



November 6, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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A Celebration for All Saints Day

All Saints Day is celebrated on November 1 or the first Sunday of November. The ancient church set aside such a festival day to remember martyrs and saints not honored on special days. Today, we often celebrate not only historic figures of the church, but the company of all those baptized who we have known and revered. By remembering those of the past, the church is inspired to live faithfully as Christ's disciples in the present.

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Come, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us as we gather.

May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.

May their stories open a space for the Spirit to enter us anew.

In remembering them, may we find ourselves re-membered.

May the God of every generation form us anew for this generation.

And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.

* *Invocation*

God of every age and time, inspire us today with memories of saints whose energy still lingers, hovering around and within as encouragement and strength. Wrap us anew with a felt sense of your persistent presence, granting a new energy to offer You everything of our hearts, minds and souls. Yes, Love of Life, root us and ground us in this. And let it be more than enough for today, as we gather in the name of Jesus. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

VH #25

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Loving God, Grant me grace to release everything too much or too little into your transforming fire of refinement. Sear in me the strength of your saints - generous and gentle, focused and fierce - just enough to answer every devilish temptation distracting or denying Your Holy hope for my re-formation. Yes, Love, form me anew from the inside out, centering others ahead of every selfishness that dares me to choose anything less than You. Release me from the burdens and brokenness of my own making, that I may be readied to meet You in every ordinary saint whose path crosses mine in the gift of this day. Amen.

Words of Grace

Hear the good news! Jesus tells us that the Holy One is a God of grand reversals. Weeping turns to rejoicing, hunger is answered with fullness, honesty of heart is answered with grace upon grace. Every energy that diminishes is interrupted with a newness of life made possible by the One who is always searching us out with forgiving love. In Jesus, God revealed that grace and forgiveness has already arrived, and it includes you and me. It is the Good News! You can trust it with your life. The saints knew it and now you do, too. Thanks be to God! Amen and Amen.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:11-23 NIV

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*
Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

Luke 6:20-31 NIV

TH #497

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³ “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Love for Enemies

²⁷ “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “O Lord of Life, Where'er They be” PH #469

Today's Message



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.

So, on this day, O God, we remember all your saints, those made holy by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ the Savior.

* *All Saint' Sunday Hymn* "*For All the Saints*" PH #306, vs. 1,2

On this All Saints' Sunday, as we remember our loved ones who have died in Christ and gone to Heaven, take heart, for they are experiencing a life in the beauty of love, before the majesty of God, in the company of Christ, beyond anything that this earth could possibly offer. If you yourself are struggling with mountainous problems, or groaning under crushing burdens, or crying rivers of tears, or being persecuted by merciless adversaries, hold onto the vision of God's great reward in Heaven for those who keep the faith. The destination is a thousand times better than the journey, and its experience will wipe away all the sorrows and pain and discouragements of the pilgrimage on earth. We are traveling toward a new Heaven, where God is at the heart of his people forever, and Christ is the pattern for every life, and joy will not be shadowed by sorrow, and all things will be new by the majesty of God.

We remember and entrust to you, all those of our fellowship, family, and friends whom we now name:

Roger Corle	November 18, 2021
Betty Farber	February 3, 2022
Dick Finnegan	March 4, 2022
Shirley Knisely	May 13, 2022
Ann Cowher	August 5, 2022
Ronnie Walter	August 31, 2022
Susan Tremmel	September 20, 2022

** 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.**

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.

* *All Saint's Hymn (con't)* “For All the Saints” PH #306 vs. 1,4



* *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.

* *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

O Giver of Life, continue to form in us a transparent spirit that by our giving and our living others may discover You. Reshape our priorities and grant us a willing vision to see and respond to those hidden saints who reveal something of you in the least likely ways and in the most surprising places. Thank you for calling us into a life such as this. Bless these gifts that they may bless others. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

PH #30

* *Benediction*

Beloved of God, trust that the Holy One still forms saints. They might be standing next to you. They might just be you. Trust that God has formed your life to be part of something larger than you could possibly imagine. So go, anticipating that God is already blessing you to bear good news into the world. Yes! Yes! Yes! Amen and Amen!

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

All Saints Day Service Prayers were written by Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ.