



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP @ HOME

www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome

All Saints Sunday
November 7, 2021

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God

We are Called to Worship – Through stories of faith and acts of grace, we are reminded that God is always here. By God’s presence we are guided. Through God’s word, we are instructed. With God’s Spirit, we are formed. Come, let us lift our voices in praise, and offer our lives in service to God.~

Choir

Joyful, Joyful

We Hear God’s Word

John 11:32-44 (NRSV)

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ ³⁷But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice,

‘Lazarus, come out!’ ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

Revelation 21:1-6a (NRSV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ ⁶Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Meditation

Oh, What a Foretaste

All Saints Day Celebration—We remember the saints of our congregation who have passed away this last year. You, too, are invited to name aloud and remember those you have loved and lost.

We Remember...

Joan Schiller

June 21, 1937—September 16, 2021

Carolyn Van Dyke

October 25, 1930—October 20, 2021

Over 16,000 Hoosiers lost to COVID-19

Over 750,000 Americans lost to COVID-19

Over 5 million world-wide lost to COVID-19

A Time of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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.

We Gather at the Table



Set Your Place at the Table—Communion was first celebrated in the homes of those in the early church. Friends and family would gather together to pray, singing songs, and break bread. We carry on that tradition today. Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So, gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

Our Invitation— The invitation is simple: come and eat of the feast. Not a meal to nourish the body, but to feed the soul. We receive the bread and wine connected to the ages: to the saint of old who felt unworthy, to the seeker eager to know God, to the teenager who wonders what it's all about, to the child who eats with unburdened faith. Woven into this time, the hopes and tears of generations. There is great joy here. No one is turned away for God is the host!+

The Words of Institution—On the night when Jesus was to be betrayed, he gathered with his friends in that upper room to celebrate the Passover meal, a meal of remembrance of the liberation of God's people from slavery in Egypt, a journey that would lead them deep into the wilderness. After the meal was over, Jesus took the bread that was left, broke it, blessed it, and said, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you." In the same way, he took the cup, the fruit of the vine, and pouring it out he said, "This is the cup of the new covenant, my blood shed for you and the forgiveness of sins. As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, remember me." Today, we remember Christ's body broken for us and blood shed for us as bread is transformed into mercy and wine into compassion. As we prepare to receive this holy meal, let us ready our hearts by confessing our sins to God. Let us pray.

Our Confession—God, we praise you for your merciful and unfailing compassion, known throughout the ages, but too often we lose sight of your goodness and your grace. We think that we can do this all on our own, and we forget that we can turn to you in all things. For give us for our shortsightedness. Help us to learn from the saints of yesterday and today, your faithful disciples, who found their hope in you. Restore our vision, reconcile us to you and one another, and remind us of your resurrection promise. Amen.

Assurance of Grace—Our God weeps with us and laughs with us in joy. Unfailing in mercy and grace, God is with us in our brokenness and in our restoration. In the God of Jesus Christ we find our hope and our salvation. Know this day the healing mercy of our God. Know that you are forgiven.

Blessing Our Meal—Tender, transforming God, you have invited us to gather at this table, to taste the feast, the same abundant promises offered to our ancestors in faith. Time and time again you've offered your grace, even as we have stepped away, you continue to call us to be your people. You have never left us. We praise you for second, third, and fourth chances. You are ever-patient, always faithful. We give thanks for this time of celebration. For the One this meal remembers. For the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. With those who have gone before us, whose hands touched the bread, whose lips embraced the cup, we worship you. We glorify you. Bless, now, this bread and this cup as we gather around the table with you and the communion of saints. Amen.+

We Share the Bread and the Cup – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.” Take and drink.

We Give Thanks—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.+

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—For generations, faithful followers have given of their time and talent for the work of Christ. We carry on that work this day, as we bring our gifts to God, supporting this ministry to which each of us has been called.

November Benevolence— Our Church's Wider Mission is the main offering that goes to support the ministry of the United Church of Christ, both at our local conference level and for the whole denomination. Your generous gifts to this ministry enable to the UCC to love and serve like Jesus (Indiana-Kentucky Conference Mission) and to create a just world for all (UCC Vision).

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at www.zionuccindy.net/donate

Doxology

We Give Thanks—God, by the creative power of your Holy Spirit, we pray that you bless these gifts we bring to you this day.

Hymn

Blessed Assurance, #426

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing—As you go forth into the world, know that you do not go alone, but you go with the communion of saints and our good and faithful God. Be strengthened by the hope you know in Jesus Christ, as you go out to serve and enrich the world around you. Amen.

Postlude

For All the Saints