

Stewardship speech by Matt Campbell

October 22, 2023

Hello, everyone. My name is Matt Campbell. You may notice me as the one who's toting around Grace. Now she's not here today, but she's the cute little two-year-old who plays here. I'm still getting used to the fact that people don't recognize me as much as they do my daughter. I'm an only child, so I'm used to like "everyone's eyes on me", but that's not the case anymore.

Anyway, I'm here to speak on stewardship and the importance of supporting this church. Before I do that, you need some context about me and my spiritual journey. It all started with Star Wars: have you ever heard of it?

The idea of the Force really spoke to me at a very young age and set me along a spiritual-seeking life. I grew up in Ohio and a lot of the non-denominational or evangelical church didn't speak much to me.

So, life goes on, I meet my wife and I read a bit of Joseph Campbell. He's a comparative mythologist and a lot of what he said spoke to me, which was that *ritual is important*, finding ways to bring the spiritual into the physical realm. That being said, my wife went to an Episcopalian high school, and she said, "I think you might like the Episcopalians". I didn't grow up with a lot of Catholic-leaning things in Ohio, and you stand up you say things, and "we'll try it". And it turns out that I *did* like it, and I like bringing things into the physical realm.

That brings us to today, because the physical realm of being here every Sunday in a beautiful building. Look at this, incidentally, this is beautiful by the way. This, what is it, an eagle? Anyway, what I'm getting at is this stuff costs money, and as I get older, I realize that. *Every day* I realize that more and more.

When we arrived here in 2020, we made a big point of seeking out community. When we were in LA; when you're a transplant in LA, how does community work? I don't know. When we moved to Davis, we said "let's look up an Episcopalian church and start there". It's been really good to us; you all have been very kind. It's a wonderful place to raise a child and bring a child in with all you kind people and to support that with *money*.

And as a good millennial, I don't carry cash; and I feel bad when the plate comes around. But... look how easy this is... on the front page of St. Martin's, there's a "Give" button and it takes you to, I always say, "tithely" in my head, but it's "tithe dot ly" and it's super easy, and you can choose to give to the general fund or the Thanksgiving project. That's my spiel for today, but thank you for being so kind to me and my family.