

From: *A Steward's Book of Prayers*

Stewardship Prayers of the People

Officiant

Nurturing God, your love is free, your compassion unconditional, and your mercy infinite. You shower upon us gifts abundant. Grant that we may know and trust these gifts, that we may discover the joy they bring, and inspire us to serve and to love out of that joy.

Open our lips, O God, that we may proclaim your benevolent truth and your call for justice in our communities, in our congregations, and in the world.

Gracious God, open our lips.

Open our minds, O God, that we might dream a Church reconciled, a Church that knows only your love so abundantly that it bursts with a passion for ministry, a desire to give completely, and a sense of stewardship that seeks only to give back.

Gracious God, open our minds.

Open our hearts, O God, to be transformed by the mighty outpouring of your compassion, so that our will to serve others with humility, integrity, and urgency is your desired will for us, your servants.

Gracious God, open our hearts

Open our eyes, O God, to the hurts and needs of others that call us to ministry. Teach us to see where our own abilities and resources-and the world's deep hunger-meet.

Gracious God, open our eyes.

Open our hands, O God, to be your instruments of witness. Help us to work without hesitation, serve without recognition, to do justice, to love kindness, and to serve humbly with you, our God.

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Open our memories, O God, as we remember those who have died. (*Please add your petitions, silently or aloud*). Help us honor the wisdom of those who devoted their lives to your service, and who generously gave of their time and treasure.

Gracious God, open our memories.

Celebrant

Nurturing God, your love is free, your compassion unconditional, and your mercy infinite. You shower upon us gifts abundant. Grant that we may know and trust these gifts, that we may discover the joy they bring, and inspire us to serve and love out of that joy. In the name of the Risen Christ we pray.

Amen.

*Prayers written by the Rev. Devon Anderson (Diocese of Minnesota),
the Very Rev. Ernesto Medina (Diocese of Los Angeles),
and Michael Cunningham (Diocese of Los Angeles)
for the 1998 Diocese of Michigan convention,
whose theme that year was stewardship.
These prayers also appear in
Women's Uncommon Prayers (Morehouse, 2000).*