

# LITURGY OF ABUNDANCE

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## DEFINITIONS

Scarcity

Abundance

Generosity

Ordo

Liturgy

# DEFINITIONS

- **Scarcity** - having less than you feel you need  
(*Scarcity: The New Science of Having Less and How it Defines our Lives*)
- **Abundance** - having enough to meet the needs of the person or community
- **Generosity** - willingness to give of one's resources to another

## DEFINITIONS

- **Ordo** - basic structure of Christian worship that centers on table, font, and pulpit, and the shape of Christian living that flows from these centers. It is a commitment to that which grounds and guides our lives in the world. (*A Christian Ordo* Martha Moore-Keish). It is the total ordering of the Christian life as it expresses itself in the assembly and as it leads to and flows from that assembly (*The Ordo: The Center of Liturgical Reform* Arlo Duba)

# DEFINITIONS

- **Liturgy** - The service of God offered by the people of God in divine worship. The word liturgy is derived from the Greek *leitourgia* which means, 'the work of the people' (Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms)



THEOLOGY

***The Liturgy of  
Abundance, The Myth of  
Scarcity***

**-Walter Brueggemann**





# ABUNDANCE

GENESIS 1:27-30

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

# SCARCITY

## GENESIS 47

Pharaoh introduces the principle of scarcity into the world economy. For the first time in the Bible, someone says, "There's not enough. Let's get everything."

-Brueggemann





SCIENCE

***Scarcity: The New Science of Having Less and How it Defines our Lives***

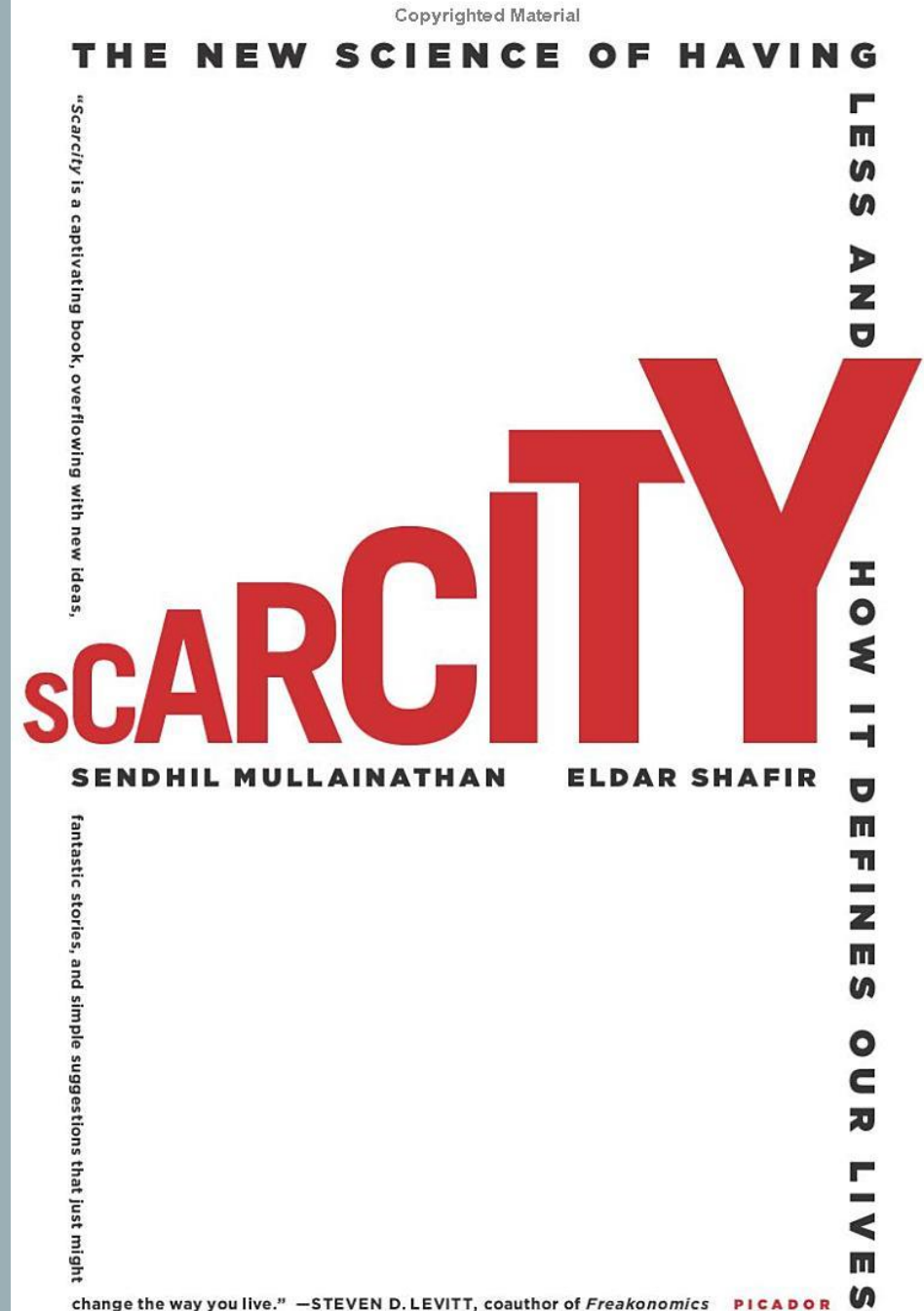
-Sendhil Mullainathan and Shafir Eldar

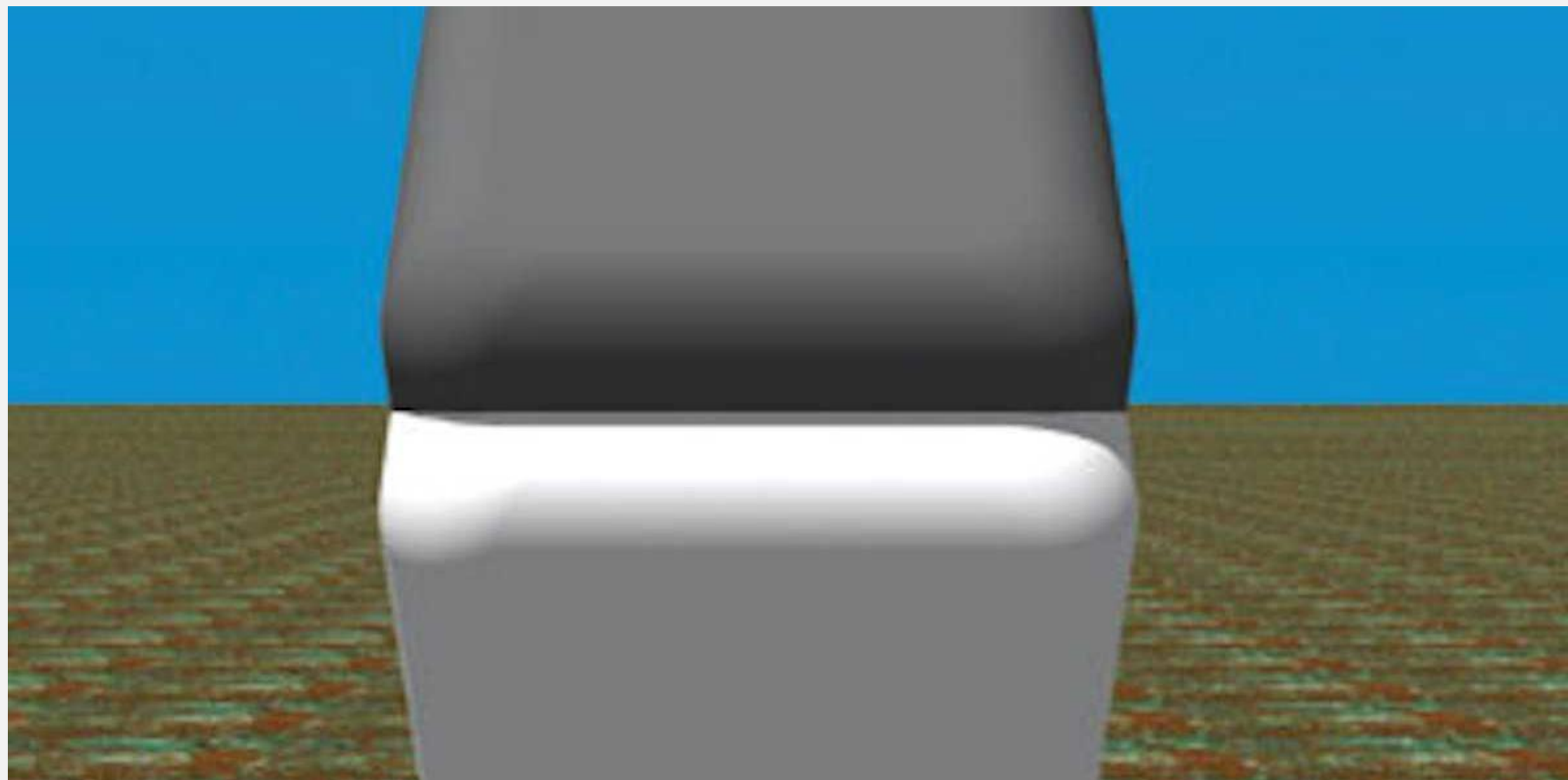
***The Paradox of Generosity: Giving we Receive, Grasping we Lose***

-Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson

# SCARCITY

Perception is Reality





# THE PARADOX OF GENEROSITY



GIVING WE RECEIVE, GRASPING WE LOSE

Christian Smith &  
Hilary Davidson

## GENEROSITY

Perception is Reality

# ORDO

- Shaping the culture of a congregation through worship
- basic structure of Christian worship that centers on table, font, and pulpit, and the shape of Christian living that flows from these centers. It is a commitment to that which grounds and guides our lives in the world. (A Christian Ordo Martha Moore-Keish)
- the total ordering of the Christian life as it expresses itself in the assembly and as it leads to and flows from that assembly (The Ordo: The Center of Liturgical Reform Arlo Duba)

*Generosity*



*Abundance*



QUICK WORD  
OF CAUTION

***“If formation is the goal of worship, then we have missed the goal of worship”***

-Glen Packiam

- Do not replace the word 'stewardship' with 'generosity'
- Refrain from prosperity gospel theology (intentional and unintentional)

# LITURGY

## Scripture

### Genesis 12:2-3

I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

### 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing<sup>[a]</sup> in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.



# LITURGY

## Music

*Seek Ye First*

*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

*Great God of Every Blessing*

*Give Thanks*

*There Shall be Showers of Blessing*

*We Give Thee But Thine Own*

*I'll Praise my Maker While I've  
Breath*



## LITURGY

Lord, teach me to be generous,  
to serve you as you deserve,  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labor and not to look for any  
reward,  
save that of knowing that I do your  
holy will.

-Attributed to St Ignatius



## LITURGY

### Litanies of Generosity

**Gracious God, give us generous hearts...**

...to acknowledge you as the giver of all good gifts.

...to share without expecting something in return.

...to be wise in the way of caring for ourselves and others.

...to hold our treasures and values with open hands.

...to have gospel priorities and to align our life, love and time in their light.

...to recognize the abundance of blessings in each passing day.

...to know the freedom that comes with generosity.

...to accept our talents, whether many or few, and to use them in service.

...to grow in giving thanks for everything.

Holy One, in the midst of these pandemic days you continue to provide. Create in us a deep center of gratitude, a center so strong in thanksgiving that sharing our treasures becomes the norm and pattern of our existence. Remind us how much you cherish us, and how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in our greatest need. Thank you for reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth, and unearned love. Amen.

*-Broad Street Presbyterian Church (Columbus, OH)*



# LITURGY

## Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess we are selfish people. We are so inwardly focused that we often do not consider the needs of those around us. You call us to be generous because You have been so generous with us. We are blessed to be a blessing, but we tend to hoard our blessings in fear. We say we trust You for all things, but our lives demonstrate a lack of this type of trust. Help us live generously. Help us consider others. Help us stop living in fear. Through the power of the Jesus and with the help of the Holy Spirit we ask these things, Amen.

*-Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church*

# LITURGY

## Offering

- Connect the offering to the table (bring the elements forward in place of the collection plates)
- Testimonies about generosity
- Move the offering to the end of the service as people are leaving
- Provide notes for gratitude (Martha Moore-Keish)

# LITURGY

## Benediction

May you live this day  
Compassionate of heart  
Gentle in word,  
Gracious in awareness  
Courageous in thought  
Generous in love.

-John O'Donohue