Welcome

Announcements

Prelude  “Fughetta on ‘A Mighty Fortress Is Our God’”  J. Pachelbel

Call to Worship

One: A thousand days are but a moment to God;
Many: All flesh is grass, and withers away.
One: Still we treasure our days with those whom we love,
Many: And reluctantly give them back to God.
One: On this day, we thank God for the saints in our lives.
Many: Let us worship God.

Hymn  NCH 298 “O Savior, for the Saints”

Confession

On this Halloween, we prepare to honor the saints who have gone before,
first, we get honest about the skeletons in our closet,
about how monstrous we can be
and what's spookiest about us
and what we most fear,
about our masks and false personas
and our secret aspirations,
about how we trick each other
and parade about stuffing ourselves with junk.
We get honest about it, and also laugh about it.
We laugh at ourselves, and also laugh at our evil.
Then, having lightened ourselves of the burden of our righteousness,
we can move on freely without guilt or pretense to be the saints we actually are.
God in your wisdom, hear our prayer...

Assurance of God’s Love

To be a saint is to be sanctified; set apart for a sacred purpose. That would be you.
Every breath of your life is for a sacred purpose: to shed light, to radiate God’s love.
You don’t have to be influential, or pious, virtuous or pure.
You only have to be yourself. The You of you is what God has made holy.
You are God’s Beloved. All you have to do is act like it.
Everything you do today is an opportunity to embody God’s love,
not by your effort or skill, but by the love you embody.
The light of God is in you. Be transparent to it. Amen.
Passing the Peace
The peace of Christ is with you all!
And also with you.

Response
“Lord, Prepare Me To Be a Sanctuary”
Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with thanksgiving I’ll be a living sanctuary for You. (repeat)

Reading
John 11: 17 - 44 (NIV)

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb.

It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” Jesus said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “God, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

For the word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.
Goodbyes

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Honoring the Saints

We conclude with the Lord’s Prayer from The New Zealand Prayer Book:
Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Give

- Text the amount of your donation, with one keyword, to 919-888-4541
  - General – give to CUCC’s general fund
  - Pledge – give toward your pledge
  - CROP – give to CROP Walk

- You can give online at our website www.communityucc.org by simply clicking on Donate.
- Or you can always mail a check to our physical address: 814 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607

Offertory “Dance of the Spirits”  W. Gluck, Adapt. to a minor/seasonal mode by D Barrick

Offering Response  “Doxology” (Old Hundredth)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that Love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

Dedication of the Offering

We walk by faith, we live by faith, we give by faith. God of great gifts, you have given us so much,
accept these gifts from our hands, our faithful response to your abundant grace. Amen.

Hymn  NCH 299 “For All the Saints”

Benediction

Saints of God, go with the Spirit to love and serve. Amen.

Postlude  “Lord of the Living”  Paris Antiphoner, 1681
Visit www.communityucc.org to explore ways to connect with our church.
CUCC is here to support you throughout the week.
While our physical office is closed, our virtual office is open.
Please email office.cucc@gmail.com to reach our office.
Please email lacey.cucc@gmail.com for pastoral care needs.

We thank all of those who created parts of today's liturgy.
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all
Hymn

NCH 298 “O Savior, for the Saints”

Richard Mant, 1837; alt.

1 O Savior, for the saints who strove in you to live,
2 O Savior, for the saints who strove in you to die,
3 They all in life and death, with you, O Christ, in view,
4 For this, your name we bless and humbly pray anew

Who followed you without complaint, our grateful hymn receive.
Who loved and served without restraint, accept our thankful cry.
Learned from the Holy Spirit’s breath to suffer and to do.
That we, like them, in holiness may live and die in you.

This was one of several original hymns appended to Richard Mant’s book of translations of Latin hymns from the Roman Breviary. A priest of the Church of England, Mant was for many years a bishop in Ireland.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872
Hymn
NCH 299 “For All the Saints”

Heb. 12:1

1 For all the saints, who from their labors rest, and theirs might, who to the world their
2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might, you Christ, the hope that
3 Still may your people, faith-ful, true, and bold, live as the saints who
4 Ringed by this cloud of wit-ness-es di-vine, we fee-bly
5 And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long, steals on the

world their stead-fast faith con-fessed, your name, O Jesus, hope that put their fears to flight; ’mid gloom and doubt, you
saints who nob-ly fought of old, and share with them a struggle, 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. glorious crown of faith-ful lives en-twine. faith grows strong.
gain, and faith grows strong.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!