

# Our Service of Worship for October 31, 2021 CELEBRATING ALL SAINTS' DAY

Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Cincinnati, OH



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “*How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place*”—Brahms/Warren

During the Prelude, we invite you to take a moment to prepare for worship.

Ringling of the Tower Bell

Introit: “*O Be Joyful*”—Yarrington

\*\* Call to Worship (responsive)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

**And also with you!**

Come, let us praise God together!

**Let us sing a new song.**

Let us sing a song of His goodness and mercy, faithfulness and love.

**For God delights in His people, crowing them with honor and glory!**

Come, brothers and sisters, all you saints in heaven and on earth—let us worship God!

**Let us worship God together!**

Opening Prayer

\*\* Hymn No. 526: “*For All the Saints*” (verses 1, 2, 4 congregation, verse 3 choir only) \*

A Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Merciful and Loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives—that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and ignore the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to you as the source of healing and wholeness. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and like the saints of every age, empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service, for it is in His name we pray. Amen.**

Moment of Silent Confession (*Silent, personal prayers may be offered.*)

Assurance of God’s Love and Mercy (responsive)

Brothers and sisters, this is the good news of the gospel: Christ died and rose for us, and now reigns in power for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

\*\* Gloria Patri (unison)

**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.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Isaiah 58:1-3, 6-14; Joshua 24:1-5, 13-25* \*

Sermon: “*Remember. Decide.*”

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles Creed (unison)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy catholic\* Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.** (\* “catholic” meaning “universal”)

A Time of Offering

[No collection will be taken. Please place your offerings in the collection plate just outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity!]

Invitation

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**Holy God, bless our offerings with healing that comes from your work and our hands. We give with joy and thanks for what we have, in the name of Jesus, our great high priest. Amen.**

Anthem: “*Make My Life An Alleluia*”—Ruth Elaine Schram

A Litany for All Saints’ Day and the Lord’s Prayer

[Today we honor those who have gone before us, including those who have died in the year since last All Saints’ Day. As the names of those who have died are read, a candle is lit. The prayer concludes with the Lord’s Prayer]

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*\* Hymn No. 376: “*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*” (verses 1, 2, 4) \*

Charge and Benediction

Response: “*Sevenfold Amen*”—John Stainer

Postlude: “*A Mighty Fortress*”—arr. John Innes

Where indicated (\*\*) please rise, and stand as you are able.



### Leading Worship This Morning:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi

*Pastor*

Heather MacPhail

*Organist/Director of Music Ministries*

Bruce Smith

*Lay Worship Leader*

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# As Our Service of Worship Ends, Our Ministry of Service Begins!

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## Prayer Requests and Announcements:

- ✚ November West-Fed Food Pantry donations needed: Spaghetti/Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- ✚ Prayers are requested for:
  - ♥ Sandra Hickey's brother John Flynn.
  - ♥ Linda Kugele who is dealing with breathing issues.
  - ♥ Sandy Morris and her family after the death Sandy's sister, Melissa Snyder.
  - ♥ Tracy Carl and her family after the death of her father, Edward Kavanaugh.
  - ♥ The discernment team, who will begin their work this afternoon after the service: Steve Beckman, Mary Ellen Betz, Jane Colarossi, Kent Kochheiser, Ann Regan, Phil Zorn, Bruce Smith, Jan Tepe, Bode Olakanmi.
- ✚ The Flowers this morning have been donated by Flowers this Sunday are donated by:
  - ♥ Phyllis and Jerry Jefferies in memory of loved ones.
  - ♥ Roberta Mattimiro memory of Nick Mattimiro.
- ✚ The next **Monday School** class will begin on November 8, and will be looking at "Beatitudes from the Backside," by J. Ellsworth Kalas and the classes, for now, will be held virtually (via Zoom). If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

## IN MEMORIAM

WESTWOOD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ALL SAINT'S DAY 2021

### MEMBERS

Janice Dietz  
Janet Gullemann  
Connie Hanna  
Hans Jensen  
Mary Jo Krentz

Ken Leistler  
Jo-Ann Lindemann  
Lowella Stoerker  
Robyn Tippenhauer

### NON-MEMBERS

Charles Baverman  
Martha Buchanan  
David Burroughs  
Noele Felmeth  
Roger Higley  
Gloria Huber  
Robert Huber

Edward Kavanaugh  
Eric Keller  
Tony Laux  
John Leurck  
Mary Ann "Spud" Luecke  
Melissa Snyder  
Debbie Tarnaski

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."*

John 11:25-26

## Hymns

### **For All the Saints—Hymn #526 (verses 1, 2, 4 all, verse 3 choir only)**

1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
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!
3. (Choir) Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
4. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!



### **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling—Hymn #376 (verses 1, 2, 4)**

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art.  
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast.  
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
4. Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.



## Scripture Readings

### **First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-3, 6-14**

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. <sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

<sup>13</sup> If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; <sup>14</sup> then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

### **Second Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 13-25—The Tribes Renew the Covenant**

<sup>1</sup> Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup> And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. <sup>3</sup> Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

<sup>13</sup> I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and olive yards that you did not plant. <sup>14</sup> “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup> for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup> and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup> But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” <sup>21</sup> And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” <sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.”

<sup>23</sup> He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” <sup>24</sup> The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” <sup>25</sup> So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

### Moment for Meditation—All Saints’ Day

Traditionally, All Saints Day has had a couple of meanings. In the old days there was All Saints Day, which celebrated those Christians who had been singled out as exceptionally “saints” of the church—your Mother Theresa types, that sort of thing—followed the next day by “All Souls Day” when the rest of the departed of the church was honored—your regular Christians. But, biblically speaking, “saint” is a word that is most often used to connote a regular, faithful Christian.

All Saints Day is a reminder that we are a people who believe in the resurrection of the dead and that those who have gone before us are part of the “great cloud of witnesses,” waiting for the day of when death is defeated forever and earth and heaven are one. Just like those saints who have gone before us, our lives can have eternal significance, our work in the present has eternal implications; we have a place in the coming Kingdom of God and a role in making it a reality in the present.

On All Saints Day, we celebrate that those saints who have gone before us, whether we hold them in our conscious memory as loved ones or whether they are not yet known to us, will all be known in the Kingdom and their work and life celebrated in the light of God’s new creation. We will join together with them in this new reality, unimpeded by death in any form, and become part of God’s glorious future; a new heavens and a new earth, with new bodies for new work, new worship, and new life. In the interim, we still deal with death and the pain of loss, but we do so knowing that it isn’t the last word. We celebrate today because we know that great cloud of witnesses has come before us and we build on their legacy.

So, on this All Saints Day, I invite you to offer a special prayer for a person or persons who is now part of the great cloud of witnesses, awaiting the resurrection at the last day. Thank God for their influence in your life, thank God for those whose influence you may not even realize. And (because of resurrection we can be this bold), pray for those who will come after you and build on the work you are doing today for Christ and the Kingdom. Let us be saints who share the legacy of saints!

~ <https://tlumc.org/>

