 2.30pm-4pm. Do come and join in.

St Thomas Methodist church are making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday this Tuesday 17 February from 3.30pm-6.30pm They have extended a warm welcome to our congregation to pop in and join them to share pancakes together.

To mark the beginning of Lent, our Ash Wednesday service will take place this Wednesday 18 February in the church at 10.30am. Do join us, you are very welcome.