



November 3, 2024
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Meditation

Eternity is not something that begins after you are dead. It is going on all the time. We are in it now.

Lily Dougall

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

Lighting of Candle

O God, today we light a candle.

We light this candle, and watch it flicker, to remind us of the fragile nature of human life.

We light it as a reminder that into the darkness of this sinful world you came as the Light of the World.

We light this candle to remind ourselves that You also called us “out of our darkness and into Your marvelous light.”

We light it so that this tiny flame might inspire us to be a source of light for others in our words and actions.

We light this candle to remind us of a Love that shined so bright, that having been nailed to the cross, He would say, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

We light it as a testimony: We believe that the only cure for the darkness of evil and hatred in our world is the Light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

O God, as we worship today, may the light of Your love and truth shine ever brighter into our hearts and lives,

And as we go out into the world, may Your light shine ever brighter through us that darkened hearts might finally see Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

* *Call to Worship*

Lift up your heads, O gates.

The King of glory has come.

Mourning and death shall be no more.

Feast on rich food and fine wine.

Come! Let us worship the God of our salvation.

* *Opening Prayer*

God of new beginnings, wipe away our tears, that we may come before your throne with hearts full of song and with souls on fire. Help us live as those who are prepared to die, so when our time to depart comes we may go forth as those who are prepared to live. Whether living or dying, O Lord, our hearts will always belong to you. Amen.

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Opening Children's Hymn*

"Do Lord"

Insert

Prayer of Yearning

You know our grief, wellspring of tears, and our longing to see your face. We long for you to come down and save us. In our sorrow and pain, we yearn to be touched by healing love. As Lazarus before us, we need your hand to lift us from tombs that keep us from truly living. Open our mouths to exclaim with delight: 'Here is our God for whom we have waited!' Amen.

Words of Assurance

The vision of a new heaven and a new earth is sure. The one who prepares a banquet before us, a feast of rich food and fine wine, will wipe away our tears. Rejoice and be glad. The king of glory is the author of our salvation.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9 NRSV

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained
clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might
save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 11:32-44 NRSV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH #497

³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his
feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother
would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews
who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit
and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They
said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the
Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said,
“Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this
man from dying?”

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a
cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the
stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord,
already there is a stench because he has been dead four
days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed
you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone.

And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

* *Gloria Patri*

* *Meditation Hymn*

“*Holy, Holy, Holy!*”

VH #22

Today's Message



* *All Saints' Sunday Hymn* “*For All the Saints*”

PH #306 vs. 1, 2

All Saints' Sunday Prayer

In the midst of life, we are in death, O Lord our God!

Who, but you, O Lord, can help us and give us hope?

We praise you this day, as we remember all who have lived, all who have died, all who are now in your loving care. With sorrow, we are parted from those we have loved, and in time we will be taken from among those who love us.

You alone, O Lord, can give purpose and meaning to life and death.

We beseech you this day, to give us such a sense of your presence, that we may feel oneness with all who have trusted you. You have declared, and we believe, that a day is coming in which you will bring to fulfillment all that you have promised to your people.

In that day, all things and every person will be made new, and our mortal nature will take on immortality.

We pray that we may continue in our faith so we shall hear the trumpet call and awaken in your likeness. So, on this day we remember all your saints, those made holy by the power of the Spirit, through Christ the Savior.

We especially recall and entrust to you all those of our fellowship, family, and acquaintances whom we now name:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Fleta Ebersole | November 17, 2023 |
| Rhea Costello | December 20, 2023 |
| Alan Finnegan | March 6, 2024 |
| Mary Weyandt | May 20, 2024 |
| Nellie Furry | May 26, 2024 |
| William Scottie Dively | June 29, 2024 |
| Larry Farber | August 23, 2024 |
| Suellen Thomas | September 4, 2024 |

Receive each of your chosen ones, O God, and give them perfect peace, holding them within your eternal love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Who has gone into death before us, that death will no longer hold us who are destined for eternal life. Amen.

Declaration of Faith

Praise God for his Good News of Salvation!

Our faith is in Christ whom God raised from the dead, and who now reigns with him in heaven!

And that glory shall be ours by the same power of God which raised Christ from the dead!

Glory be to God! By his Spirit we know we are his and we rejoice in the salvation of all the saints!

*I invite the congregation to come forward
and light a Candle of Remembrance for your departed loved ones*

...

Blessing for All the Saints

Living God, we give you thanks for calling forth these blessed ones.

O God, keep them forever in your arms. May they stay forever in our hearts. Because of their living, teach us to live faithfully. Amen.

* *Con't Hymn*

"For All the Saints"

PH #306 vs. 3,4



The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* *Sung Response*

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

TH # 501

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

God of abundance, you bless us with rich food and fine wines at your banquet table. May our offering nourish the bodies and souls of those who know only hunger and want. Bless our gifts into your holy service, that all may come to know the blessings of your table and the wonder of your love. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

VH #26

* *Benediction*

Hold fast to the faith of God’s saints, past and present.

In our living and in our dying, we belong to God.

Trust the example they left for us to follow.

In our loving and in our service, we are heirs with Christ.

Walk in the puddles of light the saints left as footprints for us to follow.

In our journeys of faith, we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – B. J. Beu