

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God*

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

**Prelude
Welcome**



All Saints Day is one of those moments where we celebrate and remember those who have made the journey or who have taken the next step. We remember them because they are still a part of us, shaping us, mentoring us – maybe not in a direct way, but in a real way.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God, Loving Our Neighbors

Based on Mark 12:28-34

Safiyah Fosua, Africana Worship Book for Year B, Valerie Bridgeman Davis and Safiyah Fosua, eds., (Discipleship Resources, 2007),

We are people of God, created to love

We will love the Lord our God with heart, soul, mind, and strength.

We are people of God, determined to love.

We will love our neighbors and treat them as we would be treated.

We love neither from a sense of obligation nor to gain popularity or favor.

We choose to love both the lovely and the unlovable because love imitates God's nature.

All: For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

OPENING PRAYER: ALL SAINTS

From Seasons of the Spirit: All Saints Day—Year A, published by WoodLake Publishing

In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,

we come to be your people, O God.

Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

we come to be your people, O God.

Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,

we come to be your people, O God.

Made strong in your endless love for us,

we know ourselves to be yours and
we come to be your people, O God.
May we truly become your people today.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

B. David Hostetter, Prayers for the Seasons on God's People: Worship Aids for the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B (Abingdon, 1999), 203-204.

Good and great God, we come to you through Jesus Christ who intercedes for us sinners. We confess our sins, seeking forgiveness not only that we may be at peace with you, but also that we may pray for others. We are ashamed that our prayers are often as self-centered as our lives. Excuse our disordered priorities as we seek to change and reorder our lives according to the teaching and spirit of Jesus Christ you Son, our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news! God has chosen you to be saved through sanctification by the Spirit.

We are saved by the Spirit through belief in the truth in Christ.

Friends, believe the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Praise Hymn #576 Rise Up, O Saints of God

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Rise up, O saints of God!
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom tarries long;
Bring in the day of Christlike love
And end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O saints of God!
The church for you doth wait,
her strength unequal to her task;
rise up, and make her great.

Lift high the cross of Christ!
Tread where his feet have trod;
Led onward by the Son of Man,
Rise up, O saints of God!

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Mark 12:28-34 (NRSV)

The First Commandment

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; 33 and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Children's Message

Faith Hymn #57 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing Words *Charles Wesley, 1739* **Music:** *Carl G. Glaser: arr. By Lowell Mason, 1839* © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736621-A. All rights reserved. *Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #736621-A. All rights reserved

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

In Christ, your head, you then shall know,
shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below,
and own that love is heaven.

Meditation

Honoring of our Saints

COLLECT

Ruth Duck, Flames of the Spirit, Ruth C. Duck ed., (Pilgrim Press, 1985), 55

Timeless God, we thank you for all those before us who have kept the faith to the end. We thank you for brave souls of deathless fame, and also for those whose names are remembered only by you. Give us wisdom to understand your will, and courage to live as your people in this day; through the grace of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

(inspired by Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Mark 12:28-34)

Our prayer today is for all who are victims of cruel laws and petty laws,
those who're subjected to prejudice
denied opportunities, excluded, pushed to margins.
The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for all those who're betrayed,
who don't know loyalty, who fear to trust, or to love,
and who don't realise that they're already loved by you.

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for the landless and homeless,
the refugee and evicted,
those who find themselves in foreign places and strange places.

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for the overworked and the underpaid,
for those in dangerous work and those in compassionate work,
for those who long to work but are denied the opportunity

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for the Church, for all the branches of the vine
including this one we gather as part of, today:

body of Christ, people of Christ,

for whom the Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for the creation gifts,
this earth in all its mighty wonder, yet tender fragility,
the gifts of life and resources to treasure.

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Our prayer today is for those who lie close to our hearts
those whom we worry about, those whom we miss,
those who carry disproportionate burdens at this time ...

(local intercessions)

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

The Lord our God is one:

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

Departing Hymn #585 This Little Light of Mine

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This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine,
Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine,
All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine;
All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

SENDING FORTH:

Faithful God, over all circumstances and creation, without whom hope would be but a mere fantasy, thank you for continuing your work of redemption. Grant us the assurance that is founded upon the bedrock of hope in your never-failing love. As we remember the saints who were a light to us, help us to be a light to others by dwelling in hope that comes from you. Amen.