

Trinity-Grace United Church  
October 29th, 2023  
22nd Sunday after Pentecost  
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

---

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CANDLE LIGHTING

**INTROIT:** "Shall We Gather at the River" (VU 710)

Verses: soloist

**Refrain: All**

- 1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod;  
with its crystal tide for ever  
flowing by the throne of God?

***Refrain:***

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.**

- 2 Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we every burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown.

**Refrain:**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**(One/All)**

In every fragment of time, O God,  
**You work your acts of grace.**

In every grain of earth, O Christ,  
**You bring your grace to life.**

In every breath of every living thing, O Spirit,  
**You whisper your grace to our souls.**

In this time of worship,  
open our eyes, open our ears, and open our hearts...  
**Open the senses of all people to your ever-present grace;**

That those who are disillusioned may hope again,  
**That those who are frightened may trust again,**

That those who despair may rejoice again,  
**That those who grieve and are lost may love again.**

That all creation may be filled again with wonder  
at your gracious glory.

**Amen.**

**HYMN:** "Maker in Whom We Live" (VU 321, adapted)

- 1     Maker, in whom we live,  
      in whom we are and move,  
          the glory, power, and praise receive  
          for your creating love.  
Let all the angel throng  
give thanks to God on high,  
      while earth repeats the joyful song  
      and echoes to the sky.
  
- 2     Incarnate Deity,  
      let us our voices raise  
          render in thanks our lives to you  
          for your redeeming grace.  
The love which conquers all,  
you heavenly choirs proclaim,  
      and cry, 'Hosanna to our God,  
      and bless God's holy name!'
  
- 3     Spirit of Holiness,  
      let all your saints adore  
          your sacred energy, and bless  
          your heart-renewing power.  
No angel tongues can tell  
your glory may we see,  
      the glorious joy unspeakable,  
      your holy mystery.
  
- 4     Eternal, Triune God,  
      let all the hosts above,  
          let all on earth below record  
          and dwell upon your love.  
In fullness of all time,  
as we behold your face,  
      may all the saints your love has made  
      sing everlasting praise.

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

(One/All)

We are here today, God - and yet not fully here.  
Part of us remains focused on things that have happened this week  
or are yet to be done; on cares and concerns and issues unresolved.  
**Bring us fully into this time together, and with you.**

Forgive us when we forget you,  
speaking and acting as if you are not always here.  
**Forgive us when we fail to see you in our neighbour,  
to care for you in creation,  
to recognize your spirit in our own being.**

You are the one who does not forget;  
you are the one who remembers us with love and grace.  
**Close the door on our fear and open our lives to welcome and renewal.**

*(Silence is held)*

## A WORD OF GRACE

Even in the deep and shadowed places, we are not alone.  
In the hard times - when we come with all of our needs,  
and all of our anxieties,  
our deepest regrets along with our highest hopes -  
we are met by love; we are nurtured and made whole.  
God is with us in this journey.  
The Spirit rejoices with us along the way.  
Thanks be to God.

## SHARING PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all!

**All: And also with you!**

*We take a moment to greet each other and share a sign of peace*

## ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

(One)

Holy One, you have blessed your people with wisdom over the ages.

We seek your wisdom today.

Send your Holy Spirit now, to give us understanding through your Word read and proclaimed this day.

Amen.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### **1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake.

<sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers. <sup>8</sup>

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known.

### **Matthew 5: 1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

One: For the living word of God in scripture,  
and among us, and within us:

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN:** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (VU 806)

1 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:

2 under the shadow of thy throne

thy saints have dwelt secure,  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.

## EXPLORING THE WORD

with Rev. Sandra Nixon

## RESPONDING

## HONOURING OUR SAINTS

Time of Remembering

## LITANY FOR THE SAINTS

(One/All)

For all the saints we remember who have gone before us -  
those from Trinity & Grace and Trinity-Grace,  
and for all those whose memory resides in our hearts;  
for the ways they showed us the image of God, and honoured that image in  
others;

**We praise you, O God.**

For all the everyday saints who live and walk beside us, whose weaknesses and strengths are interwoven with our own, and with whom we become collaborators for justice and peace through the spirit;

**We praise you, O God.**

For all the saints who live beyond us;  
who challenge and inspire us to love what You love, and to shine our own sacred light, and change the world accordingly,

**We praise you, O God.**

For all the saints departed; known and unknown, whose lives embodied hope for your reign of love, justice and peace - that in Your mercy they have found their rest in You

**We praise you, loving God.**

**HYMN:** "For All the Saints Who've Shown Your Love"

(John Bell)

*During the hymn, the offering box is brought forward*

1. For all the saints who've shown your love,  
in how they live and where they move,  
for those who dared to heal and mend,  
accept our gratitude again.
2. For all the saints who loved your name,  
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,  
who sang your songs and shared your word,  
accept our gratitude, good Lord.
3. For all the saints who named your will,  
and showed the kin-dom coming still,  
through selfless protest, prayer and praise,  
accept the gratitude we raise.
4. Bless all whose will or name or love



reflects the grace of heav'n above.  
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,  
Your live through theirs has hallowed ours.

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*Trinity-Grace is grateful for the many ways  
we are gifted and called to contribute to God's mission  
through this faith community.*

## Prayer of Dedication

**(All)**

**Loving Creator,**

**Accept all we offer this day:**

**our gifts, our time and our treasure -**

**that our offerings may contribute**

**to Christ's healing and reconciling work**

**through our ministry together in this congregation.**

**Amen.**

## CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY

We share announcements, insights, joys & concerns.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Prayers of gratitude and of concern for our community, world and those we know.*

## THE PRAYER OF THE DISCIPLES (The Lord's Prayer)

**(All)**

**O Breathing Life,**

**Your Name shines everywhere!**

**Release a space to plant your Presence here.**

**Imagine your possibilities now.**

**Embody your desire in every light and form.**

**Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.  
Untie the knots of failure binding us,  
as we release the strands we hold  
of others' faults.**

**Help us not forget our Source,  
yet free us from not being in the Present.  
From you arises every Vision, Power and Song  
From gathering to gathering.  
Amen.**

*- Retranslation from the Aramaic*

**HYMN:** "Give Thanks For Life" (VU 706)

- 1 Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,  
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,  
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 Give thanks for those who made their life a light  
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,  
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 3 And for our own, our living and our dead,  
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,  
a love not changed by time or death or dread,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 4 Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain  
lying in darkness does its life retain  
in resurrection to grow green again,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

*The Christ candle is extinguished.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

O God, we give thanks indeed -  
that in life, in death and in the life that is beyond death,  
you are with us.

God of all souls and saints,  
as we affirm your image in those we remember today,  
renew and reveal your image in us,  
through Christ, our light and our life.  
Amen.

## SENDING & BLESSING

(Leader)

Walk in the presence of God this week,  
Expecting to find, and to be called to participate in,  
the spirit at work among us.

And may God bless you and keep you;  
May Christ walk with you,  
And may the spirit lift you on her wings  
and bring you joy and peace.

*As our worship concludes, our prayers rise as we sing:*

**AMEN:** "Sing Amen" (VU 431)

*Sing 2 times*

Amen, we praise your name, O God  
Amen, we praise your name, O God  
Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen!  
Amen, we praise your name, O God!

## POSTLUDE