

**Sunday Worship Service – November 1, 2026
All Saints Sunday – Joint Worship at 10am**

The Gathering

Passing the Peace

Ringling 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 & LSC Welcome Statement

Lighting of UCC Candles

Call to Worship

We remember, O God...

**The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage
through time,**

We remember, O God...

**The tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes,
the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.**

We remember, O God...

**The gentle strength of grandparents, the loyalty of friends,
the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.**

We remember, O God...

**The lavish love of Jesus, the blessing of the Spirit, the reminder of Jesus'
words, the sharing of his suffering, the glory of Jesus' resurrection
shown forth in the lives of his disciples: young and old, dead and living,
articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.**

We remember, in every time and place the saints of God who have pointed to God.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...

let us worship God with joy!

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.

VU #705 Gathering Hymn “For All the Saints” (v.1,3-4)

- 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 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!**

Children’s Message

The Word

Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

See what love God has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know God. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when God is revealed, we will

be like God for we will see God as God is. And all who have this hope in God purify themselves, just as God is pure. (NRSVUE)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

p.761 (VU) **Psalm 34:1-10**

Refrain:

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of our God.
I will bless God at all times; God's praise will continually be in my mouth.

My soul will glory in God, the humble will hear and be glad.

O magnify God with me, let us exalt God's name together.

I sought God, who answered me, and freed me from all my fears.

Look to the Most High, and let your light shine, and your faces will not be ashamed.

This poor soul cried out and God heard, and saved me from all my troubles. R

Your angels, O God, keeps guard over those who fear you and delivers them.

Taste and see that our God is good. Happy are those who take refuge in God.

Fear God, you who are saints, for those who fear God lack nothing.

Strong lions suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek God lack no good thing. R

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter 5. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after Jesus sat down, his disciples came to him. And Jesus began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (NRSVUE)

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *"The Saints of God are Down Our street"*¹

(Tune: *'The Battle Hymn of the Republic'*)

**1. The saints of God are down our street and round God's throne of light.
There's some with formidable minds and some just live aright;
together in God's family their different gifts unite:
God's truth is marching on.**

Chorus:

**Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
God's truth is marching on.**

**2. They serve at checkouts, empty bins and teach and make and mend;
they feed the hungry back from school, the victimised defend;
to voiceless folk they lend an ear and immigrants befriend:
God's truth is marching on.**

Chorus

**3. Their efforts gain no accolades, they just supply that grace
which heals the world of many sores, renews its battered face,
through such who live and love and care in their own time and place:
God's truth is marching on.**

¹ Written by Ian M Fraser © 2013 Wild Goose Publications. All rights reserved.

Chorus

**4. When death comes knocking at their door they'll look at Christ askance –
how could such ordinary lives his Kingdom ends advance?
But Christ will say, 'It's party time – come, friends, and join the dance!':
God's truth is marching on.**

Chorus

Statement of Faith²

**We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus
by embodying Christ's presence in the world.
We are called together by Christ
as a community of broken but hopeful believers,
loving what he loved, living what he taught,
striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place.
Our ancestors in faith bequeath to us experiences of their faithful living;
upon their lives our lives are built.
Our living of the gospel makes us a part of this communion of saints,
experiencing the fulfillment of God's reign
even as we actively anticipate a new heaven and a new earth.**

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

#715 *Christ Be Our Light*

- 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.**

² An excerpt from *A Song of Faith: A Statement of Faith of The United Church of Canada L'Église Unie du Canada*
© 2006

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*

#87 (VU) *I Am the Light of the World**Chorus*

I am the Light of the World
 You people come and follow me
 If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery
 Of what you were meant to do and be

1. When the song of the angels is stilled
 When the star in the sky is gone
 When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home
 The work of Christmas is begun!

Chorus

2. To find the lost and lonely one
 To heal that broken soul with love
 To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food
 To feel the earth below the sky above!

Chorus

3. To free the prisoner from all chains
 To make the powerful care
 To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill

To see God's children everywhere!

Chorus

4. To bring hope to every task you do

To dance at a baby's new birth

To make music in an old person's heart

And sing to the colours of the earth!

Chorus

We celebrate the lives of those we have named 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.

Prayers of the People³

Let us give thanks to God for all the saints of our lives and the witness they have shared with us even as we continue to walk the journey of faith and make our way to the glory that God is preparing for all of us.

Eternal God, we praise you for the saints of all times and places who have walked the road of faith before us and beside us. For their witness to your love and their commitment to your justice, for their trust in your mercy regardless of the circumstance, we give you thanks and praise.

Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

³ posted on LiturgyLink, October 30, 2014. <https://www.liturgylink.net/2014/10/30/litany-for-all-saints/>

God of all creation, we praise you for all your servants who have witnessed to your truth, who have shown us your love, who have inspired us to have hope. By their example of faith, hope, and love, remind us of your calling to join in making your new creation real in this world and the next.

Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

God of grace and peace, we praise you for all adults and children who reflect your love into our world. Guide us to continue their faithful work as we too walk in the light of your love.

Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

God of hope and healing, we pray for all those in hospital, for those who have recently lost loved ones. May they experience your healing and comforting presence. Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, as we walk this pilgrim way, make our faith firm, our hope clear, and our love pure, that we might join the saints of all the ages in eternal praise, in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

The Meal

Presentation of the Gifts

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

Communion Instructions

Great Thanksgiving

God is with us. **And we are with God.**
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**
 Let us give thanks to God our Creator.
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer - Syriac Aramaic version⁴

O Thou, the Breath, the Light of All,
 Let this Light create a heart shrine within,
 And your counsel rule 'til oneness guides all.
 Your desire then acts with ours, as in all light, so in all forms.
 Grant what we need each day, in bread and insight.
 Loose the cord of mistakes binding us,
 as we release the strands we hold of other's faults.
 Don't let the surface things delude us
 but keep us from unripe acts.
 To you belongs the ruling mind, the life that can act and do,
 The song that beautifies all, from age to age it renews.
 In faith I will to be true. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Communion Distribution

#469 VU *"We Gather Here"*

1. We gather here in Jesus' name,
 His love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
 For through the loving son God fashions us as one:
 Come take the bread, come drink the wine
 Come, share the Lord.

2. He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
 the one who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
 The One we love the most is now our gracious host:
 Come take the bread, come drink the wine,

⁴ This is a translation by Neil Douglas – Klotz from Syriac Aramaic, he has attempted to maintain some of the Aramaic rhythms and nuances of meaning.

Come, share the Lord.

- 3. We'll gather soon where angels sing;
We'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
Come, share the Lord.**

Bridge

**No one is a stranger here, - everyone belongs;
Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.**

**We are now a family of which Christ is the head;
Though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread**

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We are now commissioned to: feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 God through word and deed.

Thanks be to God!