

PRELUDE

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Pastor: A thousand days are but a moment to God;

All: *All flesh is grass, and withers away.*

Pastor: Still we treasure our days with those whom we love,

All: *And reluctantly give them back to God.*

Pastor: On this day, we thank God for the saints in our lives.

All: *On this All Saint's Day we remember and celebrate the saints of yesterday and of today - faithful people who set their hopes on Christ and who, with their lives, praised God.*

Pastor: In this hour, may our hearts and minds be opened to recommitting ourselves to living lives that are pleasing to God for we too, want to be counted in that number of the saints who inherit the Kingdom of God.

OPENING PRAYER² (Based on Hebrews 12)

All: *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.*

HYMN

For All the Saints

Hymnal, #

CALL TO CONFESSION³

Pastor: Our lives are full of mistakes and errors – places where we follow self-generated idols instead of the One True God. We are not alone in these mistakes – all of those who have come before us also were 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: *Beloved God, who was known to our mothers and fathers, and even 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 One – 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*

¹ Merrill Neel, Beth. Blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission. < <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/all-saints-liturgy/> > Adapted by Pastor Laura Baker.

² Gross, Rev. Dr. Bob. Copyright 2020 Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. < https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/all_saints_day_november_1_2020/ >

³ Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness Liturgy: Keppel, Rev. Lucas, Ancho Community & Corona United Presbyterian Churches, New Mexico. Churches, New Mexico. Posted on *LiturgyLink*. < <https://www.liturgylink.net/2013/11/11/awareness-and-reconciliation-for-all-saints-day/> >

for the grace you shower on us, constantly forgiving our errors, especially the ones that we don't share with any but you. Hear now the silent fears and worries of our hearts.

A TIME OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends, 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, a man of a particular people in a particular time, taught through his words and deeds 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! Thanks be to God for God's mercy, grace, and love!

All: *Amen!*

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH

HYMN

Hymn of Promise

Bulletin, Last Page

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Deuteronomy 8:6-18

EPISTLE READING – Ephesians 1:11-23

GOSPEL READING -Luke 6:20-31

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura C. Bair

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH USING THE HEIDLEBURG CATHECHISM

QUESTION & ANSWER #55

Pastor: What do you understand by “the communion of saints”?

All: *First, that believers, one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts, readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.*

QUESTION & ANSWER #32

Pastor: Why are you called a Christian?

All: *Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and evil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ for eternity.*

QUESTION & ANSWER #22

Pastor: What is a Christian to believe?

All: *All that is promised us in the gospel, a summary of which is taught us in the articles of our universal and undisputed Christian faith.*

QUESTION & ANSWER #23

Pastor: What are these “articles?”

All: *I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.*

*The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.*

QUESTION & ANSWER #1

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?
All: *That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.*

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, 2021.

All: *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, Rick Peterson, to light a candle in his honor and memory. (Candle is lighted)

Pastor: Let us pray: O God, our Light and Salvation, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Ricky Lee Peterson, born to life, August 12, 1959, born to eternal life, December 15, 2021, at the age of 62 years, 4 months, and 3 days.

(Tolling of Chime)

All: **We praise you for your steadfast love for Rick 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.**

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

Pastor: Let us pray: O God, our Strength and Redeemer, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Steven William Schaeffer, born to life, October 25, 1958, born to eternal life, February 12, 2022, at the age of 63 years, 3 months, and 18 days.

(Tolling of Chime)

All: **We praise you for your steadfast love for Steve 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.**

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

Pastor: O God, Giver of Life and Conqueror of death, we have entrusted to your eternal care: Raymond T. Gingerich, born to life, February 17, 1927, born to eternal life, April 29, 2022, at the age of 95 years, 2 months, and 12 days.

(Tolling of Chime)

All: We praise you for your steadfast love for Raymond 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.

Pastor: At this time, I invite to come forward, the family members of our beloved church member, Ethel Druck 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: Ethel Mae Druck, born to life, May 10, 1958, born to eternal life, September 27, 2022, at the age of 64 years, 4 months, and 17 days.

(Tolling of Chime)

All: We praise you for your steadfast love for Ethel 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)

All: 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, after worship, upon exiting.)

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 within us and to everyone we would meet in life. Use us and our gifts to accomplish your mission in the world. Increase our effort to meet every need. Multiply these financial gifts and use them to provide healing and hope to the hurting. 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.*

Eliza E. Hewitt (1851-1920)

Emily D. Wilson (1865-1942)

1. Sing the won-drous love of Je - sus, Sing His mer - cy and His grace;
 2. While we walk the pil - grim path - way Clouds will o - ver - spread the sky;
 3. Let us then be true and faith - ful, Trust - ing, serv - ing ev - ery day;
 4. On - ward to the prize be - fore us! Soon His beau - ty we'll be - hold;

In the man - sions bright and bless - ed He'll pre - pare for us a place.
 But when trav - eling days are o - ver Not a shad - ow, not a sigh.
 Just one glimpse of Him in glo - ry Will the toils of life re - pay.
 Soon the pearl - y gates will o - pen— We shall tread the streets of gold.

Refrain

When we all get to heav - en, What a day of re - joic - ing that will

be! When we all see Je - sus, We'll sing and shout the vic - to - ry!

BENEDICTION⁴

Pastor: Life is short.
 We do not have excessive time to gladden the hearts of those who walk with us.
 So, go forth saints of God,
 ready to love lavishly,
 to be unhesitating in kindness.
 In the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

HYMN OF PROMISE

Unison F Gm7/F

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o -
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i -

tree; in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be
 dy; there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and
 ty; in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni -

free! In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to
 me. From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter -
 ty; in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to -

be, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 y, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 ry, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

⁴ From *United Methodist Book of Worship*, Service of Death and Resurrection, pg. 142.