

All Saint's Day
October 31, 2021

All Saints Day originated in the 4th Century and was originally celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. During the 800's the date was moved to November 1st, on "All Hallows' Day" or on the Eve of All Hallows, Oct. 31, or "Hallowe'en". The original observance included a visit to the parish graveyard, which served as a reminder that ALL the faithful, even those considered to be "ordinary" or "less remarkable by the world's standards"- that ALL face the story of a life that leads to physical death AND a promised resurrection in Christ. This is a day to celebrate ALL the saints – those of yesterday and today.

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

***"Shall We Gather at the River"*¹**

***"On Eagles Wings"*²**

***"We Shall Behold Him"*³**

PRELUDE

***Precious Lord*⁴**

Troy D. Winemiller, Tenor

WESTMINSTER CHIMES

(ANNOUNCEMENTS: IN THE BULLETIN)

GREETING

PRAYERFUL CALL TO WORSHIP⁵

Pastor: Eternal God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we praise you for the saints of all times and places who have walked the road of faith before us and beside us.

All: *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.*

Pastor: 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.

All: *By their example of faith, hope, and love, remind us of your calling to join them in making your new creation real in this world and the next.*

Pastor: God of grace and peace, we praise you for women and men and children who are a reflection of your love in our world.

All: *Guide us to continue their faithful work as we too walk in the light of your love.*

Pastor: God of all the saints, today we especially remember the saints from among this faith community, who have departed our company over the past year. We thank you for their faithful witness, for their courage amidst strife and their hope in the face of death. We remember so many other saints who have walked this road called life with us.

All: *Continue to inspire us by their faithful witness, that we too might join in bringing your justice, mercy, and peace to our world.*

Pastor: Eternal God, as we walk this pilgrim way,

All: *make our faith firm, our hope clear, and our love pure, that we might join the saints of all the ages in praise eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=St6terT35Kw>. Kim Collingsworth -Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # M-6322253. All rights reserved. CCLI Church Copyright License #20702245, CCLI Church Streaming License #100909, CCS License #131251

⁴ Used by permission, CCLI Streaming License #2081822845, Martin Blackstone, Word Publishing, 2012

⁵ LiturgyLink: October 30, 2014. <https://www.liturgylink.net/2014/10/30/litany-for-all-saints/>

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

With majesty



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Bears all its sons a - way;
 6. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,




Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 They fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the open - ing day.
 Be Thou our guard while trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home. A - MEN.


PRAYER OF CONFESSION ⁶

Pastor: Our lives are full of mistakes and errors. We are not alone in this – all of those who have come before us were also plagued with temptation and sin. Let us come before God, just as generations of believers have done, and pray for God’s forgiveness and grace.

All: *Eternal God, who has been our help in ages past, who was known to our spiritual forebears, have mercy on us. We do not always love as you would have us love. We do not always do as you would have us do. In our stubbornness, we turn from you when we should turn toward you. Hold us, dear Lord and comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence. We praise you for the grace you shower on us, constantly forgiving the error of our ways, especially the ones that we don’t share with any but you. Hear now the silent fears and worries of our hearts.*

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS and PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor: Family of God, hear the good news! Though thousands upon thousands of our ancestors did not follow God’s ways perfectly, we have hope in the one who did! Jesus, by the example of his life, his teachings, and death on the cross, he revealed that God has already forgiven us. Thus, we and all who have come before us - are rightly known as saints – the holy ones of God!

All: *Thanks be to God for God’s mercy, grace, and love! Amen.*

Pastor: Let us celebrate the goodness of God by greeting each other, from our seats of worship, with a sign of God's peace, using a genuine smile and the two-finger peace sign or a friendly wave or nod, along with the words, "The peace of Christ with you."

All: And also, with you.

OLD TESTAMENT READING
EPISTLE READING
NEW TESTAMENT READING
SERMON

Isaiah 25:6-9
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44
Rev. Laura C. Bair - Baker

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, 2020.

Congregation: We do this while celebrating the good news of the resurrection, for it is through 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 the family members, who will be lighting a remembrance candle in honor of Robert Miller, Hilda Melhorn, Frances Zeigler, Joyce Schaeffer, Norma Mann, Barbara Rupert, Ray Hoover, Goldie Wise, Wilbur Plowman, Marsha Strayer, and Blaine Shearer to come forward and gather in front of the chancel stairs.

Pastor: Let us pray: O God, our Strength and Redeemer, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Robert Miller born to life June 13, 1960, born to eternal life November 10, 2020, at the age of 60 years, 4 months, and 28 days.

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

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, Giver of life and Conqueror of death, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Hilda Melhorn born to life September 1, 1928, born to eternal life November 27, 2020, at the age of 92 years, 3 months, and 5 days.

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.

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, our Eternal Hope, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Frances Zeigler born to life August 22, 1928, born to eternal life, November 27, 2020, at the age of 92 years, 3 months, and 5 days.

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 his faithfulness to the church of Jesus Christ.

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, our salvation, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Joyce Schaeffer born to life September 6, 1935, born to eternal life December 7, 2020, at the age of 85 years, 3 months, and 1 day.

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.

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, our peace, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Norma Mann born to life September 22, 1925, born to eternal life, December 16, 2020, at the age of 95 years, 2 months, and 24 days.

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.

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, Breath of Life, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Barbara Rupert born to life August 21, 1936, born to eternal life, December 17, 2020, at the age of 84 years, 3 months, and 26 days.

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.

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, our Good Shepherd, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Ray Hoover born to life October 21, 1939, born to eternal life, May 6, 2021, at the age of 81 years, 6 months, and 15 days.

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

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, our Mighty Fortress, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Goldie Wise born to life November 28, 1924, born to eternal life, June 10, 2021, at the age of 96 years, 6 months, and 13 days.

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.

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, Eternal Spirit, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Wilbur Plowman born to life March 20, 1929, born to eternal life, August 23, 2021, at the age of 92 years, 5 months, and 3 days.

Congregation: We praise you for your steadfast love for him all the days of his earthly life. We thank you for all that he was to those who loved him and for his faith in Jesus Christ.

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, Our Help in Ages Past, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Marsha Strayer born to life April 27, 1943, born to eternal life, September 14, 2021, at the age of 78 years, 4 months, and 18 days.

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.

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: O God, our Way Maker, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Blaine Shearer born to life September 5, 1967, born to eternal life, September 16, 2021, at the age of 54 years and 11 days.

Congregation: We praise you for your steadfast love for him all the days of his earthly life. We thank you for all that he was to those who loved him and for his faith in Jesus Christ.

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

Pastor: God of grace, we have entrusted many saints, who were not members of this faith community, to your eternal care over the past year. We pause to lift their names to you in silent prayer. (Moment of silent prayer)

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.

(Tolling of chime and candle is lighted)

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:

Congregation: **We praise you for your steadfast love for them all the days of their earthly lives. We thank you for all they were to those who loved them. Let us pray:**

All: *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 through Christ, who taught us to pray, saying: 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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

*His Eye is on the Sparrow*⁷

Laura Heydt, Soprano

OFFERING INVITATION (Based on Isaiah 25:6-9 and Revelation 21:1-a)

Liturgist: Our mission is to engage in God's mission to feed the hungry, give something to drink to the thirsty and to wipe the tears from every eye. One of the ways this is accomplished, is through the offering of our time, talent, and financial resources. Let us each give generously so that God's will might be done on earth as it is in heaven, and may we dedicate it all with a prayer...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: *Loving God, we present to you, our gifts. We pray that you might bless them and use us for your glory, as we praise you with our voices and with our lives. Amen.*

HYMN

For all the Saints

Bulletin, Last Page

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Brothers and sisters,
since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses,
each of whom lived a life of faith in God,
let us lay aside every weight that slows us down,
especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress.
and let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us,
keeping our eyes on Jesus Christ,
on whom our faith depends, from start to finish.

And may the peace of God,
the love of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit,
be among us and within us as we go.

All: *Amen.*

POSTLUDE

Rest Well Good and Faithful Servant (Bryant)⁸

⁷ Author: Civilla D. Martin (1905) Words by Paul William © 1998 Harold Flammer Music; arr. © 1964 A Division of Shawnee Press Inc, Delaware Water Gap, PA. Used by permission. CCLI #4111526.

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For All the Saints

William W. How, 1864; alt.

Heb. 12:1

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the
 2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might: you, Christ, the
 3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold, live as the
 4 Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine, we feebly
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the

world their steadfast faith confessed, your name, O Jesus,
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
 saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a
 struggle, they in glory shine; yet in your love our
 ear the distant triumph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.
 were their one true light.
 glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 faith - ful lives en - twine.
 gain, and faith grows strong.

This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring Sine Nomine in The English Hymnal (1906).

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906