



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 1, 2020

All Saints Day

Prelude

Elegy

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

**\*Greeting and Passing of the Peace**

*"The Peace of God be with you."*

*In Unison:* **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

*\* Let us rise in body or spirit.*

**Call to Worship**

Judy Bouma, liturgist

O Holy One, you have created us and placed us in community  
**Complicated, fallible, searching.**

Open your words of life for us today as we gather to hear your Gospel  
and sing your praises.

**Show us the way to justice and peace that we may follow you joyfully into the future you  
hope for our world.**

Let us gather, Friends, with the Saints in Light.

**Who live to praise and glorify the One who brings us comfort.**

**\*Processional Hymn**

For All the Saints

ALL SAINTS DAY

299

For All the Saints

Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the  
 2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might: you, Christ, the  
 3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold, live as the  
 4 Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine, we feebly  
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the

world their steadfast faith confessed, your name, O Je - sus,  
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you  
 saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a  
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet in your love our  
 ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.  
 were their one true light.  
 glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 faith - ful lives en - twine.  
 gain, and faith grows strong.

*This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the melody Sine Nomine in*

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.  
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

## **\*Invocation**

Sovereign of Creation, all that we have comes from you. We gather in your presence, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses--people from every tribe and nation, every kindred and tongue--to lift our voices in praise, to be transformed into your saints, to be sent out to gather others to share the eternal banquet. Glory to you O God; your Spirit unites us as one, today and ever more. Amen.

## **\*Gloria**

*Black Hymnal, No. 759*

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

## **Conversation with the Children**

### **Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 5:1-12

For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God within us,  
For the Word of God among us,  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

Blessed Saints

Rev. Katie Miller

## **Musical Interlude**

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

For the times when we have let complacency about our own circumstances take the place of advocacy for a just world for all, Lord, have mercy. For the times when we have let the appearance of faithfulness stand in for truly faithful effort, Christ, have mercy. For the times when we have created burdens of injustice and inequality for others to bear, Lord, have mercy.

### **\* Assurance of Forgiveness**

In Jesus Christ, our Messiah and teacher, we are forgiven and sent out to the world to model justice for all and joy in the reign of God.

## **Neighbors in Need Focus**

Pat Lange

## Offertory

We Gather at Your Table

Claire, Lyn, and Stephen Bouma

### \*Hymn of Dedication

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!**

### \*Offertory Prayer

**Living God, we are your people, we carry your presence. Use us and our gifts to accomplish your mission in the world. Multiply our effort to meet every need. This we pray in the name of Christ, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, reign in our hearts and lives, one God now and forever. Amen.**

## Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most high.

**It is indeed right to give our thanks and praise to you, the God of our mothers and fathers and our children to all generations. We thank you for the faithful lives of saints in all centuries. We thank you for the witness of those who died in your service. We gather around this holy table at your invitation and in communion with generations past and generations yet unborn.**

**In Remembrance**

*see insert*

This is the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

In the presence of this cloud of witnesses, we join in praising you:

*Holy, holy, holy...*

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert; adapt. by Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

1. power and might. 2. might.

Heav - en and earth are full,  
Bless - ed is he who comes

full in the of name of your glo - ry. Ho -  
in the name of the Lord.

san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na in the high - est.

**Words of Institution and Invitation to the Table**

**The Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Recessional Hymn**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

## Unison

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, . . . . faith-ful their whole lives  
 2 They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov-ing that made them  
 3 They lived not on-ly in a - ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou-sand

through, who brave-ly la-bored, lived, and died for the God they  
 strong. They did what was right, for Je-sus' sake, lived just-ly their  
 still. The world is filled with liv-ing saints who choose to

loved and knew. And one was a doc-tor, and one was a queen, and ar  
 whole lives long. And one was a proph-et, and one was a priest, and ar  
 do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a

oth-er a shep-herd in pas-tures green: they were saints of God, if yo  
 oth-er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is no earth-ly rea-son,  
 church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like

know what I mean. God, help me to be one, too.  
 none in the least, why I should-n't be one, too.  
 you and like me, and I mean to be one, too.

## **\*Benediction**

### **Benediction Response**

*Bouma*

May you hear laughter in the wind. May you see hope in the light.  
May you find courage in your faith. May you know joy in your God.

### **Postlude**

Sine Nomine

*Bouma*

#### **Open & Affirming Statement**

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand,  
and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and employment,  
all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-given characteristic.



“For all the saints  
who from their  
labors rest ... “

Frances Cassiday

George Loomis III

Joan Eddy

Greta Jones

Becky Aschinger

Vida Crosby

Linda Livingston

Bill Bahnke

Jan Nurnberger

Audrey Malena

Curt Ralston

Joyce Mullins

Don Riggimbach

**Announcements**  
**November 1, 2020**

**Prayers:** *Bud Cassiday*, continuing to recover at Madonna; *Cheryl Novak Heller*, now at home.

**Chancel flowers and decorations:** sponsored this month by *Steve & Susan Dolezal*, the *Wiseman-Gustafson family*, and *Elizabeth Wearin*.

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *Rick Brenneman*, *Val Himes*, and *Tom Solberg*.

**Food Pantry:** Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be mailed to First Central with "pantry" in the memo line. Frozen meats are now being accepted (and are needed).

**FirstYouth:** 8 p.m., Zoom.

**Activities for the Coming Week, November 2-November 7**

*Lectionary Readings: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13.*

**Monday:** Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom

Vespers, 6 p.m. on FaceBook Live

**Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Adult Education, 10 a.m., Zoom

**Sunday, November 8**

**Worship:** 10:30 a.m. on YouTube, or in-person.

**FirstYouth:** 8 p.m., Zoom

*Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.*





**UNLEASHING POTENTIAL (formerly Neighborhood Houses)  
OF ST. LOUIS, MO**

***“Unleash[ing] the magnificent potential in children, families and neighborhoods that leads to a just community for all.”***

**D**enise Carter, early childhood education director, was well aware of a rather large need within the population served by Neighborhood Houses. Many of the families are low wage earners, 75% of them earn less than \$20,000 annually. Truthfully, some simply struggle to provide many of basic needs for their children.

To that end, she designed a program to meet the health and development needs of infant and toddlers. Thus, the “Baby Essentials” program was birthed. The main goal was to provide diapers and formula for all of the children enrolled at the early childhood education center for families who could not afford a consistent supply.



Denise met with interim director of development, Christine Krueger, and shared her desire and need for funding. Christine went in search of those sources. She applied wherever she felt the need of the program matched the granters requirements. Fortunately she filled out an application for a NIN direct service grant and was awarded \$3,000 in 2019.

In 2020, it was reported back to us that 100% of babies ages six weeks to 12 months received milk they needed while attending the Center. 50% of those babies also received one canister of formula per month for home consumption. Lastly, 100% of babies/toddlers ages six weeks to three years had diapers needed for Center and home use.

According to Christine, “thanks to the Neighbors in Need grant, our babies are dry and their tummies are full, and parents, who are already stressed financially, socially, and emotionally, have two less potential health issues with which to contend!”

Because of your generosity, direct service programs like that of Neighborhood Houses are grant funded, communities are strengthened, and neighbors experience love without judgment.

***all children have the right to simply be children...***

**Please join us in supporting the 2020 Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering. Thank you!**

