



*All Saints' Day*

**November 1, 2020**

## **Introduction**

### **Invitation**

### **Prelude**

### **Call to Worship:**

Today is All Saints Day! Hebrews 12:1 reminds us that we have a large crowd of witnesses surrounding us! May our time of worship help us to run the race that is ahead of us, following in their example and keeping our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.

**Hymn:** "For All the Saints"

**Reading the Word:** Matthew 5:1-12

### **Ministry of Music**

**Message:** "All the Saints"

### **Prayer:**

God of all the saints, including those who have gone before us and all those who still walk this earth, give us insight and wisdom as we follow their example, as we strive to live our faith as a witness to the world. Forgive us for the ways we neglect to live as your children. Forgive us for the times we stray. Forgive us for thinking we can live this life on our own. We thank you for the love, forgiveness, and grace you provide. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy 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 Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **A Service of Holy Communion**

**Hymn:** "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

### **Blessing**

## Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.





**SERMON TRANSCRIPT  
GIVEN BY  
Rev. Dr. Deb Hanson**

**Message “All The Saints”**  
**Rev. Dr. Debra Hanson**

Today’s scripture passage is from the Sermon on the Mount, found at the beginning of the gospel of Matthew. This takes place when Jesus has called disciples and just started his ministry. He goes up a mountain where he teaches his followers and the crowd around them about what it means to live as part of the family of God.

This particular section of the Sermon on the Mount is called the “Beatitudes,” or blessings. Most of us see ourselves in the receiving end of the blessing which often causes us to wonder what Jesus is really asking of us. Are we blest to be “poor in Spirit” or when we mourn or persecuted or reviled? We can question each blessing and wonder how we fit into it.

Yet, there is another perspective to consider. Jesus is teaching his disciples while the crowd listens, too. The disciples are those who will carry on his work in the world, who will build the church of Jesus Christ, and be in ministry to all. Maybe our perspective can be from the point of view that calls the Church to action, that tells us, as the Church, to be aware, be visible, minister to those who are outcast, rejected, ignored, abused, or experiencing pain and hardship.

Our calling is to be peacemakers, to be merciful, to stand up for those who have no voice, to care for those who are sick, imprisoned, persecuted. We are to be pure in heart; rid ourselves of anger, vengeance, hatred, prejudice, and try to walk in someone else’s shoes. Stand with them; care for them; minister to them; be a friend; bring the love, kindness, mercy, and grace of God to them, even as we would want that for ourselves.

Following Jesus isn’t an easy path. But when we commit to walking with Christ, we make choices about how we will live in the world, and we are blessed to be a blessing to others. We are blessed to make this world a better place because we build the kingdom of God here on earth by doing what we can and using the gifts God has given us.

Where do we look for examples, besides Jesus and the scriptures? Today is All Saints Day (which happened to actually fall on a Sunday!), and this is when we remember those who have gone before us, who have lived their lives and left a legacy from which we can learn.

Think of the many people who have touched your life, living or deceased. Think of those who brought you to Christ, who lived their lives as witnesses to their faith. We can name the ones who have been in the headlines, written books, and been publicly visible, but there are thousands more who have been witnesses to faith in Jesus Christ, some who have been part of our lives and brought the presence of God to us.

Take a moment to think about them, and name them in your hearts or out loud. (Pause)

Here at First United Methodist Church, we have had folks who have passed on to greater glory this past year. They were part of our congregation or someone who was associated with us in some way. Dave and I will read their names:

Steven R. Westcott, Sylvia May Bartlett, Phoebe Richards, Barbara Millar, David Lord, Nancy Brown, Edith Sorenson, Hugh Woodie Lange, Paul Webber, Marlo Wesley Hanson, Shirley Fichenschner.

May we lift our thanks and praise to God for the ways in which they enriched our lives and how God touched us through them. Let us answer our calling to minister in Jesus’ name, and may we continue to be a blessing to others. Thanks be to God. Amen.





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# PRAYER LIST

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Jeanne Westcott  
Steve & Colleen Nelson  
Fickenscher Family  
Dennis Hoskins  
Glenn  
Erica  
Earl  
Jim  
Delores  
Juliann  
Jim Slater  
Charles Gilman  
Amelia and Michelle  
Barbara Glidden  
John  
Gil Stebbins  
Danny Westbrook  
Dan Strange  
Bobbie Noble  
Kathy and James  
Anne Coffey

Those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19  
Those in nursing and assisted living care  
Our Denomination  
Our Church Family