

PRELUDE

"In Paradisum" from Esquisses Byzantines (Henri Mulet)

GREETING

Pastor: In the name of the Creator, + the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

All: *Amen.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Bless the Sovereign Lord at all times.

Congregation: Salvation belongs to our God.

Pastor: The Sovereign Lord heard our cry and delivered us from our fear.

Congregation: Salvation belongs to our God.

Pastor: No one who takes refuge in the Sovereign will be condemned.

Congregation: Salvation belongs to our God.

OPENING PRAYER

All people: Sovereign of Creation, all that we have comes from you. We gather in your presence, surrounded by great a cloud of witnesses, people from every tribe and nation, every kindred and tongue, to lift our voices in praise, to be transformed into your saints, to be sent out to gather others to share the eternal banquet. Hear the praise we offer; work in us and through us. You alone are holy, you alone are the Most High, you alone are worthy of our praise. Glory to you O God, and to the Lamb that was slain and to the Spirit that unites us all, today and ever more. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING - Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After 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 before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." ¹¹All 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, ¹²saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For 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.'"

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE PSALTAR - Psalm 34:1-10

Liturgist: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Congregation: I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.

Liturgist:

O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

GOSPEL READING -Matthew 5:1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura C. Bair

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

All: *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, 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 on the right hand of the Father; and he will come again 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"To Where You Are"

Dr. Troy D. Winemiller

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor: We gather in this moment to commend with thanksgiving, the life of those Starview United Church of Christ members who have passed into eternal rest since November 1, 2019.

Congregation: We do this while celebrating the good news of the resurrection, for it is through Jesus Christ, that we, have obtained an inheritance of eternal life.

Pastor: Let us pray together:

All: *Holy God, whose ways are not our ways and whose thoughts are not our thoughts, look upon us in our remembering and enable us to hear your Word. Heal our wounded hearts made heavy by sorrow. Through the veil of our tears and the silence of our emptiness, assures us again of the place that you have prepared for those who love you; through Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead. Amen.*

Pastor: At this time, I invite to come forward, the family members of our beloved church member, Norma Wilson to light a candle in her honor and memory. (Candle is lighted)

Pastor: Let us pray: O God, our Light and Salvation, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Norma Wilson, born to life, December 2, 1940 born to eternal life, November 15, 2019 at the age of 79 years, 1 week and 6 days.

(Tolling of Chime)

Congregation: We praise you for your steadfast love for her all the days of her earthly life. We thank you for all that she was to those who loved her and for her faithfulness to the church of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: At this time, I invite to come forward, the family members of our beloved church member, Anna Welty to light a candle in her honor and memory. (Candle is lighted)

Pastor: Let us pray: O God, our Strength and Redeemer, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Anna Welty, born to life, September 11, 1927 born to eternal life, June 22, 2020 at the age of 92 years, 9 months, and 11 days.

(Tolling of Chime)

Congregation: We praise you for your steadfast love for her all the days of her earthly life. We thank you for all that she was to those who loved her and for her faithfulness to the church of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: At this time, I invite to come forward, the family members of our beloved church member, Nancy Myers to light a candle in her honor and memory. (Candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, Giver of Life and Conqueror of death, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Nancy Myers, born to life, June 21, 1932, born to eternal life, July 7, 2020 at the age of 88 years, 2 weeks, and 2 days.

(Tolling of Chime)

Congregation: We praise you for your steadfast love for her all the days of her earthly life. We thank you for all that she was to those who loved her and for her faithfulness to the church of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: At this time, I invite to come forward, the family members of our beloved church member, Betty Beakler to light a candle in her honor and memory. (Candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, our Alpha and our Omega we have entrusted to your eternal care: Betty Beakler, born to life November 26, 1937, born to eternal life, September 6, 2020 at the age of 82 years, 9 months, and 11 days.

(Tolling of Chime)

Congregation: We praise you for your steadfast love for her all the days of her earthly life. We thank you for all that she was to those who loved her and for her faithfulness to the church of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: God of Grace and Mercy, we have entrusted many saints to your eternal care over the past year, loved ones: family members and friends. We pause to lift their names to you in silent prayer and light this candle in their memory. (Candle is lighted. Moment of silent prayer)

(Tolling of Chime)

Congregation: We praise you for your steadfast love for them all the days of their earthly lives. We thank you for all that they were to those who loved them and for their faithfulness to the church of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Almighty God, we give you thanks for these your servants whom we remember today. Keep us grateful for their witness and because of their living, teach us to live faithfully. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying:

All: *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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

OFFERING INVITATION (Offerings may be placed in the offering plate upon exiting, after worship)

Liturgist: Having received new life through the generosity of God and the hope Christ brings. Join me in prayer as we give thankfully and abundantly that God's will might be done on earth as it is in heaven.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: *Living God, we are your community of saints and we carry your presence. Use us and our gifts to accomplish your mission in the world. Multiply our effort to meet every need. This we pray in the name of Christ, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, reign in our hearts and lives, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

HYMN

For All the Saints

End of Bulletin

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go forth from this sacred time and place,
knowing that the + God who created you,
the Christ who redeems you,
and the Spirit who empowers you
is with you today and forevermore.

All: *Amen.*

POSTLUDE

"The Saints in Heaven Now Rejoice" (Little)

For All the Saints

Unison

1. For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest,
 2. Thou wast their Rock, their For - tress, and their Might;
 3. O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 4. And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5. From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast,



who Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed,
 Thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well-fought fight;
 We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine,
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song,
 through gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



Thy name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 Thou in the dark - ness drear their one true light.
 yet all are one in Thee, for all are thine. Al -
 and hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

