

## **Order of Worship for All Saints Day, November 1, 2020**

### **COUNTDOWN**

### **INTRO CLIP**

#### **OPENING VERSE (Zeta)**

1 John 3:2

Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him because we'll see him as he is.

#### **PRELUDE**

This week only - run OFFERING info during the prelude and postlude (try this instead of separate offering time)

#### **ONLINE GREETER (Laura)**

#### **OPENING PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS DAY**

**On this All Saints Day, we bless your holy name, O God, for all your servants who, having finished their course, now rest from their labors. Give us grace to follow the example of their steadfastness and faithfulness, to your honor and glory; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Look to the Day by John Rutter*

*Chancel Ensemble with Diane Gronewold*

Look to the day when the world seems new again:  
Morning so fresh you could touch the sky;  
The earth smells sweet and every flower looks bright,  
Shining in a dewy light as you wander by.  
Taking the time to enjoy each moment;  
Tasting the fruits spread along your way,  
Knowing there's time to spare,  
Dreams you can dream and share,  
Look to the day, look to the day.

Look to the day when the earth is green again:  
Promise of spring after winter's sleep.  
The sounds of life returning fill the air,  
Music that's forever there for your heart to keep.  
Deep in the earth lay the seed of life renewed,  
Quiet and strong till the time of spring:

Life in each bud and shoot,  
Life in each flower and fruit,  
Look to that day when earth shall sing.

Look to the light that will drive out darkness;  
Look to the hope that will conquer fear.  
God's strength uphold us till the fight is won,  
Till we see our task is done when the day is here.  
Look for that day when there shall be no more pain;  
Sorrow and sighing shall pass away.  
Pray for the day to come,  
Trust that the day will come,  
Look to that day, look to the day.

Lord we give thanks for the gifts of life and health;  
Plant a new seed in our hearts, we pray:  
Help us to see, O Lord,  
How it could be, O Lord;  
Look to the day, look to the day.

## **REMEMBERING THE SAINTS**

Pastor Rachael:

Today is All Saints Sunday, a day when we pause and remember those of our church family who have died in the last year. This year, the pain of these losses carries the added sting of missing our traditional ways of gathering to honor and remember and offer these beloveds to Christ. Still, God is with us, and so we give thanks to God. We remember the time we had with these saints, we hold our grief tenderly and acknowledge that we miss them. We trust that God grants them eternal rest and that we will be kept in communion with all the saints until we are reunited with them at the heavenly table. As we remember, we light a candle and ring a bell, drawing the memories of these beloveds near to our hearts.

(LH light candles, ring a bell after each name)

<b>Elizabeth Hiltz</b>	<b>11/11/2019</b>
<b>Norman Bennett</b>	<b>11/29/2019</b>
<b>Karmen Mohlencamp</b>	<b>12/14/2019</b>
<b>Ruth Franklin</b>	<b>12/19/2019</b>
<b>Duane Swenson</b>	<b>12/27/2019</b>
<b>Robert Warner</b>	<b>2/10/2020</b>
<b>Carol Miller</b>	<b>3/28/2020</b>
<b>Joyce Olson</b>	<b>4/1/2020</b>
<b>Ruth Peterson</b>	<b>5/11/2020</b>
<b>Evelyn Dawson</b>	<b>5/15/2020</b>
<b>Roland Freeburg</b>	<b>5/15/2020</b>

<b>Obediah Roberts</b>	<b>5/20/2020</b>
<b>Harold “Hal” Dunnell</b>	<b>5/28/2020</b>
<b>Sarah “Sally” Bielen</b>	<b>6/4/2020</b>
<b>David Rich</b>	<b>6/20/2020</b>
<b>Ken Weeks</b>	<b>8/25/2020</b>
<b>Edna Ziegler</b>	<b>8/27/2020</b>
<b>Howard Houle</b>	<b>9/12/2020</b>

We light one final candle and ring one final bell as you silently remember others – the saints of your own life.

LH: Let us pray.

**ALL: O God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor; you are rest for the weary soul. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, especially those most dear to us who now rest in you. We give thanks for their lives, their witness, and the legacy they have left with us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **HYMN**

*For All the Saints*

For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
 who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
 thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
 through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
 singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine,  
 we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
 yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 5:1-12 (5-7th graders)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. He taught them, saying:

Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.

Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.

Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.

Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.

Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children.

Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me.

Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.

## **SERMON**

All Saints Day 2020

RACHAEL:

All Saints Day has always been one of my favorite days in the church year. Not because it is about death - it's not actually about death. All Saints Day is deeply sacred and moving and memorable and meaningful because it is a day about life.

Indeed, on this day, as we remember those saints in our church community and in our families and neighborhoods who have died since last year's All Saints Day, we do consider our mortality. We acknowledge before God that we are not invincible. We bring our grief and our loss and our loneliness and our pain. We light candles, shed tears, speak words that connect us to the rituals of the church throughout time. We trust God, and we trust one another, to hold this grief gently and with compassion.

This year, 2020, Pastor Laura and I light candles in an empty room. The weight of this day falls heavy with us, as I imagine it does with many of you. Today we lit nineteen candles, far more than an average year for our church. Eighteen named saints who have left our daily, earthly rhythms this year, and one candle for all those we did not name - those in your life whom you've

lost, and those saints whose names we did not know who died this last year without family or church or neighbors to remember them.

And, as if to multiply our grief, due to the pandemic, we have been unable to gather in our traditional ways to celebrate these lives, to comfort one another in community, to share the burden of our losses together. These saints have instead been remembered in small, mostly outdoor remembrances. Together their families have shared prayers and rituals standing at grave sites, through recorded digital services, and at a few small funeral home services. Still, the Holy Spirit has been present, and these moments have been sacred. And these families have been held up by your prayers, your notes of sympathy and encouragement, your check-ins with them as days and weeks and months have gone by. Grief is different during a pandemic, present and pervasive. And together we've worked to show up during a pandemic, present and pervasive in our prayers and love for one another.

Now, standing here in the sanctuary without you, I want you to know that we can feel two distinct and opposite feelings at the same time. We feel the emptiness of the space, our grief at all we have lost as a community this past year, and the sadness of missing you and missing being together here to sing and pray and worship. And, at the same time, we feel the presence of God's Spirit here, filling the room and calling us into new life together with these saints and all of God's saints. We feel your prayers and your longing for connection driving our church into the new and unknown with purpose and creativity. Our grief is consuming and overwhelming. And our hope is alive and overcoming.

LAURA:

Today our middle schoolers read a passage of scripture that for many of us has become familiar over the years. We call this passage the beatitudes, a series of statements of wisdom and blessing attributed to Jesus that offer an introduction in Matthew's gospel to the sermon on the mount.

The statements seem simple enough: happy are those who...

And who would not want a checklist of ways to be happy, or blessed, as some translations interpret the phrases?

Unfortunately, the beatitudes found in Matthew are not so much a list of "10 ways to ensure your happiness." Instead, Jesus is making earth-shattering proclamations about the kingdom of heaven and, by implication the kingdoms of earth as well. Most significantly, these "simple" phrases are anything but simple. The beatitudes are a declaration that in the kingdom of heaven, it will not be the rich and powerful who rule for their own gain. Instead, God's kingdom raises up the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, the persecuted, and those who choose the way of making peace born of justice and liberation.

In these verses, Jesus names all the most obvious sources of grief and suffering in his time and describes them as the indicators of happiness or blessing. He challenges us all to stop chasing after the fleeting happiness that comes from the superficial and to instead strive together as a community to live in ways that embrace God's values. The phrases begin in the present tense and shift to the future tense, which reminds us that the way we live here and now is part of who we are becoming in Christ for eternity.

This earthly kingdom tempts us to seek after earthly rewards.  
The heavenly kingdom invites us to seek after godly rewards.

Instead of false bravado, embracing our vulnerability.  
Instead of powering through, naming our grief.  
Instead of vanity, humility.  
Instead of wealth and power, righteousness.  
Instead of punishment, mercy.  
Instead of cynicism, pure hearts.  
Instead of fighting to win, working for a just peace.  
Instead of popularity, coming in last.

RACHAEL:

Scholar Gennifer Benjamin Brooks describes this contrast in the beatitudes in her commentary on this passage. She writes, "Poverty saps the spirit in much the same way as it diminishes the body, and peace and contentment in the midst of such terrible circumstances seem unrealizable dreams compared to the harsh realities of grief and mourning, hunger and thirst, war and violence, oppression and injustice" (Preaching God's Transforming Justice, Year A).

Is Jesus saying that the systems of power that result in extreme poverty, oppression, injustice, hunger, and violence are fine? That those whose suffering is the price of others' comfort just need to tough it out and wait for heaven?

I don't think so. More likely, Jesus is pointing our attention to the ways human beings throughout history have built systems that look nothing like God's order, God's justice, or God's peace. More likely, Jesus is reminding us that when we consider ourselves blessed because we are comfortable and relatively unbothered by injustice, we are not blessed at all. We are complicit in the suffering of our neighbors. The beatitudes are as much a warning to the comfortable as they are a comfort to the disenfranchised. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

LAURA:

As we light candles and remember so many dear ones we have loved, we do not dwell in death. We give thanks for life. For these lives that have so blessed ours, and for the hope and promise that beyond this earthly life, with all its snares and temptations, is life in God's kingdom, life

abundant and eternal. May we open ourselves up to vulnerability in grief, while at the same time making room for hope. And may we always, as the body of Christ at the United Methodist Church of Anoka, seek new ways to provide hope to our community. May we be ever amazed at how full and rich our shared life can be. Amen.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Mansion Builder by Anne Herring*

*Michael Miller and Diane Gronewold*

I've been told that there are those  
Who will learn how to fly  
And I've been told that there are those  
Who will never die

And I've been told that there are stars  
That will never lose their shine  
And that there is a Morning Star  
Who knows my mind

So why should I worry?  
Why should I fret?  
'Cause I've got a Mansion Builder  
Who ain't through with me yet

Why should I worry?  
Why should I fret?  
'Cause I've got a Mansion Builder  
Who ain't through with me yet

And I've been told that there's a  
Crystal lake in the sky  
And every tear from my eyes  
Are saved when I cry

And I've been told there'll come a time  
When the sun will cease to shine  
And that there is a Morning Star  
Who knows my mind

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION w/PRAYERS**

Rachael and Laura

LH: The Lord be with you.

RW: And also with you.

LH: Lift up your hearts.

RW: We lift them up to the Lord.

LH: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

RW: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

LH: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Loving God,  
Creator of heaven and earth:  
God of Abraham and Sarah,  
God of Miriam and Moses,  
God of Joshua and Deborah,  
God of Ruth and David,  
God of the priests and the prophets,  
God of Mary and Joseph,  
God of the apostles and the martyrs,  
God of our mothers and our fathers,  
God of our children to all generations.  
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

RW: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.



LH: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

RW: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

LH: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and cup.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

RW: Renew our communion with all your saints, especially those we have remembered here this day. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, holy God, now and forever. We remember in our prayers all who hunger, all who mourn, all who experience persecution, all who suffer. Grant your healing power and loving kindness to all who need you. Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** ***Sung Version - Men's Quartet***

### **HYMN** *Taize*

Come and fill our hearts with Your peace  
You alone, O Lord, are holy  
Come and fill our hearts with Your peace  
Alleluia

**BENEDICTION**

Rachael

### **Luminaries Prayers/Hymn Text:**

Our Loving God,  
You bring us to birth.  
You guide our lives, and in your wisdom we return to dust.  
Holy One, those who die still live in your presence.  
Their lives change, but do not end.  
So we pray in hope for our families, relatives, and friends,  
and for all those who have died known to you alone.  
In company with Christ, who died and now lives,  
may we all rejoice in your presence,  
where all our tears are wiped away.  
Unite us together again in one family  
to sing your praise forever and ever. Amen.

### **Revelation 7:9-17**

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb.”

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

“Amen!  
Praise and glory  
and wisdom and thanks and honor  
and power and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen!”

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God

and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne  
will spread his tent over them.  
'Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.  
The sun will not beat upon them,'  
nor any scorching heat.  
For the Lamb at the center of the throne  
will be their shepherd;  
'he will lead them to springs of living water.'  
'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

### **For All the Saints**

For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,  
your name O Jesus be forever blessed,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge and their might.  
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight.  
Mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold  
live as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and share with them a glorious crown of gold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

God of unfailing light,  
in your realm of glory, the poor are blessed,  
the hungry filled, and every tear is wiped away.  
Your saints who lived in faithful service surround your throne  
and offer you praise and worship both night and day.  
May we, your saints on earth, join our voices with theirs  
to proclaim your rule of righteousness and peace.  
Bless us with your healing presence,  
make us hungry for justice,  
strengthen our faith and increase our love for others,  
especially in these days of struggle and pain.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.