

**Sunday November 3, 2024
All Saints Sunday**

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "For All the Saints" Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Arr. Cindy Berry

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

For all the saints who went before us,
who have spoken to our hearts and touched us with your fire,
we praise you, O God.

For all the saints who live beside us,
whose weaknesses and strengths are woven with our own,
we praise you, O God.

For all the saints who live beyond us,
who challenge us to change us to change the world with them,
we praise you, O God.

Hymn VU 333 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Words: Charles Wesley, 1747.

Music: Rowland Huw Prichard, ca. 1831. Words and Music in the Public Domain.

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temple leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith, yet all too often we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, yet all too often we are silent. You call us to do what is just, yet all too often we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, yet all too often we are afraid. Give us courage to follow in your way, that, joined with those from ages past who have served you with faith, hope and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Ministry of Music: VU 713 "I See a New Heaven" Words and Music: Carolyn McDade, 1979.

Harmonies: Janet McGaughey, ca. 1991. Words and Music © 1979 Carolyn McDade.

Harmonies © 1991 Carolyn McDade. OneLicense.net A620168

I see a new heaven. I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root, the Tree of Life will be.

I see a new heaven. I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole like flowers after the rain.

I see a new heaven. I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light, reveals the promise of love.

I see a new heaven. I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust to build a promised new land.

I see a new heaven. I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

A New Creed VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 706 "Give Thanks For Life" Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1986.

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Words © 1986 Hope Publishing Company.

Music by permission of Oxford University Press. OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give thanks for those who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

And for our own, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time or death or dread,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain
lying in darkness does its life retain
in resurrection to grow green again,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Psalm 24

Lift up your heads, that God who rules in glory enter may.

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.**

Lift up your heads, that God who rules in glory enter may.

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, that God who rules in glory enter may.

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 the God of Hosts,
God who rules in glory.**

Lift up your heads, that God who rules in glory enter may.

Scripture: Isaiah 25:6-9

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.

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

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 other readings for this week are: **Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 (alt.); Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44***

Meditation: “Holy Mystery”

Hymn VU 703 “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1986.

Words and Music © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;

in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,

unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;

there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery,

unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;

in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,

unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

We Respond To God’s Grace

Invitation to Invest in God’s Mission

We are called to be saints; to uphold truth, to resist evil, to work for justice and peace, live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to heal the sick, to lift up the broken hearted, to free those in bondage, and so much more. When we do those things, we make real the good news of the Kingdom of God. But we cannot be everywhere, and so we share in the work of the church around the world through our tithes and offerings.

Offertory Hymn VU 218 “We Praise You, O God” Words: Julia Cory, 1902. Music: Netherlands melody, 1626.

Harmonized by Edward Kresmer. Words, Music and Harmonization in the Public Domain.

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;

we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Prayer of Dedication

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Encouraging God, may we, as individuals and as the Church, be a true embodiment of Christ's love that will witness powerfully to this present generation.

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. This year we pray especially for Mary Kaiser, the Rev. Bruce Scott, the Rev. Lewis Snow, David Woods, Jack Lorimer, Ken Purdon, Allan Weir, Pat Leeuwestein, Marjorie Kivell, and Gord Lewis. May the fullness of your blessing and reward for faithfulness may be theirs.

Tender-Hearted God, we pray for the saints in our midst who need your healing presence and comfort in their lives, especially we pray for...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,

**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 trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 288 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923.

Music: William M. Runyan, 1923. Words and Music © 1923, renewal 1951 Hope Publishing Co.
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Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Commissioning

Go into the world, with gratitude for those who have inspired you,
challenged you, encouraged you, and given you life.

We go, knowing that they bless us still.

Go into the world with the strength of these saints
and with the blessing of God,

for we are saints in the making.

Go. Shine. Inspire. Bless.

Response: VU 961 “Let us, O God, Depart in Peace” George Whelpton. In the Public Domain

Let us, O God, depart in peace, who in your name are gathered here.

Disclose the brightness of your face, and be forever near.

Postlude: “On Eagle’s Wings” Michael Joncas, 1979. Setting by John Carter

Saints Departed From Us This Past Year

Mary Margaret Kaiser, November 25, 2023

The Rev. B. R. Bruce Scott, December 22, 2023

The Rev. Lewis Snow, December 28, 2023

John (Jack) George Lorimer, January 2, 2024

David Scott Woods, February 15, 2024

Kenneth (Ken) William Purdon, May 4, 2024

Harold Allan Weir, June 19, 2024

Patricia Ann Leeuwestein, August 12, 2024

Dr. William (Bill) Duncan Greason, September 27, 2024

Marjorie Kivell, October 21, 2024

Gordon (Gord) Francis Lewis, October 22, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Frozen Fruit Pies are now available for order. Large pies are \$14, small pies are \$7. You can sign up (name, phone number, and order) on the sheet in the lower hall, email dorchesterUC@gmail.com call 519-268-3154, or contact Carol Reid or Brenda Olejnik. Pickup will be Saturday, November 30, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Fishbowl: Cross-Generational Discussion. ARWRC is holding an online discussion between youth (teens to twenty-somethings) and elders (45+) to better understand one another and their context within the church. To learn more, go to <https://arwrucc.ca/youth-and-elders-fishbowl-discussion/>

LECTIONARY READINGS:

November 10 – Twenty-third after Pentecost – Proper 25 (Remembrance Sunday)
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44