

Sunday Worship Service – November 2, 2025
All Saints Sunday – Joint Worship at 10am

Passing the Peace & Ringing of the prayer bowl

Welcome by Pastors

Introduction

Today we commemorate All Saints Sunday. The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the people of God. It is a day to think about the immense diversity of saints throughout time and space. It is also a day to remember that we are Christ's saints in the world today.

Land Acknowledgement

As we gather for worship this morning, I invite you to consider the cultural background of your ancestors. Where are they from, what was/is their culture and traditional practices? If you don't know, make a commitment to find out. Knowing our cultural background can connect us to the importance of the culture of the Indigenous people of this land, whose ancestors cared for, and stewarded this land and all its creatures for thousands of years. In this area we give thanks for the stewardship of the land and culture of the nêhiyawak (Cree), Nahkawiniwak (Saulteaux), Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota First Nations and the homeland of the Michif/Metis Nation – in the area most recently defined as Treaty 4. We recognize this statement in itself is not reconciliation work. This stand-alone acknowledgment must be accompanied by multiple acts that continue to deepen our understanding of the connections between Indigenous peoples and the lands on which we are joined through the course of history and through Treaty signing.

Welcome Statement

You are welcome here. We celebrate diversity and honour difference as we welcome all, who represent God's goodness in the variations of ages, gender, ability, ethnicity, racial identity, sexual orientation, gender-identity,

family configuration, beliefs, personality, appearances and economic circumstances. For Christ has made us whole and Christ has set us free. His daily grace enables us to live in harmony. Where-ever you are at on your journey, who-ever you are and however you wish to express yourself, you are welcome in this place. Let us worship God.

Lighting of UCC Candles

Call to Worship

Who are God's saints?

The people whom God's love shines through.

People of all ages and genders?

Yes, the people whom God's love shines through.

People around the earth?

Yes, the people whom God's love shines through.

Ones who have died, ones who now live and ones who are yet to be born?

Yes, the people whom God's love shines through.

Who are the saints of God?

**All God's people. All around the world. Yesterday,
today and forever.**

The people whom God's love shines through.

With God's love shining through us,

We too are saints who worship God! Alleluia

Anti-Racism video/Mission Minute – *Being in Right Relations* by Samantha Miller

All Saints Day Prayer

God of the ages, you have blessed us with saints all of our lives, those who put up with us, and those who shared their faith with us; those who have touched us with their compassion, and those who light the way for us. For all the saints of every age, especially our own, we give you our gratitude and praise. Amen.

Prayer of Confession¹

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

¹ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts/2025-11-2/2682>

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

When we confess, we are forgiven and made new. God works through all of us, and God is working in you, to bring healing and wholeness. Restoration is always possible. Renewal is always possible. Love is always present. Forgiveness is always available. You are forgiven in the name of the + Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter. Amen.

VU #705 Gathering Hymn “*For All the Saints*”

- 1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed;
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Hallelujah, Hallelujah!**

- 3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in within your great design. Hallelujah, Hallelujah!**

- 4. The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful servants comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Hallelujah, Hallelujah!**

All Saints Day Litany

We remember the great ancestors of our faith, from Abraham and Sarah,
to Paul and Phoebe;

Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and teachers
who have taught us the way of God;

Teachers of the faith, we remember you.

We remember our grandparents and parents, their siblings,
those who have gone before us in our lifetime;

Family of our faith, we remember you.

We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters
and siblings, partners and spouses, whose lives ended too soon;

Those close in our heart, we remember you.

God of our ancestors, today we gather to our hearts all those who have
influenced our lives with their love and goodness. Although they have
passed on to the other side of this life, their lives continue to affect who we
are and what we do. Like the sound of a bell resounding in the welcoming
air, so has the goodness of these holy ones resonated in our lives. Thank
you for these ancestors and the bond we have with them. Amen.

Children's Message

VU, p.873 **Psalm 149:1-6a, 9b**

Sing to God a new song;

give praise in the assembly of the faithful!

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker;

let the children of Zion exult in their Sovereign!

Let them praise God's name with dancing;

let them sing God's praise with tambourine and harp! R

For you, O God, take delight in your people;

You crown the humble with victory.

Let the faithful exult in their glory;

let them sing for joy as they feast. R

Let God's praise be in their lips,

That is the glory of all God's saints. R

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3

So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of
us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us.

Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up,
and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter.

Jesus endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that

was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne. Think about the one who endured such opposition from sinners so that you won't be discouraged and you won't give up.

ELWB #520 Gospel Acclamation "*Dearest Jesus at Your Word*"

- 1. Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given draw us wholly up to heaven.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:20-31

Jesus raised his eyes to his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, because God's kingdom is yours.

Blessed are you who hunger now, because you will be satisfied.

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

Blessed are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you,
and condemn your name as evil because of the Human One.

Rejoice when that happens!

Leap for joy because you have a great reward in heaven.

Their ancestors did the same things to the prophets.

But how terrible for you who are rich,

because you have already received your comfort.

How terrible for you who have plenty now, because you will be hungry.

How terrible for you who laugh now, because you will mourn and weep.

How terrible for you when all speak well of you.

Their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets.

"But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies.

Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you.

Pray for those who mistreat you.

If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well.

If someone takes your coat, don't withhold your shirt either.

Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back
from those who take them.

Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.(CEB)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “O God, we Give Thanks for the Saints Gone Before Us”²

ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11 D Tune of VU #242 “*Let All Things Now Living*”

1. O God, we give thanks for the saints gone before us —
remembering well how they walked Jesus' Way.
They valued the truth and would rise to defend it.
They knelt to be kind to the poor day by day.
They welcomed in immigrants, honored new neighbors,
put love before greed, and sought peace over strife.
May we in our homes and our churches and nations
recall Jesus' teachings and welcome this life.

2. O God, we give thanks for the saints now among us —
for teachers and helpers and activists, too,
for those in our families and those who work with us
to make the world better, to make the world new.
We thank you for those who seek justice for others,
for those who seek Jesus and live by his grace.
May we in our homes and our churches and nations
give thanks for their witness of love in this place.

3. O God, we give thanks for the Way Jesus shows us;
may we seek to follow his reign from above.
The world often calls us to hatred and violence,
but Christ's Way is welcome and mercy and love.
Like prophets, apostles, and martyrs before us,
like those who bear witness to you every day,
may we in our homes and our churches and nations
be saints who are eager to choose Jesus' Way.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

² Text: Copyright © 2024 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayer of Remembrance

Living God, we thank you for the gift of eternal life, and for all those who
having served you well, and now rest from their labours.

We thank you for all the saints, those remembered and those forgotten.

Today we give you thanks for all of our loved ones who have died and
entered into your glory. We thank you for their life and love. Amen.

Placing of Candles

All are invited to come up and light a candle in memory of a loved one
who has passed away, or in thanks for a living saint in your life.

As we do so, we reflect on how they let their light shine.

Light your tapers from the large lit candles on either side, noting that all
these lights originate from the Christ candle, reminding us that it is the
light of Christ that shines in us and through us, and all the saints in our
lives, and in the world – past, present, and future.

People invited up to light candles in honour of the saints in their lives

#715 Christ Be Our Light (reminding us Christ's light shone in and through the
saints in our lives).

- 1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

Refrain:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.**

Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

Refrain

- 3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.**

Refrain

- 4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.**

Refrain

- 5. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. *Refrain***

#677 *This Little Light of Mine* (reminding us that as the living saints of today, and Christ's light shines in us and through us).

- 1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
- 2. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
- 3. Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

When all are done:

We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God, and lift up many more names in our hearts. These candles remind us of the powerful communion we have with the saints. We remember how each one of the saints in our lives have brought a touch of your light into our world. We recall how each one reflected the radiance of your goodness. We reflect on their loving deeds and rejoice in their faithfulness and give thanks for their lives and their witness.

Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you. We know you are with us in the spirit of worship, and you will not be forgotten.

We give you thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with you beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ, and know that in our grief and celebration, O God, you are with us through it all, and are not left alone. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray. Amen.

A Prayer for the Month of the Holy Souls³

In these days when we look back upon generations of the mercy of God,
 Brilliantly lit in those who came before us, I like to think, too,
 Of the mercy that will stretch beyond us.
 We have laid some of our loved ones to rest and our grief is ever present
 with us,
 But so, likewise, are our loved ones—
 The paths they walked, the prayers they prayed for us.
 May we realize, too, that someday we also will live on earth only in
 memory,
 Carried in the hearts of those who loved us.
 In remembering our death, may we move through each day
 With tenderness, with gentleness,
 With love strong enough to stretch that thin veil
 Between heaven and earth into transparency.
 We have lit the candles that will brighten the lives
 Of those who will come after us.
 And may we always recognize this truth:
 That the goodness of God is matched only by its might,
 Ever transcending both life and death. Amen.

Offering Prayer

**Generous God, we seek not to be saints so much, but simply your people.
 We have been blessed beyond imagination and so pray, as we offer these
 gifts, that they would be used to touch the lives of the broken, the lonely,**

³ Written by Cameron Bellm

**the seeking, the hungry, the hopeless – all those who are children of God.
Amen.**

Holy Communion

God is with you. **And we are with God!**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

We thank you God Mother and Father of us all. You made the world and all things in it; you have been with us since the beginning of time, loving us and guiding us to love.

You worked through many people to help people understand that you are with us and how you want us to live. People like Noah, Moses and Miriam, Abraham and Sarah, David, and Esther. You sent your people prophets, people you chose to speak through to tell your people that they were doing wrong, to help them live in your way. We have been surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses, your saints to guide us.

Sometimes we forget about you, just like the people of faith before us. But you do not forget us. You keep on loving us and forgiving us.

You sent Jesus to show us your love.
He came to live here on earth, helping others;
He showed us how to love and care for each other and the world.
But he was rejected and killed.

And you, God, brought him back to life to show us that his life of love and peace was right and good.
He joined you to be with us in a new way
You sent your Holy Spirit upon Jesus' followers and guided them to begin your church,
As a community that shared with each other, so all had what they needed.
We now know that Jesus is always with us. We thank you, God.

On the last night before Jesus was killed, he gathered his best friends together and they ate together.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,
 Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the covenant in my blood,
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

He said this realizing that the blood that flows through us
 nourishes our bodies, and wants us to nourish our souls.
 So we eat this bread and drink from this cup remembering
 and experiencing Jesus' love and presence.

We pray that God's Holy Spirit will bless this bread and wine and juice,
 that as we eat and drink it, we may remember to live like Jesus,
 in love and peace forever. Amen

Latin American Lord's Prayer

**God, who is in us here on earth,
 holy is your name in the hungry who share their bread and their song.
 Your Kingdom come, which is a land flowing with milk and honey.
 Let us do your will, raising our voice when all are silent.
 You are giving us our daily bread
 in the song of the bird and the miracle of the corn.
 Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice.
 Don't let us fall into the temptation of taking up the same arms
 as the enemy. But deliver us from evil.
 Give us the perseverance to look for love, even if we fail;**

**so we shall have known your Kingdom
which is being built forever and ever. Amen.**

Fraction

Jesus Christ, the bread of Life
Jesus Christ, The cup of promise.

Behold what you are, let us become what we receive

Invitation *(including anointing)*

Distribution

Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace and peace from now to life everlasting.

Prayer after Communion

Loving God of generous peace, may we become what we have been given:
Bread and wine and juice for a hungry and thirsty world; a blessing to those
whose hearts are empty; a light in the challenging places. Amen.

Announcements

Introduce Bert Adema & Joe Elkerton

Blessing

May you love and care for one another in the name of Jesus.
May God give you grace to follow the saints of Christ
in faith, hope, and love.
May the living word bloom and grow within your hearts and minds.
May the fruit of the Holy Spirit be present in your lives,
both now and forevermore. Amen

#950 (ACS) Sending Hymn “Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In”

- 1. Oh, when the saints go marching in, oh, when the saints go marching in.**

O Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.

- 2. Oh, when the Lord in glory comes, oh, when the Lord in glory comes.**

O Lord, I want to be in that number, when the Lord in glory comes.

- 3. Oh, when the new world is revealed, oh, when the new world is revealed.**

O Lord, I want to be in that number, when the new world is revealed.

- 4. Oh, when they gather round the throne,
oh, when they gather round the throne,**

O Lord, I want to be in that number, when they gather round the throne.

- 5. And on that hallelujah day, and on that hallelujah day.**

O Lord, I want to be in that number, on that hallelujah day.

Sending

Led on by the saints before us, live in peace, to love and serve.

Thanks be to God!