

Sunday Worship- October 31, 2021



All Saints' Remembrance

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

*"Striving to live as Jesus lived –
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service."*

Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

P: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

L: If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord;

P: so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

L: The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

***HYMN** #326 For All the Saints (verses 1-3, 5)

*1: For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever bless'd.
Alleluia, alleluia!*

*3: Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, alleluia!*

*2: Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their
might,
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia, alleluia!*

*5: 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,
Alleluia, alleluia!*

***PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

L: Aware of how often we have missed the mark in our lives,
let us stand in the presence of the God of Unending Love and one another
as we make our confession:

All: Eternal God,

in every age you have raised up individuals to live and die in faith.

We confess that we are indifferent to your will.

You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent.

You call us to what is just, but we remain idle.

You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Give us courage to follow in your way,

that joined with those from ages past,

who have served you with faith, hope, and love,

we may inherit the kingdom your promised in Jesus Christ.

Time of Silence

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Jesus said: Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy. (Matthew 5:7)
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE #581 Glory Be to the Father

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME

HYMN #730 I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

*1: I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.*

*2: They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.*

*3: They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.*

SCRIPTURE

L: In the beginning was the Word.

P: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 11:32-44 (NRSV) – Jesus at Lazarus' Tomb

Reader 1: When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Reader 2: Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NRSV) – The Great Cloud of Witnesses

All: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

P: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

HYMN For All the Saints (words by Rev. Dr. David Gambrell)

*1: For lives cut short, no time or space to grieve;
for saints and servants you have now received;
for all who still bear witness and believe:
O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy.*

*3: For dreams deferred, for lost and stolen breath;
for friends beset, beleaguered and bereft;
for days to come when love will conquer death:
O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy.*

*2: For those oppressed and murdered by the state;
for systems built by centuries of hate;
for justice now — no longer will we wait:
O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy.*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Now, as God's saints in this time and place, we have the opportunity to feed others from the abundance of all we have, to swallow up the pain and suffering of others, to wipe away the tears of children who are lonely and fearful.

P: May the gifts we offer, and the lives we lead, reveal the One for whom we have waited and who invites us to spread grace over all the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERTORY

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

L: The invitation is simple: come and eat of the feast.
Not a meal to nourish the body, but to feed the soul.

We receive the bread and wine connected to the ages:
to the saint of old who felt unworthy,
to the seeker eager to know God,
to the teenager who wonders what it's all about,
to the child who eats with unburdened faith.

Woven into this time, the hopes and tears of generations.
There is great joy here. No one is turned away for God is the host!

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: God is in this place.

P: And in our hearts.

L: Open yourself to the nudging God.

P: We feel the breath of the Spirit.

L: Remember God made flesh,

P: Jesus, who taught us a new way.

L: Tender, transforming God, you have invited us to gather at this table,
To taste the feast, the same abundant promises offered to our ancestors in faith.
Time and time again you've offered your grace.
Even as we have stepped away, you continue to call us to be your people.
You have never left us.

P: We praise you for second, third, and fourth chances.

You are ever-patient, always faithful.

L: We give thanks for this time of celebration.

For the One this meal remembers.

For the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

With those who have gone before us, Whose hands touched the bread,

Whose lips drank of the cup,

P: We worship you. We glorify you.

REMEMBERING

L: We remember the saints who have died in the last two years.

We celebrate their lives, even as we continue to grieve.

We remember from our congregation: *(bell tolls after each name is read)*

Sherlee Peterson

Jeannette Madson

Pearl Martin

Carolyn Palmer

We remember other loved ones who died in the last two years. *(bell tolls once after all names are read)*

And we remember all those who have gone before us. *(bell tolls once and all are invited to say names aloud)*

L: This is the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

L: God of all, send your Spirit to this place so that those gathered here, in this sacred moment, may know your presence.

As we eat the bread and drink of the cup, make us one with the saints, and with our kinfolk in faith around the world.

All: Be with us God, not only here but in every moment of our lives.

Help us to know you, to be guided by the Holy Spirit, and to live for Christ now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread, and broke it, and said, "This is my body, broken for you."

Later he took a cup of wine and said, "This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me."

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

L: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbors near and far.

All: Bless this bread, we pray.

L: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people around the world.

All: Bless this cup, we pray.

L: May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your world, united in the One Body of Christ.

SHARING THE MEAL

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much of us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of your kingdom. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

When the Saints Go Marching In

O when the saints go marching in

When the saints go marching in

O Lord, I want to be in that number

When the saints go marching in

O when the sun begins to shine...

On that hallelujah day...

O when the saints go marching in...

POSTLUDE