

## **Sunday November 1, 2026**

### **All Saints Day**

#### **We Gather In God's Presence**

#### **Acknowledgement of the Land (not in unison)**

This land is our Creators. For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on and cared for this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. As we come into worship, we recognize that Dorchester United Church is located on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg, the Attawandaronk, and the Mississauga. The community of Dorchester is represented by the London Township Treaty of 1796.

As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work toward justice and reconciliation as together we care for God's creation and for one another.

#### **Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation:**

#### **Preparing Our Hearts for Worship**

#### **Prelude: "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll not Want"**

*Words from Scottish Psalter, 1650 Based on Psalm 23  
Music by JESSIE S. IRVINE*

#### **Lighting the Christ Candle:**

One: Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

**All: We walk in the Light of Christ.**

#### **Gathering Hymn "Give Thanks for Life" vs. 1, 2, 4**

**VU 706**

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- 1 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!**
- 2 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!**

**4 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!**

### **Call to Worship**

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

**Many: May the lingering echo of saints resound in our songs.**

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

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

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

**Many: And may a new joy rise in our lives and in the life of the world.\***

### **Gathering Prayer**

**Anthem: "Fairest Lord Jesus"** by Derek Hakes

### **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.

## **Learning With All God's Children – Remembering the Saints**

One: For all the saints who poured love and wisdom and hot chocolate into our lives,

**Many: For all the saints whose smiles and touch we miss the most,**

One: For all the saints who helped us find our voice,

**Many: For all the saints whom we cannot bear to live without,**

One: For all the saints whom we have begun to forgive,

**Many: For all the saints who forgave us more often than we deserved,**

One: For all the saints whose lives continue in ours,

**Many: We honor you this day.**

One: We hold your life up to God.

**Many: We bear witness to the future we have shaped together. \*\***

## **Hymn                    "Those Hearts That We Have Treasured"                    VU 494**

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**1     Those hearts that we have treasured,  
      those lives that we have shared,  
      those loves that walked beside us,  
      those friends for whom we've cared,  
          their blessing rests upon us,  
          their life is memory,  
          their suffering is over,  
          their spirits are set free.**

**2     They still give hope and comfort,  
      they did not lose the fight,  
      they showed us truth and goodness,  
      they shine into our night.  
          Remember days of gladness;  
          remember times of joy;  
          remember all the moments  
          that grief can not destroy.**

- 3** From hearts that we have treasured,  
from lives that we have shared,  
from loves that walked beside us,  
from friends for whom we've cared,  
we've learned to treasure kindness,  
we've learned that grace provides,  
we've learned to be together,  
we've learned that love abides.

**We Listen for God's Word**

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:1-12

**Response to the Word**

One: The Living Word of God in scripture.

**All: May the Word live among us and within us.**

**Sermon: Blessed Are...**

**Hymn "Blest Are They" VU 896**

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- 1** Blest are they, the poor in spirit,  
theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blest are they, full of sorrow,  
they shall be consoled.  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kingdom of God.
- 2** Blest are they, the lowly ones,  
they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they who hunger and thirst,  
they shall have their fill.  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kingdom of God.

- 3**    **Blest are they who show mercy,  
mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart,  
they shall see God.  
     Rejoice and be glad!  
     Blessed are you, holy are you!  
     Rejoice and be glad!  
     Yours is the kingdom of God.**
- 4**    **Blest are they who seek peace;  
they are the children of God.  
Blest are they who suffer in faith,  
the glory of God is theirs.  
     Rejoice and be glad!  
     Blessed are you, holy are you!  
     Rejoice and be glad!  
     Yours is the kingdom of God.**
- 5**    **Blest are you who suffer hate,  
all because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad yours is the kingdom;  
shine for all to see.  
     Rejoice and be glad!  
     Blessed are you, holy are you!  
     Rejoice and be glad!  
     Yours is the kingdom of God.**

**We Respond To God's Grace**

**Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

**Offertory Hymn: "There's Enough For All"            TLUS 60**

**There's enough for all  
if we would learn to share it,  
there's enough for all,  
oh, help us to believe.  
There's enough for all.  
Let's bring our loaves and fishes,  
and offer them to Jesus.  
There's more than enough for you and me.**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Prayers of God's People & 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 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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn "In The Bulb There Is a Flower" VU 703**

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- 1 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.**
- 2 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.**

**3     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.**

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

**Sung Response: Go now in peace, never be afraid,  
God will go with you each hour of everyday.  
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 watching from above,  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen, amen, amen.**

*Words: Ken Besig and Nancy Price. Music: Ken Besig 1988.  
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**Postlude:            "For All The Saints."**            By Ralph Vaughan Williams

**\*Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins,** Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ

**\*\* Adapted from Rev. Vicki Flippin**

<https://fumcschenectady.org/blog/2020/11/01/worship-for-all-saints-day/>