



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Prayer Service

Garden of the Arts

Let us Pray:

Lord,

You are the sower and reaper, the planter and harvester. We are eager to cultivate the gifts in the fertile soil of hearts open to You.

Reading from Scripture:

"Praise the Lord! . . . Praise him with the lyre and harp! Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes! Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!"

Psalms 150

Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?

Am I grateful for God's gift of artistic creativity? Do I take time to notice and appreciate the art all around me? Do I want to explore and develop my artistic creativity? Do I appreciate and support the creativity of others? How may I see God in the artistic creativity of humanity?

Closing:

Lord,

The seed that fell on rich ground yielded a harvest of thirty, sixty, or one hundred fold. May the seeds that You have planted in our hearts, in all the gardens where we are called to be good stewards, produce a rich harvest for building up Your Kingdom. Amen.



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Reflections

*Thoughts on each of the Twelve Gardens within the Four Pillars of Stewardship:
Prayer, Formation, Hospitality and Service*

Garden of the Arts

“Praise the Lord! . . . Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes!” Psalms 150

Our world would be a dull place without the many arts. Think of a world without music, literature, visual arts, performance arts, and all forms of artistic creativity. Our creative abilities are a great gift from God. We are called to support and explore artistic creativity, both our own and the artistic creativity of others.

Prayer

Think of a time that you experienced a magnificent piece of music or an inspirational painting. What were your thoughts about the artist that created it? What were your thoughts about our God who gave that artist the ability to create such beauty? How can you thank God for your own creative gifts?

Formation

Consider your artistic or creative gifts from God. What can you do to enhance those gifts? What opportunities for engaging in the creation of beauty are within your reach? Think of an artistic form that you’ve always wanted to try, but haven’t. How can you create an opportunity to do so? Consider ways to take time to experience artistic endeavors that inspire you.

Hospitality

In what ways can you use God’s gift of creativity so that those who encounter you will encounter a sense of God’s beauty – whether it is support and encouragement for the arts, or your own artistic creation?

Service

Think of how you may support the arts in your community. What opportunities are available for visiting museums, local art shows and art fairs, or professional and amateur performances in your city or community. How can you use your own artistic gifts to enhance the lives of others?