

A large, light green, stylized leaf graphic is positioned in the background, extending from the top left towards the bottom right. It has a central vein and several smaller veins branching off, creating a sense of growth and naturalness.

# ADVENT

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

### GIVING

Our Sunday Worship liturgy includes an offering, called the Offertory, taken just before we come to the Lord's Table. During this time, two things happen: First, a member of the Altar Guild brings bread and wine for the meal from the back of the sanctuary to present to the Celebrant, which represents the food as a gift from the congregation for distribution to all. At the same time, ushers collect a financial gift, and then present it to the Celebrant, who receives it and places it with the bread and wine at the Table. The act of worship through giving a portion of one's income for the needs of the worshipping community extends far back into the Old Testament (Numbers 18:20-21), a tradition which Jesus endorsed (Matthew 23:23). Paul also connected the Old Testament practice with the practice of the New Testament church, citing the need for congregations to support those who serve the church in ministry (1 Corinthians 9:13-14). And all this reflect the principle of Proverbs 3:9, "Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce."

Whether you give financially to Advent through a donation during Sunday worship, online, or automatic withdrawal, the Offertory is the time in our liturgy to reflect on all that the Lord has given you, to recognize that all of it belongs to Him, and to remember that in worship we give ourselves to God in every way, as He gave himself in every way for us.