

Welcome
to Aurora United Church
...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Photo Credit: Hans Vivek, on Unsplash

All Saints Sunday
October 31, 2021

*Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God;
do all that you do with love.*
(Therese of Liseaux)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Built on a Rock (*G.Martin*) Joy Ide, organ

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

Acknowledgment of Territory/Candle of Remembrance-Every Child Matters

As we come into worship today, we acknowledge that we reside and worship on the traditional lands of the people of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation... and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.



CALL TO WORSHIP George & Heather Collins

Come, you saints of God,
let us praise and worship the God
who has brought us together today.

We have come.

Our hearts are ready to give God praise.

Come, you saints of God,
you who are 'set apart'
to carry out God's work in the world.

We have come.

We are ready to do God's will.

Come, you saints of God,
remember all those who have gone before us,
the faithful who have carried the torch of faith
and lit the way.

We have come.

We remember those who have helped us

On our journey and accompany us still.

In the communion of saints, let us worship God.

(Sue Webb, Faith Centennial U.C., Selkirk, Ont.)

HYMN For All the Saints (*W.W.How/R.V.Williams*) VU 705

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

You were their rock, their fortress, and their might:
you were their captain in the well-fought fight;
you, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one within your great design.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors come their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
as God to glory call them all away.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

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.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshipped you, whether in church camps or cathedrals, weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses where your name was lifted and adored. We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise: manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil, strong hands and those gnarled with age—holy hands. We thank you, God, for hard-working saints: for those who have gone into the work place of school and child-care, offices and industry, hospitals and churches; they have left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come. Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. Bless the memories of your saints, Loving God. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship and love. God in community, Holy in One—we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God walks with us in all aspects of our living
and our remembering.

Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY All Saints Day For Kids (*Defining Grace*) *YouTube*

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 146 (I will praise my Maker.) VU p.868 Brian Walter

Praise God, O my soul. As long as I live I will praise God.

Yes, as long as I have life I will sing praises to God.

Put not your trust in princes, nor in any mortal,
for in them there is no help.

**When they breathe their last they return to dust;
when their plans come to nothing.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
**whose hope is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,**

the One who keeps faith for ever,
**who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.**

God sets prisoners free, restores sight to the blind.

**God straightens those who are bent;
loves those who are just.**

God cares for the stranger in the land,
and sustains the widow and orphan;
but the way of the wicked God turns to ruin.

God shall reign forever, O Zion,
your God for all generations. Amen.

GIFT OF MUSIC The Seal Lullaby (*Rudyard Kipling/Eric Whitacre*)
AUC Chancel Choir, 200th Anniversary Concert-May 27, 2018

GOSPEL Mark 12:28-34 (Which commandment is first of all?) NRSV

²⁸One 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?” ²⁹Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;’ ³⁰you 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.’ ³¹The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³and ‘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.” ³⁴When 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.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Saints Preserve Us

(At the conclusion of today’s sermon, we will light a candle/s for the saints in our lives; for those who have gone before us and for those who are with us still.)

HYMN Blest Are They (D.Haas) VU p.896-897

Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they who seek peace, they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad yours is the kingdom shine for all to see.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

THE NEW CREED VU p. 918 (The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968,alt.)

Ringers: Joanne Banfill, Nancy Birtch, Joyce Hagarty, Pat Innes, Lisa Kyriakides, Carol Lever,
Sue Linley, John Malarczyk, Mackenzie Malarczyk, Laura Wells

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

A Statement about the gifts we bring in worship for the life of the church....

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is good to give God thanks and praise.

It is always right and good to praise God,
who created us and never stops loving us.
God has such great love for us
that we can call ourselves the children of God,
and indeed, that is what we are:
we are God's children.
Thanks be to God.

God sent Jesus
to share our life and journey with us,
to show us how to live as God wants.
Through reading the Bible, prayer,
acts of justice and kindness,
and his holy meal,
we seek to be more like Jesus each day.
We are followers of Jesus.
Thanks be to God

With words and actions
Jesus taught us that the ways of God
are sometimes different from the ways of the world.
We are called to love God
with our hearts, souls, and minds,
and our neighbours as ourselves.
When we do these things,
we are holy, we are saints.
Thanks be to God.

We give thanks for the many people
who have gone before us,
and are with us even now:
a great cloud of witnesses who have tried
to live God's love every day,
and with their lives, have shown us
how to be followers of Jesus.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

We are part of the communion of saints.
Thanks be to God.

Jesus invited saints and sinners
to dine with him and be his friends.
And Jesus invites us to this sacred meal,
in which we can taste and see,
experience and remember the goodness of our God.

We remember that on the night Jesus and the disciples
had their last meal together, Jesus took the bread,
gave thanks, and gave it to the disciples, saying:
*'This is my body, which is broken for you.
Take and eat it, and as often as you do, remember me.'*

**In the symbol of the broken bread, we participate in the life
of Christ and dedicate ourselves to being his disciples.**

In the same way, he took the cup, and after giving thanks he
gave it to his disciples, saying: *'Drink this, all of you. This cup
is the new covenant, poured out for you and for many. Do this
as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'*

**In the symbol of the cup,
we participate in the new life Christ brings.**

SHARING THE FEAST

*Communion in this time of pandemic will reflect our
households as we bring to our worship spaces the things
which speak to our lives...bread/wine, bread/juice; pita,
rice cracker or otherwise...In response to the invitations:
'Jesus Christ, bread of heaven' and 'Jesus Christ, cup of
salvation'...take your elements each in their turn, knowing
you reside in the embrace of a broad faith community, tied
to one another in the Spirit of God made known in Jesus.
We are not alone.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May we become what we have shared this day: bread and wine for a hungry world; a blessing to those whose hearts are empty; a light in the darkness. Amen.

HYMN Three Things I Promise (*B.Wren/D.C.Damon*) *MV 176*

Three things I promise, Holy God,
in age and youth, in life and death:
to bless your name and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.

Your love unfolded time and space,
and life, and all that life became,
and so, with thankful heart and voice,
through good and ill, I bless your Name.

I follow, serve, and cling to Christ
amid our culture's tides and trends,
for here your Name is most revealed:
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.

Enlivened as the Spirit moves
to cleanse, awaken, and renew,
I pray that justice, peace, and truth,
may seed and grow in all I do.

If I should live when vigour fades,
and family and friends are gone,
three acts of loving faith remain
when days are slow, and work is done.

Revive and guide me, Living God,
as day by day, until my death,
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.

COMMISSIONING/BLESSING

In the power that we name and experience as God,
Creator, Christ and Spirit,
we leave this time of worship, as saints of God,
to dance the dance of faith in the world. Amen.

POSTLUDE How They So Softly Rest (*H. Willan/H.W. Longfellow*)

Coro de Caneradi Torino—Dario Tabbia, conductor
(*This piece was originally composed for the Mendelssohn Choir of Toronto*)



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast
are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.



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Participating in Worship today...

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar,
George & Heather Collins, Brian Walter, AUC Chancel Choir

With thanks to... Noah Comar, videographer, and to Bob Kyriakides,
video editor...and to all who are filming at home in order to participate
in worship in some way! ☺

The hymn recordings today are from...

