



**November 2, 2025 – 10am**

***Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.***

**PRELUDE**      "When the Saints Go Marching In (with Glory, Glory Hallelujah)" arr. Hayes

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**—Liturgist

Please stand as you are able, and join me in the call to worship.

Leader: Boil down the purpose of all this living,

**People: Follow the thread of all these questions,**

Leader: Uncover what's under all this grief....and discover:

**People: Love, Love, Love.**

Leader: The very heartbeat of God.

**People: Love, sturdy and steadfast.**

Leader: Oh, how we praise Love! The pulse of the Cosmos, the rhythm of God!

**People: Let us praise the God of love!**

*The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T.S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning." Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.*

1 In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

### **CALL TO CONFESSION** –Liturgist

Please be seated.

When we remember the saints, we do so with rose-colored glasses. We watch the highlight reels of their lives in our minds, leaving their missteps and mistakes on the cutting room floor. We want to hold on to the very best of them, but in doing so, we forget the complexities that made them human—that make us human. God wants every part of us, not just the highlight reel. So let us come before God with honesty and authenticity. Let us pray:

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** –Liturgist

Cross

Holy God, we want to make you proud. We want to hide away our faults so no one can see. We want to be considered worthy of sainthood. But you know our faults anyway. You know every detail of our lives.

**Forgive us for pretending we're perfect.**

Holy God, we confess that we dance along the line between self-improvement and vanity. We read self-help books, listen to sages who tell us how we can achieve perfection, and try to eliminate all the mess from our lives so we can feel in control.

**Forgive us for striving to be godlike when all you've ever asked of us is to be human.**

Holy God, we forget that even the saints are human. Even the saints are messy and complicated. Our heroes are flawed, our loved ones make mistakes, and our idols aren't really made of solid gold. We confess that we are quick to judge the faults of others we have placed on a pedestal, as though they aren't human too.

**Forgive us for expecting too much of one another.**

Forgive us, we pray. Give us grace to trade the illusion of perfection for the real life you have gifted us, and hold us secure in the promise of future glory. Amen.

(Silence for personal confession)

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, hear the good news: you do not have to be perfect to be a saint. You just have to be the person God created you to be. God's grace is abundant, and it is for you. There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

### HYMN 582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" Ribbon

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Family of faith, knowing that the passing from one world to the next is hard on those who remain, Jesus offered these words of comfort to his closest friends before he left this earth: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." Let us now offer this peace to one another.

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

### HYMN #188

"Jesus Loves Me"

## TALK WITH CHILDREN

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** –Liturgist

Before we hear the scriptures read, let us pray that God's Spirit might open our hearts to receive a divine word.

Holy God, we rely so much on our senses to know what's real. We want to see, hear, and feel. We cling to the tangible because our brains can categorize it and analyze it. And what we can categorize, we can control. But there is so much that we can't see, hear, or touch, and it's just as real as anything we can grasp.

Open our hearts, minds, and souls to your wonder and mystery. Help us trade analysis for curiosity and knowledge for wisdom. Release our grasp on the things of this world so we can wade into your Word with open hands. Humbly we pray, amen.

**THE FIRST READING** Liturgist      Romans 8:18-27, 35-38 (NRSVUE)      Notepad

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, 20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. 27 And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? 36 As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These words are trustworthy and true. **Thanks be to God.**

### THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 7:11-17 (NRSVUE)

Notepad

11 Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. 12 As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow, and with her was a large crowd from the town. 13 When the Lord saw her, he was moved with compassion for her and said to her, "Do not cry." 14 Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stopped. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. 16 Fear seized all of them, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" 17 This word about him spread throughout the whole of Judea and all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY †

Lord of compassion and mercy,  
you give back to us  
what we fear is lost beyond recall:  
may your word resound  
to the limits of our grief  
and life arise in place of despair;  
through Jesus Christ, to whom all is entrusted. Amen.

## SERMON

"Jubilee Stories—For All the Saints"

## REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING –Liturgist

Part of All Saints Day is recognizing that we are not building God's kin-dom alone. We continue the work that our ancestors started, and the generations after us will continue to build on what we are doing right now in this place. So it is with generous hearts that we bring our offerings before God, trusting that though we did not begin this work and will not see it finished, God will bring it to completion.

You can give in person or online using the QR code printed in the bulletin or on the screen.

## OFFERTORY

"The Windows of Heaven" by Craig Courtney

### \*DOXOLOGY #606

Ribbon

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication—Liturgist

Cross

Holy God, you knit us together, threading our lives to the generations before us and the generations after us. May these gifts be used to continue the work our ancestors began and to build on what we are doing now. Into your hands, we entrust these gifts so that our unfinished work will one day be complete. Amen.

### THE LORD'S SUPPER—See the back page of the hymnal

*At Covenant, we believe the Lord's Supper is for everyone. From newborns to our most mature, all are welcome at this table. The Presbyterian Church teaches, "The opportunity*

*to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding" (Book of Order, W-3.049).*

## **MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION**

"Shall We Gather at the River" arr. Hayes

### **\*HYMN #326**

"For All the Saints"

Ribbon

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

4 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!

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!

## **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## POSTLUDE

Reprise of "For All the Saints"

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org) and [enfleshed.com](http://enfleshed.com)

† From *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare. New York: Church Publishing, 2009.

### **Assisting in Worship Today:**

Terry Kennedy Mancini – Liturgist

Matthew Phillips – Vocalist

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music & Technology

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor