

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

October 29, 2023

WORDS OF WELCOME

A Celebration Service of Promise, Hope, Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Introit: v.v.1-3 “Lord Be Glorified”

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***GATHERING PRAYER: AΩ**

L: The Holy One has been our hope and our home.

C: God has been with us from generation to generation.

L: We flourish and fade, bloom and renew in God's time.

C: Our lives are temporal and precious and glorious.

L: May the compassion and favor of the Holy One be with us.

C: May we be glad and prosperous in our work for our God!

***Opening Hymn: #383 “Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls” (Public Domain)**

1. Come, let us join with faithful souls our song of faith to raise;
One family in heart are we, and one the God we praise.
2. Faithful are all who love the truth and perfect truth proclaim,
Who steadfast stand at God's right hand and glorify God's name.
3. And faithful are the gentle hearts to whom the power is given
Of every hearth to make a home, of every home a heaven.
4. O God of hosts, our faith renew, and grant us, in your grace,
To join the songs sung by the saints in every time and place.

SCRIPTURE:

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Leviticus 1-2, 15-18 (NRSVUE)

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

²“Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them:

You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

¹⁵“You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord.

¹⁷“You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Matthew 22:34-40 (NRSVUE) - The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

PROCLAIMING GOD'S PEACE

In the spirit of peace and the hope of unity, let us proclaim Christ's peace through song!

HYMN OF PEACE: #249 v.v. 1 & 2 “Peace I Leave with You, My Friend”

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SCRIPTURE READING:

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Revelation 7:9-17 (NRSVUE) - The Multitude from Every Nation

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Singing the Faith: #433 “In the Bulb”

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Affirmation of Faith: #886

“You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Hymn: #298 **“O Savior, for the Saints”**

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Gathering of All God's Saints

Today I have another important book that we use in worship. This is our Hymnal. In here, we find the hymns, or songs, we sing as a congregation. Today we are singing one of these hymns that has been around for a long time and that is traditionally sung on this Sunday each year. The hymn is *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*. Let me tell you the story of this hymn; then we will sing it.

*Singing the Faith: #295 **“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”**

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Time of Thanksgiving and Remembrance:

Revelation 22:1-5 NIV **Eden Restored**

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Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

A Litany of Remembrance and Celebration

L: We are who we are because of those who have gone before us;

**C: *Those, whose lives taught us; those whose lives nurtured us;
those who lives sustained us; those whose lives were given for our freedom.***

L: We give thanks and celebrate;

**C: *The gifts of life and memory, the gifts of sharing and being touched,
the gifts of work and triumphs, the gifts of their eternal presence among us.***

L: We now offer God our thanks as we remember and lift up the lives
of those who have shared their faith in God and their very lives with us,
have meant so much to us, have gone before us
and have now entered into eternal life in God.

God we praise you and give you thanks for the life of ...
Gerald J. "Holmes" Brown: April 4, 1951 – March 1, 2023

God we praise you and give you thanks for the life of ...
James A. (Jim) Rondeau: March 10, 1945 – March 9, 2023

God we praise you and give you thanks for the life of ...
Gail C. Beck: August 25, 1936 – March 11, 2023

God we praise you and give you thanks for the life of ...
Diane Marie "Dyno" Rondeau: April 5, 1952 – March 21, 2023

God we praise you and give you thanks for the life of ...
Donald A. "Don" Guler: February 7, 1935 – April 8, 2023

God we praise you and give you thanks for the life of ...
Gale G. Brown: September 25, 1946 – April 16, 2023

God we praise you and give you thanks for the life of ...
Johanna Marie Ketoff: September 7, 1971 – June 17, 2023

God we praise you and give you thanks for the life of ...
Colleen Van Dee: February 23, 1935 – September 13, 2023

God we praise you and give you thanks for the life of ...
Sherman "Sherm" Loudermilk: February 18, 1947 – October 3, 2023

A Time of Remembrance for All Our Loved Ones!

(A time for anyone to name loved ones who have passed and to light candles for them)

A Closing Proclamation!

*All: We are who we are because of those who have gone before us.
We are surrounded by clouds of witness.
Their memories continue to bear witness to the new possibilities in Christ.
We will celebrate their lives by living the gifts they gave us. Amen.*

Singing the Faith: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" (Public Domain)

*Chorus: Swing low, sweet chariot comin' for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot comin' for to carry me home.*

1. I looked over Jordan and what did I see comin' for to carry me home
A band of angels comin' after me comin' for to carry me home (Chorus)
2. If you get there before I do comin' for to carry me home
Just tell my friends I'm comin' home too comin' for to carry me home (Chorus)

A TIME OF PRAYER -
LIFTING UP PRAYER REQUESTS -

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY: AΩ*

Sharing of the abundance we receive is a tangible way to love our neighbor as ourselves and to live the faith we proclaim that was handed down to us through Christ, the apostles, saints and prophets who have gone before us and those who are living yet today. Empowered by your Holy Spirit, may we give with generous and empathetic hearts stirred to compassion and to companion to meet the needs of those you set before us.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION & THANKSGIVING: AΩ (in unison)

Giving God, we follow your example, and the example of the saints who have gone before us, of the ministry of presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference and participate in your kingdom through generosity, wisdom and love. Amen.

SUMM-IT UP:

Sending Hymn: #299 v.v, 1, 3-5 *“For All the Saints”*

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CHARGE & BENEDECTION:

*Benediction Response: *“When the Saints Go Marching In”* (Public Domain)

**Oh when the saints, go marching in; Oh when the saints go marching in.
Lord how I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in.**

**And when the sun, begins to shine, and when the sun, begins to shine,
Oh, how I want to be in that number when the sun begins to shine.**

**Oh, when the trumpet, sounds its call Oh, when the trumpet, sounds its call,
Lord, how I want to be in that number when the trumpet sounds its call.**

**Oh when the saints, go marching in; Oh when the saints go marching in.
Lord how I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in.**

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