



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

November 1, 2020
All Saints Sunday

Our Vision is to Know, to Live and to Share the Love of Jesus Christ.

Outdoor and Livestreamed Worship – 10:00am

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

1 John 3:1-3 (The Message)

What marvelous love the God has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who God is or what God is up to. But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him. All of us who look forward to Christ's coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own.

PRELUDE

Be the Centre
Ahyoung Son, keyboard

by M. Frye
arr. C Tornquist

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, in all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,
we come to be your people.
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.

HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth
Rebecca Roth & Charlotte Roth, vocals

UMH 92

Verse 1

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Verse 2

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light; **(Refrain)**

Verse 4

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild; *(Refrain)*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12

Dan Gelman

The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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 receive 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 for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

“One True Light”

Pastor Heather

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you have said that the poor in spirit are blessed.

Yet we pretend to be powerful and pursue the lie of self-sufficiency. Give us humble hearts and help us depend on your grace and goodness for every moment.

O humble God, we need you.

You have said that those who mourn are blessed.

Yet we would often rather numb ourselves through media than open ourselves to the reality of grief in the world and in our hearts. Help us look up toward you and give us strength to be present in pain.

O comforting God, we need you.

You have said that the meek are blessed.

Yet we follow the call of power and privilege, pursuing the treasures of this world. Help us steward our earthly blessings well and find our true treasure in you.

O generous God, we need you.

You have said that those who desire righteousness and justice are blessed.

Yet we are so easily lulled into the comfort of complacency. Fill us with your Spirit that we might flee from sin and fight for your justice.

O holy God, we need you.

You have said that the merciful are blessed.

Yet we harbor anger and resentment in our hearts. Heal our bitterness, teach us to forgive, and help us work toward restoration in our lives and world.

O merciful God, we need you.

You have said that the pure in heart are blessed.

Yet we go about our days with mixed motives, sometimes of service and sometimes of selfishness. Purify our hearts and help us to be people of integrity and honesty.

O present God, we need you.

You have said that the peacemakers are blessed,

Yet we live in a polarized world where it is easier to take sides than build bridges. Give us ears to humbly listen and tongues seasoned with grace that we might carry your non-anxious presence through the world.

O God, we need you.

You have said that the persecuted are blessed,

Yet we enjoy our places of privilege in our families, our city, and this world. Give us humble hearts ready to forsake our comforts and seek those on the margins.

O blessed God, we need you.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God names you blessed. Receive the blessings.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

HYMN

For All the Saints

UMH 711

Verse 1

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Refrain

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Verse 2

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. **(Refrain)**

Verse 3

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. **(Refrain)**

Verse 4

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. **(Refrain)**

Verse 4

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. **(Refrain)**

Verse 6

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: **(Refrain)**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING & LITURGY OF REMEMBRANCE

Today we fall back.

Not just our clocks to usher in the darker days of winter.

But we fall back upon our memories of loved ones gone from this realm.

We fall back

upon the emptiness that we still sometimes feel at their absence.

We fall back

upon our gratefulness that such a cloud of witnesses paved the way for us.

We fall back

upon our faith that just as the Holy walked with them,

so too the Holy walks with us.

And today let us also fall back into the arms of loved ones still with us.

And remember to say how much they mean to us.

And today let us also fall back into the ever-present arms of God.

And remember to say, "thank you, thank you, thank you."

Dr. Marcia McFee
www.worshipdesignstudio.com

Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God.

Blessed are you, O God who with your Word and Holy Spirit created all things and called them good.

We give thanks for the great cloud of witnesses, who you sent into our lives to teach, to lead, to guide, to counsel, to challenge, to bear witness, to parent, to love us with your love.

We give you thanks for all the saints, who from their labors rest.

Linda Bergquist, Jeanette Buchholz, Haynes Farmer, Anne Jacques,
Bob Barrett, Rev. Robert Bender, Philip C., Joan O., Risa, Charlie McCullough, Dan Allison,
William Glass Sr., Carolyn Cameron, Dorothy Jee, Teh-Ming Liu, Ken Potter, Pat Englert,
Colin Campbell, John Ross Carter.

We give you thanks for our beloved siblings who we have named and for all of your beloved children unnamed, but known and loved by you. We light a candle today for those who have died world-wide from COVID-19 and those who have died at the hands of violence and destruction. You, O God, were their rock and their light in the darkness. We feebly struggle, they in glory shine.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and sing in our hearts: "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

On the night before Jesus gave his life for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts, that in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ’s blood.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at the heavenly banquet table forever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER *You are invited to pray in the version and language of your heart.*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING AND SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Find Us Faithful
Ahyoung Son, keyboard

J. Mohr
arr. C. Tornquist

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The ministry of the church is ongoing during these days. Your gifts, tithes and offerings continue to allow us to “be the church.” Checks may be sent to the church office or given online through our website. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you.



Portions of the Order of Worship are adapted from:
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“All Saints Day (Year A),” **Seasons Online.** www.seasonsonline.ca

Drew Dixon, drewldixon.com; Dr. Marcia McFee, worshipdesignstudios.com



Our Mission is:
To Know the love of Jesus in personal ways through worship, prayer and study
To Live the love of Jesus through acts of compassion, gentleness and justice
To Share the love of Jesus in our homes, our community and the world
To Welcome all of God's children regardless of age, race, ability,
sexual or gender orientation, and economic circumstance.

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