**The Two Rivers Mission Community**

**Generosity – sermon 1**

**God’s generosity to us and our response**

**Handout**

*Old Testament reading: 1 Chronicles 29.10-19*

*New Testament reading: Matthew 25.31-46*

Reasons for looking at generosity and specifically money:

* Taking seriously the teaching of Jesus
* One of our Mission Community values
* Our blessing

God is generous:

* Creation (Genesis 2.9)
* All humanity (Genesis 8.22)
* To his chosen people, Israel (Exodus 16.1-26; Jeremiah 22.32)
* God gave his Son (John 3.16)
* And will give us all else we need (Romans 8.32)

Our generosity:

* Generosity of Spirit (Philippians 2.3; Romans 12.9-10)
* Time, skills and abilities, resources (1 Chronicles 29.10-19; Matthew 25.31-46)

The blessings of generosity:

* Joy to God’s heart (2 Corinthians 9.7)
* Bless others (Matthew 23.31-46)
* Our own spiritual growth and joy (Acts 20.35)

**Questions to ponder**

* Why do we find it so hard to talk about money?
* Why did Jesus talk so much about money? (Was Jesus just interested in cash, or was he interested in the impact of cash upon our souls?)
* How can we cultivate a spirit of generosity in our own lives?
* How can we cultivate a spirit of generosity in our churches?
* What next steps might God want me to take in pursuing generosity?
* What might God be saying to us as a church?

**The General Thanksgiving (Book of Common Prayer)**

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men;

We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.