

November 1, 2009 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

All Saints Day

Liturgical Color: White

Preparation for Worship and Announcements

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.

Chiming of the Trinity

Marisa Rogers

Prelude

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Alexandre Guilmant

*Call to Worship

Mary Dula, Missions Chairperson

Leader: How often have we imagined the ruler of glory far off? God is not in some remote heaven but here.

People: We wait in silence for God's appearing. Come, Holy One, to wipe away our tears.

Leader: Stretch out your hands and open your hearts. Purify your lives from all deceit and falsehood.

People: God reaches out to comfort and cleanse. We can sense God's hand of blessing resting on us.

Leader: The earth and all things in it are God's. The world and all its people belong to God.

People: We are God's people, called and saved by Christ. We are the saints who share in Christ's ministry.

*Hymn No. 90

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Invocation

The Reverend James D. Dennis, Jr.

Creator of all life, who could dare to stand before you were it not for your vindication of us? You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of all things. You take away our disgrace and restore us to wholeness. You swallow up death in the larger reality of life eternal. You grant hope for a new heaven and earth even in the midst of our present struggles. Surely you will bless us in this time of worship, unbinding us from our dull routines and freeing us to worship in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (Please see insert)

Campbell Elizabeth Driver

New Testament Reading

Revelation 21:1-6a

Page 315 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The Promised Land
Chancel Choir

arr. Michael Compton

Pastoral Prayer

The Reverend James D. Dennis, Jr.

Lord's Prayer (In Unison)

Offering

Offertory

There Is a Happy Land

George Shearing

*Doxology No. 94

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Children's Message

The Reverend James D. Dennis, Jr.

All children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message. Following Children's Time, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.

***Passing of the Peace**

***Hymn No. 723**

Shall We Gather At the River

Hanson Place

†Epistle Reading

Hebrews 12:1-2

Page 275 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Cloud of Witnesses”

The Reverend James D. Dennis, Jr.

All Saints Litany (Please see insert)

Recognition of the Saints

The Reverend James D. Dennis, Jr.

***Hymn No. 711**

For All the Saints

Sine Nomine

***Benediction**

The Reverend James D. Dennis, Jr.

***Benediction Response No. 666**

Shalom to You

SHALOM

***Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.***

***Postlude**

†Sermon Text

****Please stand if you are able***

Nursery Provided

Litany for the Saints

Minister: Lord God, by your grace we are running a race.

People: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses –

Minister: Patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets and psalmists, disciples and evangelists, martyrs and saints.

People: We thank you for their example. We praise you for their lives of faith. For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live, who followed, obeyed, adored you – our grateful hymn we sing.

Minister: Lord God, by your grace we are running a race.

People: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses –

Minister: Loved ones now resting in you, who guided us, nurtured and cared for us; ancestors who worked and traveled, lived and died that we might be who we are, where we are – your precious children in this community of believers.

People: We thank you for their example. We praise you for their lives of faith. For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die, who counted you their great reward – accept our thankful cry.

Minister: Lord God, by your grace we are running a race.

People: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses –

Minister: Family members and members of this congregation; fellow believers in every country, every denomination; friends who help guide and uplift us – children of your family, sheep of your fold, saints of your redeeming.

People: We thank you for their example. We praise you for their lives of faith. For this, your name we bless, and humbly pray anew, that we like them in holiness may live and die in you.

Minister: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,

People: and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

Minister: looking to Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. People: Amen.

All Saints Day

In the early church, Christians would observe the anniversary of a martyr's death by holding an All-Night Vigil and celebrating the Eucharist (Holy Communion). As the Christian church divided into East and West, the Eastern Church began the tradition of a collective remembrance of the saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost. In the West, November 1 was established by a decree by Pope Gregory III. In the United Methodist Church, All Saints Day is generally observed on the first Sunday in November. Traditions vary but usually involve the reading of the names of those that have died during the preceding year, accompanied by the lighting of candles and in many cases, the ringing of bells. Today, a family member or friend will light a candle in memory of those who have died in our congregation since November, 2008, accompanied by ringing of the bells.

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| Clyde Edgar Watson | <i>November 9, 2008</i> | Candle lit by wife, Riley Watson and daughter, Miriam Garner |
| Lois Vickery Higginbotham | <i>November 13, 2008</i> | Candle lit by husband, Bruce Higginbotham |
| Reverend Larry Dunn | <i>February 2, 2009</i> | Candle lit by friend, Pat Poole |
| Ann Skipper Rogers | <i>February 5, 2009</i> | Candle lit by husband, Ted Rogers |
| Miriam Ficklin Alewine | <i>February 25, 2009</i> | Candle lit by husband, Fred Alewine |
| Philip Legge | <i>April 7, 2009</i> | Candle lit by friend, De Canaday |
| Cecil Oba Browning | <i>May 17, 2009</i> | Candle lit by friend, George Ballentine |
| Robert "Tigue" Phillips | <i>May 18, 2009</i> | Candle lit by friends, Billy and Rosa Ashmore |
| Hubert Coleman Scurry | <i>May 22, 2009</i> | Candle lit by family friend, Hennie Cox |
| Leslie Bobby Kohn | <i>May 22, 2009</i> | Candle lit by friend, Pierce Stockman |
| Margaret Black Bell | <i>June 19, 2009</i> | Candle lit by friend, Louise Powell |
| Mildred Wood Moore | <i>June 22, 2009</i> | Candle lit by husband, Ed Moore and daughters, Anne Farquhar and Linda Rollison |
| Betty Thomas Oliver | <i>July 14, 2009</i> | Candle lit by friend, Mary Dula |
| William "Hack" Robinson | <i>July 24, 2009</i> | Candle lit by wife, Gale Robinson |
| Mary Ida Woodham | <i>August 20, 2009</i> | Candle lit by friend, Mattie Rhodes |
| Roger Peace Harris | <i>August 21, 2009</i> | Candle lit by brother, George Harris |
| Scott William Cronic | <i>September 9, 2009</i> | Candle lit by wife, Inez Cronic |
| Orlan Bernard Stempsey | <i>September 15, 2009</i> | Candle lit by wife, Evelyn Stempsey |
| Martha Brookshire | <i>October 16, 2009</i> | Candle lit by friend, Harriet Mays |
| Ray Whatley | <i>October 19, 2009</i> | Candle lit by wife, Verda Whatley and daughter, Kay Brown |