



Dear Friends in Christ,

The prolific Charles Wesley, who wrote more than 6,000 hymns, reportedly said he would give up all his hymns to have written the one verse that contains our *Every Member Canvass* theme for 2025: **My Soul, My Life, My All.**

This line, as you may already know, comes from the hymn “*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,*” which is one of the first hymns written in the English language; three hundred years later, it remains one of the finest.

The final verse begins as a kind of personal response to the gift of Christ’s cross but then recognizes that there is no fully adequate response. This gift of love is “so amazing” and “so divine” that the only proper answer is the return of the whole self in submission and worship of God.

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands **my soul, my life, my all.***

The hymn assumes that God wants all of us, not because God is greedy, but because all things come from God, and all things return to God. Part of what God desires is generosity towards the Church, as we see clearly in Scripture (see 2 Cor. 9:7; Prov. 3:9; 1 Tim. 6:17-19). However, to be clear, giving to the Church should always flow out of a joyous response rather than a feeling of guilt. When we lay our lives on his altar, including our time, our talent, and our treasure, we do so in recognition that he has already given us everything in Christ, and so we are never more like God than when we give!

Therefore, I invite you to consider anew your annual giving to the Church. Take some time to pray about it with family or alone. First, please do make a gift, no matter the size. Our programming for worship, formation, and mission, including our administration and staff costs, are dependent upon your generosity. Also, please make your gift in the form of a *pledge*, as this makes it possible to plan our budget for 2025. A pledge is just that—a promise for what we can expect you to give in the upcoming calendar year. We kick off our pledge campaign (“EMC”) on Sunday, October 6, and we are asking for members to return their pledges no later than Sunday, November 10. You can submit a physical pledge card or do so online through Realm or the church website. Please know it is never our desire to put a hardship on anyone, but simply to invite people into giving according to their need. I pray you will join me and so many others this year as we look to the cross and sing together, “My Soul, My Life, My All.”

Yours in Christ,  
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