

October 31, 2021
All Saints

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song VU 951 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God!

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship *(based on Revelation 7:9, 10, 12)*

Almighty and Everlasting God,

just as the multitude of the saints gather around Your throne,

we too gather in Your holy presence to proclaim

that salvation belongs to our God and to the Lamb.

May the example of the saints who go before us

inspire us to join them in saying,

all blessing and glory, wisdom, honour and might be to You,

O God, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 766 "As the Deer Pants for the Water"

As the deer pants for the water,

so my soul longs after you;

you alone are my heart's desire

and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield

to you alone may my spirit yield;

you alone are my heart's desire,

and I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver,

only you can satisfy;

you alone are the real joy-giver

and the apple of my eye.

You alone are my strength, my shield

to you alone may my spirit yield;

you alone are my heart's desire,

and I long to worship you.

You're my friend and you are my brother,

even though you are a king;

I love you more than any other,

so much more than anything!

You alone are my strength, my shield

to you alone may my spirit yield;

you alone are my heart's desire,

and I long to worship you.

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

God of the ages, we praise you for all your saints who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God. You call *us* to do what is just, yet we remain idle. You call *us* to love mercy, yet our hearts are made of stone. You call *us* to walk humbly with You, yet we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Make us hunger and thirst for justice. Remove our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh. Give us courage to follow in your way that we may, at the last, dwell in your holy city, sharing the inheritance of all the saints in light, through your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Old Church Choir" Zach Williams

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOEviTLJOqo>

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 249 "Rejoice in the Lord Always" *3 times*

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy God, we thank you for all the saints who through the ages have kept the faith, witnessing for Christ, upholding truth, resisting evil, and working for justice and peace. We thank you for the biblical record of the saints, and all writings of exemplary Christian lives in biographies, journals, and letters, which continue to nourish and inspire new generations. We thank you that we have a goodly heritage, a rich tradition by which to judge the present and determine future direction.

Hallowed God, we thank you for the biblical record of the saints, and all writings of exemplary Christian lives in biographies, journals, and letters, which continue to nourish and inspire new generations.

Sacred God, we thank you that we have a goodly heritage, a rich tradition by which to judge the present and determine future direction.

Gracious God, we are grateful for the teachings, admonitions, and example of those who personally brought us to faith in Christ. Grant us strength and courage, that we may hold fast to the truth they revealed and serve you faithfully.

Merciful God, we pray for the saints who live now in your nearer presence, that the fullness of your blessing and reward for faithfulness may be theirs.

Encouraging God, may we, as individuals and church, be a true embodiment of Christ's love that will witness powerfully to this present generation. We pray especially for White Oaks United Church as they work to call a new spiritual leader.

Loving God, we pray for those who feel they stand alone in their struggle to be Christ-like people.

Sovereign God, we pray for our leaders: political, business and ecclesial. Grant them wisdom and compassion in their leading. We pray for all the peoples of this world, especially the people of Canada and the United States of America.

Compassionate God, we pray for new insight for those who discredit or discount altogether the gift of tradition. May it be a source of strength and comfort in time of trial and temptation.

Compassionate God, we ask for the comfort of your Spirit as we continue to grieve the loss of close family and friends who now number among your saints in heaven. Especially we pray for the friends and family of Shirley Morris, Elizabeth Rantala and Anne Smith.

Tender-Hearted God, we pray for the saints in our midst who need your healing presence and comfort in their lives, especially we think of Tucker, Donna Auckland, Linda Chanyi, David Gill, Cecil Jenkins, Marlene Smith, and their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts...

God of Grace and God of Glory, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who taught us to pray, saying,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Minute for Mission

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Those saints who have gone before us knew that every blessing they had came from God, and so they gave freely and generously of their time, their gifts, their finances. Following in their footsteps we too give freely and generously to God who has blessed us.

Creator and lover of all souls, we thank you for those saintly souls who have taught us the blessing of knowing you, and the joy of serving you. According to the example of Jesus and the saints, we give ourselves to you and make our resources available to you, for the work of sharing the gospel in this present age, and of acting on behalf of the poor and oppressed. Receive and use our gifts, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 24

The earth is God's, and all that is in it;
the world, and those who live upon it.

**For God founded it upon the seas,
planted it firm over the waters beneath.**

Who may ascend the mountain of God?

Who may stand in God's holy place?

**Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not set their minds on deceit,
nor made false promises;**

they shall receive God's blessing,
righteousness from the God who will save them.

**Such are those who seek God,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, you gates!

**Lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors,
that the One who rules in glory may enter.**

Who rules in glory?

**It is God, valiant and strong,
God, who is mighty in battle.**

Lift up your heads, you gates!

**Lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors,
that the One who rules in glory may enter.**

Who rules in glory?

**It is God of hosts,
God who rules in glory.**

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6a

The New Heaven and the New Earth

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

*The other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 25:6-9, John 11:32-44.** You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage.....in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

Hymn MV 28 "God of the Bible"

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,

hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,

you are the centre, daylight or darkness,

freedom or prison, you are our home.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,

suffering with us, taking our part,

still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,

feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Those without status, those who are nothing,

you have made royal, gifted with rights,

chosen as partners, midwives of justice,

birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Not by your finger, not by your anger

will our world order change in a day,

but by your people, fearless and faithful,

small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other,
till our world changes facing the Cross.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

Meditation: "Living Into Change"

We Respond to God's Blessing

Hymn MV 171 "Christ Has No Body Now but Yours"

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering, no touch but yours to
bind the broken hope of the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion; no eyes but yours to
glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice. Yours are the steps to
build a lasting peace for the children of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need;
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing, with ev'ry gift a
benediction, be to the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

Commissioning and Benediction

May Christ, who makes saints of sinners,
Who has transformed those who have gone before us,

Raise us and strengthen us,

That we may transform the world.

May it be so.

Amen.

Sung Response: "Go Now In Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there supporting us with love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.

Announcements.....**Union:**

The guest speaker for our anniversary service next week is the Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, who is the Executive Minister for Antler River Watershed Regional Council, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council and Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. Cheryl-Ann was the Executive Minister of the former London Conference.

Cheryl-Ann will be joining us by Zoom.

The Reopening Task Group is asking for volunteers to help take attendance each week. A list of attendees names and contact info would be already in a binder, the volunteer would need to check the list and record the attendance date. Please let Lynne Winter or Heather Schneider know if you are willing to help.

The Christmas Shoppe will be happening again this year. They are looking for donations of items or money as well as volunteers to help when the Shoppe is open. If you are able to volunteer, please let Pat Palmer know. 519-764-2368 (leave a message)

The Shoppe will be open: Tuesday Nov. 30, Wednesday Dec. 1, Thursday Dec. 2, and Friday Dec. 3.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day and also 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the Tuesday.

Donations may be delivered to the gym of First United Church on Sunday, Nov. 28 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

OR bring to Union Church before Nov 28 and Roberta will deliver them.

Send monetary donations to: Sandra Taylor, Treasurer,
24 Caldwell St. St. Thomas, ON N5R 5J2

Dorchester:

ALL:

NOTICE: As next Sunday, November 7, is Union's Anniversary, Union will be hosting worship (as agreed to by the Coordinating Committee). To correct the balance, Dorchester will host worship on both November 14 and 21.

Fake Time, I mean Daylight Savings Time, ends **next Sunday, November 7, at 2:00 a.m.**

Remember to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed Saturday night, or you will be extra early for Union's 201st Anniversary Service

Lectionary Readings for next week: (Nov 7, Twenty-fourth after Pentecost, Proper 27)

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44