

Wednesday, February 24  
 Readings: Psalm 17  
 Job 1:1-22  
 Luke 21:34—22:6

**7**

**Commit intentionally**

means making a statement about your intent and following through. As members in the body of Christ, we are asked to make a commitment of our time, talents, and resources as a faithful response to God and as a statement of support for God's work.

**"... arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised."  
 2 Corinthians 9:5**

Prayer: *O Merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us, we beseech thee, ever thankful for thy loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*<sup>16</sup>

Focal Verse: "Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong-doing." Job 1:20-22

Reflection: "I realized something... *Living an intentional life requires systems.* I may not have a car, but I don't wake up every morning wondering how to get to work, because I've set up a system of alternative transportation that includes a bike, public transit, car sharing, and friends with cars. Living within that system, I can be confident that I'll get where I need to go with a pretty small carbon footprint (and no car payment, insurance, or gas!)

What do you hear?  
 How does it make you feel?  
 Toward what are you being drawn?  
 What do you sense you should do?

But in general, trying to make choices that are easier on the earth, lighter on the pocketbook, and less demeaning of others takes a lot of time, because there's no system. Every choice is individual. How much easier it would be if we could be reasonably sure that the energy we used, the goods we purchased or made to feed, clothe and shelter one another, and the vehicles we chose to move around the world in *all* fell within green, just parameters!

Perhaps naively, I've always believed that the choices I make widen the path for others seeking lifestyle alternatives. Now, how can we work together to transform the tedious "this product *yes*, that product *no*" of individual choice into something that changes the whole system we live in?<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Book of Common Prayer, ©1979, p. 208.  
<sup>17</sup> Anne Basye, <http://blogs.elca.org/hungerrumblings/page/9/>