

**COSSO SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

**September 16, 2022**

**FRIDAY GATHERING  
CELEBRATING ALL THE SAINTS**

*(Place a cloth over a table in the centre of worship with a candle; candles are added through the service. If possible, all light votives at the end or take one with them.)*



**PRELUDE**                    **“When We All Get to Heaven”**

**WELCOME  
INTRODUCTION**

**REMEMBERING ALL THE SAINTS**

*Light a candle to begin the service. Each name is read and a bell is rung.*

We remember and find strength in the faith of all the saints, both known to us and known only to God:

- COS students: Bob James, Stan Miller, David Naus, Jan Reynolds**
- Other COS alums, family and friends**
- Other family, friends and church members**
- All Covid victims and saints around the world**

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of all time, we say that time is a healer, and yet healing comes slowly.  
 If we come with bitterness, persuade us with your sweetness.  
**If we come with anger, tired of waiting, pacify us with your patience.**  
 If we come with pain, soothe us with your tenderness.  
**If we come numb with shock, calm us with your peace.**  
 If we come with despair, give us hope.  
 God of all the saints, may all who mourn know they are blessed. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN**                    **For All the Saints**                    **UMH #711**

**TELLING THE STORY** *(choose different readers for scripture and prayer)*

**Scripture Reading: Luke 6:20-22**

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.  
 “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

**PRAYER**

God who loves us all and sends us into the world to love each other,  
 we thank you today for all those saints who have stood by our side,  
 holding us in times of joy or sadness, listening to us when we needed to speak,  
 speaking out for us when we couldn’t speak...  
 God, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Light a Candle (or sing one verse of a chosen hymn)*

**SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 6:23-26**

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets...

**PRAYER**

God of compassion, we thank you for those saints who have challenged us to grow, dared us to dream, and invited us to try new things or follow new paths...

God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Light a Candle (or sing one verse)*

**SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 6:27-31**

“But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

**PRAYER**

**Holy and merciful God, write the values of the beatitudes into our hearts and lives; and help us, with all your saints and angels, to seek after you and happily walk in your ways. Amen.**

*Light a Candle (or sing one verse)*

**A PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS**

As we remember loved ones who have died,

**Be near to us ever-living God, and bring to us your comfort.**

You know our grief and understand all we feel.

**Walk with us as we learn to live with loss;**

Help us to comfort and support one another.

**May your compassion surround us, may your strength sustain us,**

**that in the days to come we may see not only our sorrow**

**but the dawning of hope in the Christ who died, yet lives again. Amen.**

**SENDING FORTH**

God is always calling us.

Go in peace in communion with All the Saints,

And in all things give God the glory,

Now and always,

**Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

**I'll Fly Away**

**TFWS 2282**

*NOTE: As you leave, please take a candle to light during your personal prayers for the saints you have known.*

### **SOME RESOURCES:**

“A Liturgy of Death and New Life”, in Winter: Liturgical resources of November, December and January (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2016).

“Saints Alive! An all-age service”, in Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2017).

Bell, John L., He Was in the World: Meditations for public worship (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2006).

Burgess, Ruth, Candles & Conifers: Resources for All Saints’ and Advent (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2005).

<http://www.liturgybytlw.com/Pentecost/AllSts.html>

<http://www.beswick.info/rcresources/31C9598OS.html>

<https://www.ministrymatters.com>