

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

FOR WORSHIP

This morning we celebrate All Saints' Sunday as we remember our fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ across the world and throughout the ages. Today's scripture readings center on a theme of faithfulness. In the book of Ruth, Ruth chooses to stay at her mother-in-law's side – an unselfish risk grounded in deep love and loyalty, since the fate of two widowed women in the ancient Near East would have been precarious at best.

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

We are glad to have you join us for worship. If you are new to First, it is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God while you are here. At First, it is our hope that all who enter find a home.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Who Are These Like Stars Appearing
Variations on "Sine Nomine"
Janice Robison, organist

Robert Powell
Richard Proulx

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

L: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

P: there is no end to God's greatness.

L: One generation shall praise your works to another

P: and shall declare your power.

L: All your works praise you, Lord,

P: and your faithful servants give thanks.

L: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:

P: let all creation honor God's holy name forever!

*HYMN 483

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

**1 Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!**

**2 What God's almighty power has made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might,
lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!**

**3 The Lord is never far away,
but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!**

**4 Thus all my toilsome way along
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;
both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!**

In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

We express gratitude that through of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.

Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. We invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

The sermon is a reflection on the day's scriptures, suggesting implications for our faith and life.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. Forgive us for those times when our lives have not fully witnessed to the faith we hold. You have commanded us to speak, but we have often been silent. You have called us to do what is just, but we have often been fearful. Have mercy on us. Encourage and inspire us to be better witnesses for all those who will follow after us. We pray all of this in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri – 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Barbara Martin

ANTHEM

For All the Saints

Sine Nomine/Ralph Vaughan Williams/arr. Mark Hayes

Lauren Battin, mezzo-soprano solo

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!

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day; the saints triumphant rise in bright array!

The King of Glory passes on His way: Alleluia, Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist

God, our refuge and strength, as we grow in your word, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 146: 1-10 (page 222 in pew Bible)

Liturgist

Ruth 1: 1-18 (page 47 in pew Bible)

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The choice to Love

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

*HYMN 526

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

Vs. 1-3

**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!

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

Choral Response #585: *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*

THE OFFERING/OFFERTORY

For All the Saints

Raymond Haan

Janice Robison, organist

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Liturgist

Gracious God, every good and perfect gift comes from you. In thanksgiving for all your blessings, we open our hands to give back to you. Receive these gifts as an expression of our love, and as a dedication of the greater gift of our lives to your service. Amen.

LITANY FOR ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

L: God of the ages, we praise you for all your servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with you. For all the saints who have gone before us,

P: we give you thanks, O God, for our ancestors in the faith.

L: For all the saints who have been beloved to us,

P: we give you thanks for our loved ones who have entered your Church Triumphant.

L: For all the saints who have left us too soon,

P: O God, we mourn their death, and they remain in our hearts.

L: For all the saints who are still shining lights in this world,

P: may we learn from their ways and follow you.

L: For those we have known and loved, who by their faithful obedience and steadfast hope have shown the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and especially for those members of First Presbyterian Church who have, since last All Saints' Day, finished their race and are now at rest with you . . . we give you thanks, O God, and for these your servants,

P: we praise you. Keep us grateful for their witness and, like them, eager to follow in the way of Christ. Then at the last, bring us with them to share in the inheritance of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

*HYMN 526

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

Vs. 4, 6

**4 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!**

**6 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!**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

On behalf of the congregation, the Pastor expresses the corporate prayers of the congregation. These prayers are for world, local and personal concerns.

Weekly Worship
Service can be seen

live on Sunday

Morning

FPC's worship services can be found on YouTube channel here:

<https://>

[www.youtube.com/
user/athensfpc/
search?query=sermon](https://www.youtube.com/user/athensfpc/search?query=sermon)

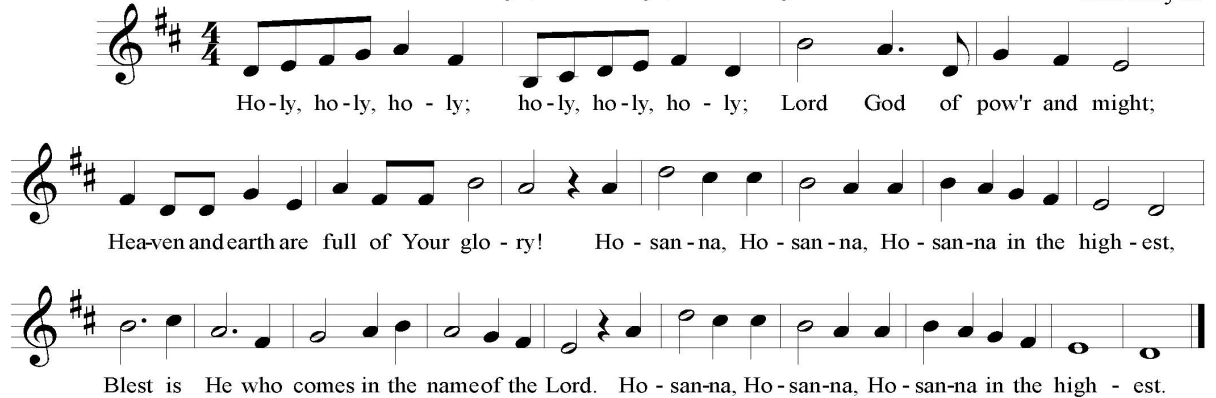
You can access them on the FPC YouTube channel and on the church web site under Worship Archive.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God..... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Tim Keyes



The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Words of Institution

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (In Unison)

Holy Spirit, you have filled us with your life. Christ our Savior, you have embraced us in your love. God our parent, you have fed us with your grace. Now send us out into your beloved world to share your life, your love, your grace with all. Amen.

*HYMN 508

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM

**1 For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.**

**2 By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.**

**3 With the saints who now adore you
seated at the heavenly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.**

**4 In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Choral Response #586: *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*

POSTLUDE

The Trumpets of Heaven
Janice Robison, organist

David Paxton

Minister: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin	Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart
CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease	Administrative Assistant: Debbie Perry
Organist: Janice Robison	Bell Choir Director: Anna Crum
	Choir Director: Dr. David Tadlock

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