

Unexpected Saints

All Saints & Communion Sunday – November 1, 2026

MEDITATION

*“We never know who is walking beside us; who is our spiritual teacher.
That one—who annoys you so—pretends for a day that he’s the one, your personal
Obi Wan Kenobi. The first of November is a splendid, subversive holiday.”
– Mary Rose O’Reilley*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

L: And now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **All: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

*“The Journey” From Symphony in E minor by Antonin Dvorak
& the Shaker Hymn: Simple Gifts, Arr: Joseph M. Martin
Guest Flutist: Evelyn Shertzner*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Polloni, Deacon

L: We gather today surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses—
saints of every time and place.

All: We give thanks for those whose lives have revealed God’s love.

L: Some were known to the world; others were known only to a few.

All: Yet each life was precious, each a reflection of God’s grace.

L: We remember those who have gone before us and celebrate the saints who walk
among us.

**All: With gratitude for the past, hope for the future, and love for one another,
let us worship God!**

*OPENING HYMN

“For All the Saints” vs. 1-4

Black 299

OPENING PRAYER

Chris Polloni, Deacon

**Gracious and Loving God, we give thanks for the countless saints who have walked
before us—those whose courage inspired us, whose compassion comforted us, and
whose love shaped our lives. Open our eyes to recognize your presence in the ordinary**

people around us, and in the unexpected places where your grace is revealed. As we worship today, may we feel the presence of that great communion of saints, reminding us that we are never alone. And may their witness inspire us to live with greater kindness, mercy, and love. Amen.

WORD FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director

ANTHEM

“New Wine” *Words/Music: Brooke Ligertwood; Arr: Todd Beaney*
Guest Flutist: Evelyn Shertzer

READINGS: Matthew 5:1-12, p. 4; Revelation 7:9-10, 13-17, p. 303

Chris Polloni, Deacon & Rev. Christina Williams

REFLECTION

“Unexpected Saints”

Rev. Christina Williams

CANDLELIGHTING FOR OUR SAINTS

PASTORAL LITANY FOR ALL SAINTS

Insert

***RESPONSIVE HYMN**

“I Sing a Song of Saints of God”

Red 481

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to share your joys or concerns out loud during the prayers of the people. Please respond, “O Lord, hear our prayers.”

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(sung)*

In Pew

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

“In This Time of Holy Communion”

Words: Carlton C. Buck, Music: Eugene Butler
Sung by the Choir

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God, all that we are and all that we have are gifts of your love. We give thanks for those who have shared generously with us, enriching our lives in countless ways. Bless these offerings, and use them to bring hope, compassion, and healing to others. May our generosity become a reflection of your love in the world. Amen.

THE SACREMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

See Insert

***CLOSING HYMN**

“O When the Saints Go Marching In”

Insert

***BLESSING**

L: Go forth surrounded by the love of all the saints who have gone before us.

All: May their light continue to shine through us.

L: Go in peace, live with compassion, and be a blessing to others.

All: With grateful hearts and hopeful spirits, we go in God’s love. Amen.

SUNG BENEDICTION

“Spirit of Life”

Words/Music: Carolyn McDade

Sung by the Choir

POSTLUDE

“Heartstrings”

Music: Rolf Lovland

Guest Flutist: Evelyn Shertzer

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!

Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Choir, Alan King, Clifford Moore, Chris Polloni, Malcolm McDonald, Meg Tivey, Joyce Kenneally, Kay Clark, Linda Thomas; Hospitality, Jean Swartz, Sue Long, Joyce Kenneally, Lynn Young, Meg Tivey, Melessa Fox

Leading worship today: Rev. Christina Williams, Minister; Stephanie Miles, Music Director; Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director, Chris Polloni, Deacon

Thank you to our Guest Flutist Evelyn Shertzer

NEW HERE TODAY?

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

To help you navigate Sunday mornings with us, please see the guide below.

1. **Order of Worship:** **An asterisk is an invitation to stand if you are able.
Bold text indicates speaking in unison.*
2. **Kid's Connection:** *After the "Word for all God's children," the children remain in worship to engage in activities in their prayospace and help with communion.*
3. **Take Two:** *This adult faith formation group meets after worship every other Sunday with Lisa Allen. Join the conversation this Sunday in the small classroom.*
4. **Coffee & Conversation:** *Gather with us after worship to greet friends and make new ones in the Covenant Room, down the hall on the right.*
5. **Got Questions?** *Please reach out to Rev. Christina Williams or Deacon of the day.*

ALL SAINTS DAY PRAYER LITANY

One: Loving God, before these flickering flames, we remember the saints who have gone before us. Those whose lives have touched our own, whose love has shaped us, and whose presence we carry in our hearts.

All: We give thanks for their lives and the love they shared.

One: We remember, O God, the courageous saints who stood for justice, spoke for the voiceless, and worked for peace. Those who dared to imagine a world filled with compassion and mercy.

All: May their courage inspire us to walk in their footsteps.

One: We remember, O God, the ordinary saints who blessed our lives—the gentle strength of grandparents, the sacrifices of parents, the loyalty of friends, the wisdom of teachers, and the kindness of strangers.

All: We give thanks for the countless ways they revealed your love.

One: We remember, O God, the imperfect saints, those who struggled, stumbled, and sometimes lost their way. Yet through their humanity, they taught us something about forgiveness, perseverance, and grace.

All: We give thanks for the love that shines through our imperfections.

One: We remember, O God, those whose absence we feel deeply today. Those whose voices we long to hear, whose laughter we miss, whose hands we wish we could hold once more.

All: Comfort us in our sorrow and hold them in your eternal love.

One: We remember, O God, the great multitude of saints from every nation, every people, and every generation. Those who have endured hardship and suffering and now rest in your everlasting embrace.

All: Guide us to springs of living water and wipe away every tear.

One: And we remember, O God, that your saints still walk among us. Open our eyes to recognize the blessed in unexpected places—the merciful, the peacemakers, the compassionate, and those who quietly bring hope into the world.

All: May we, too, become bearers of your love and light.

One: Surrounded by this great communion of saints, we give thanks that neither life nor death can separate us from your love. May the light of those we remember continue to shine through us, until that day when all are gathered in your eternal embrace.

All: In gratitude, in remembrance, and in hope, we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed. Grape juice and gluten-free bread are served.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

L: We come to this table as we are—not because we are perfect, but because we are loved.

All: We come with grateful hearts, remembering those who have shown us the way of love.

L: Here, we join the communion of saints, those who have gone before us and those who walk beside us.

All: Across time and place, we are one in Christ's love.

L: Come, for all are welcome at this table of grace.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE (that can be shared between deacon and pastor)

Deacon: On the night before Jesus died, he gathered with his friends around a table.

They were ordinary people, with their own doubts, fears, and imperfections. Yet Jesus loved them, every one of them.

Pastor: And as they shared a meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Deacon: After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it with them, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

Pastor: And so, we remember. We remember his life, his love, his death, and his resurrection. And we trust that the love revealed in Jesus continues to nourish us, unite us, and give us hope.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

L: Come, Holy Spirit, and bless this bread and cup.

All: Nourish us with Christ's love.

L: Draw us closer to one another and to all your saints.

All: Remind us that we are never alone.

L: Renew our hearts with compassion, courage, and hope.

All: May we become living reflections of your grace. Amen.

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

As Jesus did, so we do as well.

We break this bread (bread is broken)

We share this cup (the cup is raised)

We believe that he who lived, died, and rose again for us will meet us here.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we thank you for this sacred meal and for the love that binds us together across time and eternity. Nourished by your grace and surrounded by the witness of the saints, send us into the world with compassionate hearts, courageous spirits, and hope that endures. May our lives become a blessing to others. Amen.