

Bulletin

November 1, 2020 All Saints' Day, Communion, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
(on-line worship service)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PASTORAL GREETING

VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRELUDE

“Song for All Saints”

Mary McDonald

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke Weber

Look! A vast multitude—citizens of every nation, speakers of every tongue—standing before the throne of the Lamb.

See how they dwell with in God’s temple, in the shelter of One who wipes away their tears.

We join our voices with these saints and with the choir of angels, who forever sing God’s praise:

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever.

HYMN

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

#730

Music: John Henry Hopkins, 1940

Text: Lesbia Scott, 1929, alt. (© Lesbia Scott – admin. Church Publishing, Inc.)

*I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.*

*The loved their lord so dear, so dear, and God’s love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus’ sake, the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there’s not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn’t be one too.*

*They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still;
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus’ will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Luke Weber

“The kingdom belongs to the hopeless” you tell us; and, “How honorable are those who mourn.”

Sometimes, we disregard those among us who are poor in spirit, rather than surrounding them with our care.

When we shy away from those who yearn for compassion because of our discomfort or distress,

forgive us.

When we rush past those searching for hope because we do not have the “right” words to say,

forgive us.

God break our hardened hearts.

Grant us the grace to turn toward others with loving kindness, and help us to be instruments of healing and wholeness.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Rev. John Milne

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Virginia Champlin

Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that they may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lords. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 John 3:1-5

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Matthew 5: 1-12

The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

RESPONSE

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God.

(Deut. 6:6)

SERMON

CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER

A Reflection on All Saints' Day

Saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversaries of the deaths of martyrs – their birthdays as saints through the completion of their baptism. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, remembered and forgotten, known and unknown. It has been celebrated on or around November 1 since the ninth century.

In the Reformed tradition, the emphasis of this festival is on the ongoing sanctification of the whole people of God. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, we also give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks for members of the community of faith who have died in the past year, and to pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

*Book of Common Worship 2018
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21: 1-5a



CANDLE LIGHTING RITUAL

As the names are read, a bell will be rung and a candle lit in memory of that person.

Marjorie Aude
Gail Warren Bruckner
William C. Buell
Iona Camp
William D. Cram
Jack L. Dumbleton
Robert Eberle
Lawrence N. Fairfax
Howard H. Johnson

Annabelle Jordan
Jean E. Montford
Christine Pohlig
Ronald J. Schubert
Shirley Tinsman Somers
John (Jay) Vacca, Jr.
Robert (Bob) Whyte
Joan Holden Witte

PRAYER OF THANKS (unison)

Creator and Redeemer of all souls, we have joy at this time in all who have faithfully lived, and in all who have died. We thank you for all happy memories and all living hopes; for the sacred ties that bind us to the unseen world; for the dear and holy dead who surround us like a cloud of witnesses and make the hidden heaven a home to our hearts. By your saving love, may we be followers of those who already inherit your promise. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING (Revelation 7: 11-12)

Minister: And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

People: **Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People will come from the north and south, and from the east and west to sit at table in the Kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, Blessed and broke it, and he gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table, our Savior invites all those who trust in Him to come and share the feast which he has prepared.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & LORD'S PRAYER

May the God of saints and sinners be with you.

And Also with you.

Join me in glorifying God.

We offer our hearts as we praise our God.

Let us bless our God at all times.

Songs of thanksgiving will flow from our lips forever.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

On the night he would be betrayed, Christ ate a meal with friends and he took bread and after thanking God for it, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Friends, the Bread of heaven given for you!

And in the same way, Christ took the cup and said,

"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Friends, the cup of salvation!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of glory, in this holy feast you have made us one with Christ and with the great multitude of the faithful—those who hunger and thirst no more and worship day and night in your temple. Lead us in paths of righteousness and guide us to the springs of the water of life, until we join the choir of the redeemed, singing: "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HYMN

"Rejoice in God's Saints"

#732

Music: *Ravenscroft's Whole Booke of Psalmes*, 1621; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 1997
Music Harm. © 1997 *Selah Publishing Co., Inc.*

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1973; rev. 1977; © 1973, 1980 *Hope Publishing Company*

*Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.*

*Some march with events to turn them God's way;
some need to withdraw, the better to pray;
some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:
our world is their parish; their purpose is God.*

*Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:
their way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“For All the Saints”

setting by Robert A. Hobby