

All Saints Day, November 5, 2023
The First Congregational Church of Verona

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, Nov. 12 – Jacob Baccus in the Sanctuary with brief Annual Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 19 – Edd Sewell

Sunday, Nov. 26 – Rev. Paula Whitacre

INTROIT

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Peace be with you.

Unison: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sometimes we get crabby about life.

**People: But God never stops sending autumn leaves,
bright pumpkins, small trick-or-treaters.**

Leader: Sometimes we run out of time for kindness,
prayer, even a genuine smile.

People: But God has an extra hour for us every week.

Leader: Sometimes we fall short on saintliness.

**People: Saintliness?
It's tough just to be nice!**

Leader: God calls each of us to be a saint, for at least one other person.

**People: God gives each of us saints --
and they always show us the way.**

HYMN "For All the Saints"

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**You were their rock, their refuge and their might;
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
Mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true Light.**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine:
Yet in your love our faithful lives entwine,
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

OPENING PRAYER

Spirit of the Living God, we come together with one purpose – to worship you with scripture and song, with listening and love. We come in a long line of your disciples and believers, who have tried to be faithful and have experienced your love. Be with us this hour. Touch us with tenderness, remind us of our possibilities, strengthen us for challenges. Amen.

ANTHEM – "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

SCRIPTURE *1 Thessalonians 1: 1-4; Matthew 22:1-12*

SERMON **Saints, Souls, and Servants**

Rev. Maren Tirabassi

MEDITATIVE RESPONSE

NAMING OF SAINTS AND SOULS

A TIME OF PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL AMEN

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation (Unison)

**Come to the table as all saints come,
as God's people always do,
with love, hope and questions.**

**Come to the table also with mourning –
old or new or delayed –
your celebration of memories,
and prayers for times yet to come,
because here you are welcome,
in a weeping, laughing communion of saints,
in a weeping, laughing communion ... of us.**

Words of Remembering

Prayer of Consecration (Unison)

**Bless us and bless these gifts.
May the Spirit rest upon this time and this table,
surrounded tenderly by our memories of saints
as on sacred times and tables long ago.
so that this loaf may be broken love,
and this cup a well of blessing,
for we pray in the words of our ancestors
that we claim as our own ...**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Spirit of Christ, stay with us where we stay, as familiar as our daily plates and cups. Go with us where we go, full of love we have found in this time. May we, your eager and sometimes awkward saints, carry in us a Communion from which all can share – comfort for loss, courage for speaking, compassion for healing. We give you thanks for both the shelter and the road Amen.

HYMN "For the Fruit of all Creation"

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvest we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE