**GIVER, GIVER, GIVER**

A poem I recently came across really moved me when I heard it read at my son’s wedding and I want to share this with you. As we prepare to bring our tithes and offerings to God, take a moment to think about these words and how they might speak to you.

**Giver, Giver, Giver by Walter Brueggemann**

You are the giver of all good things.

All good things are sent from heaven above,

rain and sun,

day and night,

justice and righteousness,

bread to the eater and

seed to the sower,

peace to the old,

energy to the young,

joy to the babes.

We are takers, who take from you,

day by day,

daily bread,

taking all we need as you supply,

taking in gratitude and wonder and joy.

And then taking more,

taking more than we need,

taking more than you give us,

taking from our sisters and brothers,

taking from the poor and the weak,

taking because we are frightened, and so greedy,

taking because we are anxious, and so fearful,

Taking because we are driven, and so uncaring.

Give us peace beyond our fear, and so end our greed.

Give us well-being beyond our anxiety, and so end our fear.

Give us abundance beyond our drivenness, and so end our uncaring.

Turn our taking into giving … since we are in your giving image:

Make us giving like you,

giving gladly and not taking,

giving in abundance, not taking,

giving in joy, not taking,

giving as he gave himself up for us all,

giving, never taking.

Amen.

The Lord gives what we need but are we selfish in what we take from Him and what we hold close to ourselves. Not sharing it with those who are in need. Not realising that as we give, God will replenish. God is a God of abundance, not of lack. We can trust Him to be our provider. He is our only provider.

“Make us giving like you, giving gladly and not taking, giving in abundance, not taking,

giving in joy, not taking, giving as he gave himself up for us all, giving, never taking.

Amen.”