



"Sunset"

Art by Carol Hovey
Photo courtesy of Carol Hovey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, we will have a Visioning Gathering on Zoom at Noon. Everyone who has participated in the ministry of First Church is invited to attend!

We are building school kits this year and we *still need* school supplies!

If you would like to donate supplies, please contact Sara Nichols.

For the month of November, the Page Turners are reading "The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are" by Libby Copeland. The discussion will be on Monday, November 22nd.

The Anti-Racism Study Group will next meet on Tuesday, November 16th from 7-8pm on Zoom.

Welcome to First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 7, 2021—All Saints Day

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

#331 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life.

Annie

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Beloved children of God, we gather here in the protective shelter of God's healing love.

We are free to pour out our grief, release our anger, face our emptiness, and know that God cares.

We gather here as God's people, conscious of all who have died, and of the frailty of our own existence on earth.

We come to comfort and to support one another in our common loss.

BRINGING OURSELVES INTO GOD'S PRESENCE:

Almighty and Everlasting God, Creator of all the worlds that are, Giver of breath, Sustainer of life in all its forms: we gather in praise and thanksgiving for the gift of your servants of First Church. Be pleased to move among us in these moments, hearing both the sounds of our voices and the stirrings of our spirits. In your grace grant us the sure and certain knowledge that you indeed are God, and that neither life nor death nor anything else in all creation can separate us from your love for us, made known to us so clearly by Jesus and continually renewed by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: #295

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God, Lesbia Scott

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LITANY OF CONFESSION:

Gracious God, we confess what seems always with us:

broken things within us that never seem to mend, empty places within us that seem to always ache, and things like buds within us that never seem to flower.

O God of love and grace, help us accept ourselves;

lead us to do good and true things that are not compromised by anything within us. As much as can be, mend us, fill us, and make us bloom. For all these things, we will give you the glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Moment of Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Know that those who rely on God's grace cannot be defeated. God loves us more than can be imagined—in that love, we find peace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

REV. BENJAMIN CHAVIS PSALTER LESSON

PSALM 8

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

1 Kings 19:1-18 (The Message)

Tim Wildman

GOSPEL LESSON

John 12:27-28 (The Message)

REMEMBERING & CELEBRATING THE SAINTS

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

In this sacred moment we pause to remember those who have died during the pandemic. We celebrate their lives by speaking their name aloud, tolling the bell, and lighting a candle in their memory, even as we continue to grieve. Today we remember: *(After each name is read, a bell will toll, and a candle will be lit.)*

Ruth Jordan - August 9, 2020

Dot Riley - September 29, 2020

Rodney Huntoon - November 2, 2020

Harold "Mac" McComas - November 30, 2020

Eleanor "Ellie" Wells - December 10, 2020

Herbert Hall - February 23, 2021

Clement Lyon - March 3, 2021

We also pause to remember, in our hearts, all those other Saints who have gone before us during this time of pandemic.

Moment of Silence

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

O God, before whom the generations rise and pass away, we praise you for all your servants who, having lived this life in faith, now live eternally with you. For your good gift of life; for life's wonders and mysteries, its interest and its joys, its friendships and fellowships; for the ties that bind us one to the other; for love that does not die with death:

We give you thanks, O God.

For all the saints, living and dead, who have shared our lives, from whom we learned life's meanings, with whom we have shared life's joys; who have taught us lessons of love and patience and forgiveness; who have revealed to us life's beauty and truth:

We give you thanks, O God.

For the gift of all the saints to us; for their loving devotion to family; for their commitment to friends and church; for their generous hearts and kind smiles; for their eagerness to be of help to others.

We give you thanks, O God.

For the comfort we know when we place our trust in you; for ministries of loving and thoughtful friends; for tears that ease our pain; for strength and courage to meet each day; for the patience to wait; for the healing of time:

We give you thanks, O God.

For the faith that sees beyond the shadows of mortal flesh and knows that even death shall die; for the hope that is ours through Christ Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; for the love which loses not its own, but draws all things unto itself;

We give you thanks, O God.

GRATEFUL CELEBRATION Behold the Host All Robed in Light, Brorson (Public Domain)

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE (WITH SUNG INTERLUDE)

For All Thy Saints, O Lord, Richard Mant/William Monk

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Ruth Jordan

**For all Thy saints, O Lord,
Who strove in Thee to live,
Who followed Thee, obeyed, adored,
Our grateful hymn receive.**

Dot Riley

**For Thy dear saints, O Lord,
Who strove in Thee to die,
Who counted Thee their great reward,
Accept our thankful cry.**

Rodney Huntoon

**Thine earthly members fit
To join Thy saints above,
In one communion ever knit,
One fellowship of love.**

Harold "Mac" McComas

**Jesus, Thy Name we bless
And humbly pray that we
May follow them in holiness
Who lived and died for Thee.**

Eleanor "Ellie" Wells

**For all Thy saints, O Lord,
Who strove in Thee to live,
Who followed Thee, obeyed, adored,
Our grateful hymn receive.**

Herbert Hall

**For Thy dear saints, O Lord,
Who strove in Thee to die,
Who counted Thee their great reward,
Accept our thankful cry.**

Clement Lyon

CLOSING HYMN: #299

For All the Saints (Public Domain)

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Strangers meet. Oil and grain turn to bread. The sick are healed.

The weary are lifted up. The prisoners are set free. The everyday becomes a miracle.

This is God's work.

We are its witnesses. We are the Light-bearers. Let us go forth, living as followers of Jesus and as the Saints before us. Our worship has ended, our service now begins.

POSTLUDE

La Promeneuse by Rejean Lizotte

Annie