



HAYWARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Rev. Cathy L Hamblin Lay Leader: Bethe Wiberg
 Website: Hayward UMC.org Ministers: Congregation

Sunday, October 25 ~ 10:00 a.m.
21st Sunday after Pentecost
**Please stand as you are able*

HYMN SING

- 156 *I Love to Tell the Story*
- 395 *Take Time to be Holy*
- 431 *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our God has searched us, found us and called us as individuals into Christ's Church.

God has gathered us here in community, and promises to be in our midst through the Holy Spirit.

We give thanks that the Trinity comes to us and for their active presence in our lives.

In the reading and meditation upon the written word of Scripture, in the singing, the preaching and the sharing of peace, may our hearts and minds be alert and receptive to the living word of Christ for this day.

*HYMN 2236 *Gather Us In*

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Generous God, as recipients of many material blessings, we are among those who have provisions beyond our needs. We come together to remember with gratitude that all we have is an outpouring of your generosity, gifts to be shared. As we worship this day, help us to become people who live with the spirit of generosity. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM 581 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE WORD 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Paul wrote these words to the new Christian community at Corinth: Be the best in this work of grace in the same way that you are the best in everything, such as faith, speech, knowledge, total commitment, and the love we inspired in you.

I'm not giving an order, but by mentioning the commitment of others, I'm trying to prove the authenticity of your love also. You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although he was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you could become rich through his poverty.

I'm giving you my opinion about this. It's to your advantage to do this, since you not only started to do it last year but you wanted to do it too. Now finish the job as well so that you finish it with as much enthusiasm as you started, given what you can afford.

A gift is appreciated because of what a person can afford, not because of what that person can't afford, if it's apparent that it's done willingly.

It isn't that we want others to have financial ease and your financial difficulties, but it's a matter of equality.

At the present moment, your surplus can fill their deficit so that in the future their surplus can fill your deficit. In this way there is equality. As it is written, *The one who gathered more didn't have too much, and the one who gathered less didn't have too little.*

Response to Scripture

Liturgist: The words of Holy Scripture. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

LIVING THE WORD

"Giving God Our Income, in Thankful Celebration of Giving"

*HYMN 428 *For the Healing of the Nations*

JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

