

Be Curious
Be Welcoming
Be Generous
BELONG

a meditation guide

THIS MEDITATION GUIDE BELONGS TO

.....
name

WHO MAY BE FOUND AT THIS ADDRESS

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

MEDITATION GUIDE STARTED ON

.....
date

IF FOUND, PLEASE CONTACT

.....
email/phone

INTRODUCTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we embark on another stewardship season, we invite you to enter into meditation with us on our version of the theme of our church year: Be Curious, Be Welcoming, Be Generous, Belong. We believe that being generous is a natural and joyful response when our lives begin to be transformed by curiosity about God and one another, by the spirit of welcome, and by a deepening sense of belonging to God and God's people. In this booklet, we offer a selection of readings and questions which we hope will provide a helpful framework for your stewardship decisions and help you live into our common life more fully. We pray that this will be a useful resource to you in the weeks and months ahead.

Please pray with us that we may all discern where God is calling us at Trinity and in the world.

2018-2019 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Libby Roberts and Lonsdale Koester, *Co-Chairs*
Laurie Buchta
Joanna Darcus
Frank Furnari
Peter Howe
Judith Hurley
Jerry Jennings
Tim Kelly
Grace Lyons
Cindy Mackey
Jesi Dunaway Nishibun
Ania Wieckowski
Peter Wittenborg
Adam Dawkins,
Director of Welcome and Stewardship
Mark Kharas,
*Assistant Director of Welcome
and Stewardship*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

How does each character in this story show his curiosity about the other? What risks did each person take in order to break open this important conversation?

What aspects of your life feed your curiosity about God and his kingdom? Outside of the church walls, where have you experienced God most profoundly?

BE WELCOMING

“We promise to offer and accept hospitality, as a sacred process given to us in the Bible, inviting all, newcomers especially, into a deeper relationship with God.”

Trinity Parish Covenant

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,
loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

*From the Baptismal Covenant,
Book of Common Prayer*

“After falling in love with Trinity through my service here, supporting it financially was an easy next step. You all have been so welcoming to me. I have found God in so many ways that I wouldn't if I didn't have Trinity in my life, and I want to support Trinity so that Trinity has the resources to welcome others as I have been.”

*Mark Kharas
Stewardship Testimony*

What occasions of giving or receiving hospitality have you experienced at Trinity? What can you do to make others feel more welcome here?

How and where have you found God during your time at Trinity?

BE GENEROUS

Mark 12:41-44

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

"Stewardship is letting go, not just of excess but of expectation of want and need, then letting your generosity out into the world."

*Grace Lyons
Stewardship Testimony*

Have you ever felt called to be generous during a time of personal hardship? What happened?

In what way do you hope to grow in generosity? In what area do you feel you are most generous (your time, your talent, your money)? Where is there room for growth?

What are the risks of "letting go"? When have you experienced the process of letting go, and what effect did it have on you?

BELONG *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
For when humbly in Thy name,
Two or three are met together
Thou are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Touch we now Thy garment's hem.

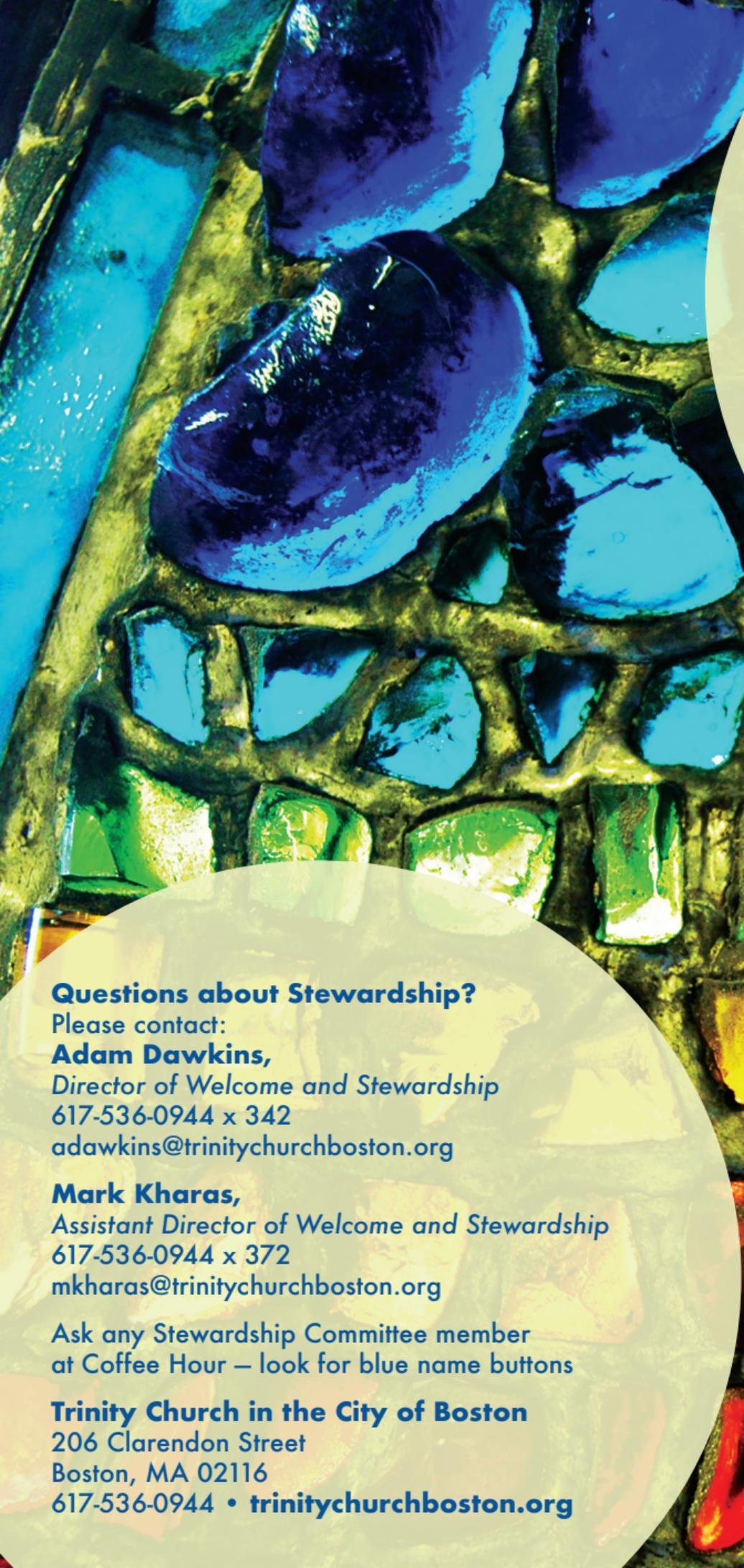
As the disciples used to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Maker
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
So knit Thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of Thee,
That by caring, helping, giving
We may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will serve Thee faithfully.

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"
Words from Enlarged Songs of Praise
by permission of Oxford University Press.
Music copyright © 1957 by The H. W.
Gray Company, a division of Belwin-Mills
Publishing Corp. Used with permission.
Adapt. by Jet Turner copyright © 1967
by The Bethany Press.

What would it look like in practice to embrace the differences you may have with others at Trinity?
What actions could you take to feel a deeper connection with this community?

How would your interactions change if you were consciously aware of God's presence with you?



Questions about Stewardship?

Please contact:

Adam Dawkins,

Director of Welcome and Stewardship

617-536-0944 x 342

adawkins@trinitychurchboston.org

Mark Kharas,

Assistant Director of Welcome and Stewardship

617-536-0944 x 372

mkharas@trinitychurchboston.org

Ask any Stewardship Committee member
at Coffee Hour – look for blue name buttons

Trinity Church in the City of Boston

206 Clarendon Street

Boston, MA 02116

617-536-0944 • trinitychurchboston.org