

PRELUDE AND CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- the RNS children will be making food donations to RHAFT this year instead of having their annual Trick or Trunk Halloween festivity. They will be leaving their donations in our food cupboard basket in the front entrance of the church
- Donations of winter coats for children and adults are needed for Mary's Place Refugee Center. If you have clean, gently used coats please consider donating them – Barb Hamilton is coordinating this effort.
- Donations of toys for the children at Friendship Children's Center are being gathered. See the newsletter for more information,
- Donations for Kirkhaven for Christmas will be gathered again this year.

ALL SAINTS DAY

It's the day we remember those who have gone before us and are now present with us in the "communion of the saints."

It's also the day that points toward the promise of that day when God's kingdom will fully come and God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

O taste and see that the Lord is good;

Happy are those who take refuge in God.

With hearts and hands and voices,

Let us praise the Lord.

***HYMN #649**

"Gather Us In"

Here is this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought hereto you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, our spirits in-flame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

MERCIFUL GOD,

WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU

IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED,

BY WHAT WE HAVE DONE,

AND BY WHAT WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE.

WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU

WITH OUR WHOLE HEART AND MIND AND STRENGTH.

WE HAVE NOT LOVED OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES.

IN YOUR MERCY FORGIVE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN,

**HELP US AMEND WHAT WE ARE,
AND DIRECT WHAT WE SHALL BE,
SO THAT WE MAY DELIGHT IN YOUR WILL
AND WALK IN YOUR WAYS,
TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME.**

Time of silent confession.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us – Christ rose for us – Christ reigns in power for us – Christ prays for us. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The past is finished and gone. Everything has become fresh and new.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

***GRATEFUL RESPONSE “Glory be to the Father” (#734)**

SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Jesus came to bring peace among us.

Let us sow the seeds for peace in our world

by sharing the peace of Christ with one another,
stranger and friend alike.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover peace;
through Christ our Lord, Amen**

MESSAGE

“For All the Saints”

One day a man was walking through a beautiful church building with his 4-year-old son. As they walked, the young boy looked around.

He stopped and was curious about the stained glass windows that looked so beautiful with their bright colors. As he looked at the windows, he asked,

"Who are all the people in the windows, daddy?"

"They are Saints," said the father.

"What are Saints daddy?," his son replied.

The father was stuck.

How was he going to explain who saints were to a four year old boy?

As the boy was still looking up at the windows and the father was still wondering how he would explain who saints are, the young boy suddenly shouted out,

"I know who saints are daddy.

They are the people that the light shines through."

Quite often when we think of saints, our minds automatically go to Saint Peter and Saint Paul, and others who have been declared a saint by the catholic church – such as Saint Francis and Mother Theresa.

But in the Bible, a saint is simply a follower of Jesus Christ who has received the gift of the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of baptism.

The people described as saints in the Bible were still very much human.

They were fishermen, farmers, tent makers, doctors, teachers, carpenters, former prostitutes, extortionists, outcastes, robbers--you name it!!!

They weren't perfect by any stretch of the imagination, and sometimes they disagreed with one another.

They were on a journey

the journey of following Jesus

the journey of learning to be more and more like Jesus...

...which means, becoming more and more loving,

less and less judgmental,

more and more accepting of others,

and less and less condemning of others.

As far as The Bible is concerned, Jesus is Perfect,

but those who followed him, were and are not perfect.

They made mistakes and they learned by allowing Christ to forgive them,

by accepting Christ's forgiveness and then moving on in Christ's love.

Think about how radically we, as Christ's followers are called to live.

In Luke 6:27-31 Jesus says:

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.

If we were to read on we would find that we are also called to

"lend expecting nothing in return..."

We are called to

"be kind to ungrateful and wicked people..."

We are called to

"Be compassionate just as [God] is compassionate..."

We are not to "judge," nor are we to "condemn" others.

Raise your hand if you live like that all the time!!!

And still...God calls us saints!!!

According to the Bible a saint is someone who is sacred, holy, pure, blameless, dedicated. We become sacred, pure and blameless through Christ's forgiveness.

Of course the word "holy" doesn't mean "perfect"...

...it means "set apart to serve God."

It's been said that

"A saint is someone whose life makes it easier to believe in God."

I think most of us have known such people.

If we had not, I doubt we would be here this morning.

Most of us were given our first glimpse of Jesus through one of His saints.

Maybe it was our mother or father.

Maybe it was a neighbor, school teacher or friend.

Maybe it was a pastor or a member of the church we were raised in
or a Sunday School teacher.

Whoever it was, there was something about them

something that separated them from the rest of the crowd

something special about them that intrigued us

and caused us to want to have that something special as well.

They were the people who would go the extra mile for us or anyone

they were the people that we knew we could count on no matter what

they were the people who made us feel loved

who gave us just a glimpse of the Divine.

I was blessed with many people over the course of my life who pointed me to Jesus.

My Great Aunt Hazel and Uncle Jug who took us to Sunday School in Pennsylvania each Easter Sunday when we were there visiting relatives.

The neighbor who lived next door – her name was Grace – she took me and my sisters to Sunday School each week – she paid for and drove me to piano lessons each week

The teacher who lived at the end of my road – who welcomed me into her home weekday afternoons to play *Go to the Head of the Class* and *Chutes & Ladders*.

The church member – Betty Cruickshank – who took me and a friend to the church Mother-Daughter Banquet

George & Molly Miller who led the church Youth Fellowship Group who made sure I was included in the group activities even though my parents were not connected with the church.

Norman Sharp, our junior high school Sunday school teacher who took us to the Malt Shoppe across the street on for our Sunday morning class.

Hermon Dilmore who invited me to sing in the church choir after I graduated from college and moved back home.

Rev. Adams and his wife Bobbie who took the college students out for dinner over school break just to give us a time to connect with one another.

And many others like them who in putting their trust in the Lord and dedicating their lives in service to God have experienced more out of life than they ever could have imagined.

And because of this, they also passed this fullness of life to others.

These people are saints...saints of God.

They are the people through whom God's light shines.

Who are the saints that have touched your life with the incredible love of Christ?

Maybe they are still alive.

Maybe they are members of this very congregation.

We are to let Christ's light shine, like the light shining through the figures in the stained glass windows that the four year old boy saw.

We are all 'called to be saints'--people dedicated to God-- so
that the light of Christ may shine through our words, and our actions.

A saint is someone through whom we catch a glimpse of what God is like –
and of what we are called to be.

A saint is not perfect.

But nevertheless, we thank God for them

because a saint is someone through whom God tells God's story.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

INVITATION

Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity.

Christ has gathered his people around the earth to commune at this table.

Across political lines and economic lines,

In places of powerfully protected affluence,

And among the poorest of the poor,

We share a meal

Remembering and celebrating the One who proved shalom possible.

And so, come:

You from the East and you from the West,

From the North and from the South.

Come.

Come with your doubts,

Come with your hopes

Come with your inadequacies

And with your strengths.

Come

For this is a table where all are invited, and all are welcome.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Grace us with your presence as we lift our prayers to you.

- The family of Nancy Milizia's Aunt Marty who returned to God's everlasting arms last Tuesday
- Prayers of Carol Davis who fell and dislocated her left shoulder last week
- Barb Young as she awaits a bed at the hospital for colon cancer surgery.
- Prayers of continued healing for Janet, Carl, Penny and Sarah.
- JOY – Crystal and Ellen have donated their hair to Locks of Love; Pat and Ellen are now able to visit with Darwin; Crystal's injury to her foot and leg have healed nicely (Martha's ankle?)

This All Saints Day we call to mind before you all those who have died:

Those who taught us the faith...

Those who spoke your truth in the face of evil...

Those who cared for the weak and the suffering...

And those whom we loved and cherished the most...

Thank you that their pain is ended and their joy made complete.

Covenanting God, in baptism you claim us and show us how to live. Keep us in your care until that day when all creation sings your praise and you lead all your children to the springs of the water of life.

Hear us now as we pray the prayer Christ taught his disciples saying,

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sins)

As you have prepared this table for us, gather us as your children,
so we might remember all the promises fulfilled to us in Christ our Lord.

WHEN WE EAT OF THE BREAD, CHRIST'S LIFE STRENGTHENS US.

WHEN WE DRINK FROM THE CUP, CHRIST'S SPIRIT NOURISHES US.

WHEN WE GO TO SERVE OTHERS, WE PROCLAIM CHRIST'S DEATH UNTIL HE RETURNS IN GLORY.

As you bless the gifts of Bread and Cup,
anoint us with your Spirit which brings us together.

As your grace touches our lips with hope and healing,
may we reach out with hands to set free those who are captive to injustice.

As your peace is poured into the empty corners of our hearts,
may we go forth to love others as much as we love ourselves,
and to serve them as we show our love for you.

And when time has marked the end of history,
and we gather with all our sisters and brothers,
all division done away with,
all brokenness healed,
all barriers pulled down,
and all your children set free from despair,
we will join our hands and hearts around your Table of eternity,
singing praise through forever:

GLORY TO YOU, LIBERATING GOD!

ALLELUIA TO YOU, CHRIST OUR SERVANT!

THANKS TO YOU, SPIRIT OF PEACE!

NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

The Words of Institution

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat.

This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
Shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
Do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
You proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord,
Until he comes.

THE GIFTS OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Whoever **comes to me** will never be hungry and **whoever believes in me** will never be thirsty.

PRAYER FOR AFTER COMMUNION

HOLY GOD, AT THIS TABLE YOU HAVE FILLED US WITH THE WORD AND THE BREAD OF LIFE OF YOUR SON JESUS CHRIST. FILL US WITH HIS SPIRIT OF SERVICE AND SELF-FORGETTING LOVE, THAT THROUGH US, HE MAY COME NEAR TO ALL PEOPLE. AMEN.

***HYMN #529** "For All the Saints"

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

CHARGE

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.

BENEDICTION

The GRACE of the Lord Jesus Christ,
The LOVE of God
And the FELLOWSHIP of the Holy Spirit be with you now
and abide with you always. Amen.

***CHIMES AND POSTLUDE**