



*All Saints Day Celebration*

**Prelude**

*Pavane*

**Gathering**—Bless the Lord at all times. Praise God’s holy name. Magnify the Lord with hearts full of devotion. Sing of God’s glory with tongues full of song. Seek the Lord of love. We will worship the living God.~

**Gathering Song**

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying, (3x), 489*

**A Time of Prayer**—God of mercy and grace, shower us with your loving kindness. Fashion us into the saints you call us to be. Love us abundantly, that others may see your kindness and joy reflected in our lives. Bless us with your abiding presence, that we may shine as saints of your holy love.~

**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.

**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...*

Shirley Joyce McLaughlin	October 3, 1935—November 2, 2022
Rex Whitaker	October 5, 1953—January 17, 2023
Janet Schildmeier	October 11, 1947—March 28, 2023
Delbert Schiller	June 15, 1941—July 21, 2023
Ray Schiller	October 1, 1935—August 24, 2023

**An All Saints Day Prayer**— Bless the many parted souls who lived their lives with grace. Bless the saints in heaven, gathered in that special place. May we tell their stories and remember all the ways they lived their faith and

spent their days. There is glory and reward, even if at first there's strife. Oh, blessed saints, you help us see a path that's to eternal life. May we always hold them dear and know their life and place. May we know their inspiration and aspire to their grace. Amen.\*

**We Hear God's Word**—*Matthew 5:1-12 (CEB)*

*Greg Miller*

5When 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:

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

4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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

7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

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

11 '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.

**Meditation**

*A Bridge of Care*

**Hymn**

*For All the Saints, 529*

**We Gather at the Table**

**Set Your Place at the Table**—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**—As we gather at the table today, we do not gather alone. We gather with our church family—here in this sacred place and with those worshipping with us online and at home. We gather with the saints who have

gone before, whose love and care surrounds. We gather with Christ among us. So, come to the table all who are in need of tender care, mercy, and grace.

**A Prayer for Transformation**—We yearn to be counted among the saints of old, but the journey is long and difficult. We long to love others as we should, even when they revile and hate us. We seek to forgive those who wrong us, even when it means swallowing our pride. We strive for the openness of spirit to pray for those who persecute us, even when we want to hold onto our wounds. Guide us on this journey of discipleship, that we may grow as your children and live as saints of your love. Amen.~

**Assurance of Grace**— Beloved children of God, even when we fail, God’s love never fails. What we will be has not yet been revealed, but we know that we will be like Christ one day. Until that day, trust that we are surrounded by the love and tender mercies of our God.~

**The Words of Institution**— On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, we remember...we offer ourselves...we proclaim God’s love...

**Blessing Our Meal**—God, you have chosen to dwell among us, promising us the gift of your presence and your unconditional love. Meet us now at the table. Through this bread and this cup may we taste and see the goodness of your grace. 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**—Our mission here at Zion United Church of Christ is to serve and enrich our community. This gifts you bring this day allow us to build bridges of cares to our neighbors and a world in need. With joyful thanksgiving, let us return to God an abundant portion of what we have received that God might continue to faithfully work through this ministry.

**November Benevolence**—Our Church's Wider Mission

### **Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**—Gracious one, you offer us the bread of life and the living water of Christ. We come before you to offer our hearts and the riches we have received from your hand. Bless these gifts, that they may bring the Spirit's comfort to those whose eyes are wet with tears. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.~

### **Hymn**

*Faith of Our Fathers, 530*

**Benediction**—Blessed are you, beloved children of God. [Let us] walk in the love given to us. Be a blessing to all God's children. [Let us] serve others with the grace we have received. Walk in the footsteps of the saints of old. [Let us] step gently upon the earth and leave puddles of light for others to follow.~

### **Postlude**

*Postlude*