

Order of Worship
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
9:30 am – November 7, 2021

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

Lance Crane, organ

WELCOME

Pastors

HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

UMH 66

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1834, Public Domain. Tune: LAUDA ANIMA, John Goss, 1869, Public Domain.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to the throne thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored,
forgiven, evermore God's praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise the Lord for grace and favor to all people in distress; praise God, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious now God's faithfulness.

Father-like, God tends and spares us; well our feeble frame God knows; mother-like, God gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet God's mercy flows.

Angels in the heights, adoring, you behold God face to face; saints triumphant, now adoring,
gathered in from every race. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Esther Benedict

I am the church, you are the church, we are the church that lives into God's future today!

We are a church united across all space and time.

A church of many races, languages, and ethnicities.

A church that lives by the work of God in Christ, which was, is now, and is still to come.

A church bound together in the One who sits on the throne and says to us: "See, I am making all things new!"

A church that is working for a new heaven and a new earth, where God's home is among God's people.

God's future is epic, and it is good news for all generations!

Hold fast to God's future, for this is the story of our faith!

(adapted from www.mennonitechurch.ca, ©2011)

HYMN

Sing with All the Saints in Glory

UMH 702

Text: William J. Jones, 1873, Public Domain. Tune: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824, Public Domain.

Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God's likeness we, awaking, know the everlasting peace.

O what glory, far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts, for ages pleading, never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it, there on high our welcome waits.
Every humble spirit shares it; Christ has passed th'eternal gates.

Life eternal! heaven rejoices: Jesus lives, who once was dead.
Join we now the deathless voices; child of God, lift up your head!
Patriarchs from the distant ages, saints all longing for their heaven,
prophets, psalmists, seers, and sages, all await the glory given.

Life eternal! O what wonders crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
when, amidst earth's closing thunders, saints shall stand before the throne!

O to enter that bright portal, see that glowing firmament;
know, with thee, O God Immortal, "Jesus Christ whom thou has sent!"

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Erin

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

Chancel Choir; Bob Riggs, choir director; Lance Crane, accompanist

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SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25: 6-9; Revelation 21: 1-6a (NRSV)

Esther Benedict

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Celebrating the Saints

Pastors

OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

Merciful God, You have graced our lives with so many gifts, the greatest of which is Jesus Christ, our Lord. He showed us how to live truly blessed and saintly lives, in harmony with Yours. We offer these gifts so that they may be used to bless others, and we dedicate ourselves to follow Jesus as faithfully as the saints of every age have done. May it be so. Amen. (adapted from Moira Laidlaw, ©1992)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

Since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, looking to Jesus with repentance and faith.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. 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; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You, until we join the church triumphant. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsive)

May Christ, who makes saints of sinners and has transformed those we remember today, raise and strengthen you, that you may transform the world.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us hope and strength for this journey of faith.

COMMUNION (responsive)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us lift up our hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

... As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup.

**Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.**

[As each name is read:] Absent from the body: **Present with the Lord**

Bishop Daniel C. Arichea, Jr.

Lois Bailey

Dick French

Bill Garner

Wanda Laurence

Worth Noyes

Renee Rueda Owens

Martha Raysor

Maddie Rose

Larry Schrock

Bruce Smale

Kathi Taylor

Betty Warner

Libby Williams

Carol Gehring (Garden Church)

All other loved ones

... All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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 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.

HYMN

For All the Saints

UMH 711

Text: William W. How, 1864, Public Domain. Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, Public Domain.

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!

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!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, Alleluia!

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!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lance Crane, organ

Prayer Requests:

Simi Valley UMC— Pastor Andy Mattick & Pastor Camille Mattick

Newbury Park: St. Matthew's UMC — Pastor Jim Powell

Opportunities for Reflection (please respond by November 21st):

[Grace & Gratitude Card #1](#)

[Grace & Gratitude Card #2](#)

Grace & Gratitude Card #3: On the index card given to you at check-in today, please write the name (or multiple names) of a deceased loved one who is now part of the cloud of witnesses.

You are invited to place the card *in the offering box by the door* on the way out. The cards will be used to create an offering of gratitude for the saints who have shared God's grace with us on November 21st.

If you are worshiping virtually, you may share name(s) with the Church Office at 805-643-8621, office@venturafumc.org, or by texting 805-309-6867.