

BEACHBURG PASTORAL CHARGE
United Church of Canada
November 1st, 2020
Trinity ~ 9:30 am; St. Andrew's ~ 11:00 am
All Saints Day

Minister: Rev. Kevin Moratz

Ministers: The People of the Congregation

Organist: Heather Campbell

Pianists: Barry Stephen, Murray Gutz

Our Shared Mission Statement

The congregations of St. Andrew's & Trinity United Churches celebrate and share God's accepting love known to us through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit calls us to discern God's Word as we reach out with concern and compassion to others, seeking justice, healing and hope for the world.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Our Christian tradition teaches that there is mystery and wonder in our relationship with God; a mystery and wonder that is expressed as we relate to God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. So we light this Christ candle naming Jesus as a life-giving, gracious presence within our relationship with the Creator and the Spirit.

Introit – This Is The Day (please no singing but please feel free to stand)

This is the day (this is the day); that our Lord has made;

We will rejoice (we will rejoice), and be glad in it;

This is the day that the Lord has made,

we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day; this is the day, that our Lord has made.

Welcome and Announcements

Call To Worship

Today we are here to honour all the saints who have lived before us, who live with us, and who will live after us.

Long live the saints!

To the saints of our tradition: Paul, Mary, Peter, Martha, Mark, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, Andrew, Simon, Jude, Dorcas, Lydia, Priscilla, and many more, we are blessed because of you.

Long live the saints!

To the present-day saints that live among us each and every day.

Long live the saints!

Thanks be for God's call that makes each of us saints in our own way.

Long live the saints!

Opening Song – When The Saints Go Marching In

OH WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN, OH WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN, OH LORD, I WANT TO BE IN THAT NUMBER, WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN.

- AND WHEN THE NEW WORLD IS REVEALED....
- AND WHEN THE SUN BEGINS TO SHINE....
- AND WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN....

Gathering Prayer

Transforming God, we praise you that you can take ordinary people like me, (say your own name), and call us into the Way of Jesus and name us saints, even though we are not perfect. We thank you that you are not finished with us yet. We thank you for the example of Jesus the Christ, whose story in the Bible shows us how to follow you. Be with us in this time of worship, as we give thanks for the lives of the saints of yesterday and today. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Minute For Mission

Ministry of Music

Prayer of Confession

Too often we hide, O Christ, when others ask how we're doing.

"Fine," we reply, but we're not.

There is a brokenness we experience that we fear to reveal, for we worry it makes us less, somehow weaker, frail, diminished. In the intimacy of prayer, in the Spirit's embrace, we confess our brokenness. (*a time of silent prayer*) Words of Assurance

We have a loving God who surrounds us with care and with compassion. We can answer God truthfully when God asks, "How are you doing?" God's Spirit breathes on us the assurance, the hope, the faith, the strength we need. Thanks be to God!

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Revelations 7:9-17 The Multitude from Every Nation

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love^[e] toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the

Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.²⁰ God[¶] put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Meditation – All Saints

Well if there was ever a perfect evening to celebrate Halloween it would have been last night. Not only did All hallows eve fall on a Saturday night it was also a full moon. And although I did notice a number of places fully decked out with black cats and stuffed zombies waiting for the little goblins to arrive, it definitely seemed that Halloween was more subdued this year with all the covid restrictions in place.

Of course I'm thinking that the fundamentalists were ok with this, because they think Halloween is like devil worship. I have wondered if, not celebrating Halloween is a sub-conscious holding at bay of a deep inner fear of something. Like the guy said, "Now that my bed is king-size, there is a lot more room under it for things to scare me at night."

A saner, more rational approach sees Halloween for what it is – hallowed evening. The eve of All Saints Day. And of course All Saints Day is what we celebrate today. Now I know that there are

some church traditions that put much more emphasis on the Saints than we do in the United Church.

But we too believe in the communion of saints. Someone said that “worship is always done in the presence of the saints and angels”.

I read recently that the Feast of All Saints comes to us from Ireland.

Deeply informed by the Celtic ground which nurtured them, the Irish Christians wove into the Church year the celebration of All Saints as the Christian articulation of the ancient Celtic fall festival of Sanhain (pronounced sween).

This festival was celebrated in the fall after the harvest and at the dying of the year. It was believed that this time was when the veil between the material and the spiritual worlds was the thinnest, and conversation between the two spheres was most possible. It was for the pre-Christian Celts a time of deep learning and celebration of the presence of God in their community through the lives of their Saints. Saints were themselves a doorway through which the divine light could shine and All Saints was a day set apart to see God's light shining through the whole communion, to celebrate the unity of divine love and power that connects this life and the next. It is also a wonderful day to celebrate how all the saints, small “s” can learn from the Saints, capital “S”. (Rev. Claire Woodley)

A couple of years ago, I discovered the writings of a Canadian author, the late Timothy Findley in the book, *Inside Memory*, he writes:

I make certain every day that I never take anyone close to me for granted. No amount of time is long enough. I suppose that when it is someone you love very deeply, it would be reasonable to say that they “died young” at ninety-two. How stupid it is to try to get through life alone. Because you can’t.

The good news is that we don’t have to. All Saints reminds us that we are not alone, but are surrounded by all sorts of people in the faith, alive and dead and alive again. Paul wrote to the congregation of Ephesians:

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of glory may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

I would like to tell you a story about how the power of belief transformed a small, country church not unlike ours into a megachurch overnight. Without even trying.

The gravel parking lot around St. John’s began to fill early that morning. The shadow from the steeple cast the image of a cross on the western side of the church. Families from miles around climbed out of their cars and trucks to make their way into the sanctuary.

The pastor stood by the front door to greet folks. He asked about Aunt Susan’s broken hip, the Reynold’s new horse, and how the highschool football game had turned out the other day.

The man of God who shepherded this flock wasn't much to look at. He had a bit of a gut. And he laughed too loud, especially at his corny jokes. But they loved the man. He had baptized their children, buried their grandparents, and even preached a decent sermon on occasion.

By the time worship was ready to begin, it still hadn't happened—that shocking influx of worshipers I spoke of. In fact, things looked as ordinary as ordinary could be.

The Kirkpatricks, with their five children, squeezed into the next-to-last pew. The spinster organist, Ms. Schultz, played softly and hit, well, almost every note. Hymnals were opened to the page where the service would soon begin.

At 10:30 sharp, Pastor Baker walked up front and spoke the same words he did at the start of every Sunday service, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." And the congregation responded with a hearty, "Amen!"

Then, without any warning, it happened.

The floodgates opened. Worshipers streamed in. Before the congregation had finished saying, "Amen," this rural minichurch was transformed into the mega of megachurches.

Here's how it all went down.

Through the stained glass windows and the steeply pitched roof, seraphim swooped down from heavenly perches. Each sported six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they

covered their feet, and with two they flew. And around the sanctuary they chanted one to another, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" The foundations of St. John's quaked at the sound of their voices. The whole church swam with the smoke of incense.

But that was only the beginning.

Cherubim winged their way down from the heavenly city. Not the cute, chubby Precious Moments' angels, but manly warriors who stationed themselves like sentinels around the sanctuary. They belted out the words to the hymns, added their Amens to the divine words read and preached that day.

But the angels were not alone. With them came saints innumerable. Men and women who had fought the good fight, finished the race, and gone on to glory. But here they were, back at St. John's on this Lord's day. They added their voices to the earthly choir of farmers and ranchers and coaches and teachers who still trod the pathway toward the heavenly Jerusalem.

The pews were packed. Standing room only in the aisles. Some perched on the rafters and peered down with serene gazes upon the altar. There, wonder of wonders, was a throne. And on that throne stood a Lamb, slain yet alive, sacrificed but resurrected. Every face of every worshiper, angelic and human, earthly and heavenly, was fixated upon his face.

There they looked upon the countenance of the merciful Almighty.

With angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, the people of St. John's lauded and glorified the name of that Lamb, their Lord Jesus, that day.

Sacred songs shook the building as the choirs wed their voices. The Lord's Supper was a reunion meal. The folks on earth and the saints in heaven dined on the feast of feasts and the drink that slakes the deepest thirst.

It was a day to remember. A day to repeat.

The following Sunday it would happen again. And then again. This tiny rural church would bulge at the seams with worshipers from realms seen and unseen, all mixed together in the adoration of the Lamb whose kingdom is without end.

That's how a small, country congregation became a megachurch overnight. Without even trying. They gathered around the word of Jesus, ate his meal, sang his songs.

And Jesus showed up, every Sunday, with all of heaven along for the ride.

As you sit in your pew, in this place of prayer this morning, and with tomorrow being all hallows eve, reflect on the community of faith we call the church that gathers throughout this village, throughout this world, and beyond this world. You and I have the privilege of belonging to this

fellowship because God has called us into it, and shown us our place in the glorious inheritance of the saints. These people are with us in a very real sense, cheering us on in our Christian journey.

St. Chrysostom Archbishop of Constantinople said one time:

He whom we love and lose is no longer where he was
he is now wherever we are.

As we read the lives of the more famous saints, or think about those in our family or community who might be lesser known, we become friends with the saints. We see in their journey, their struggles, their achievements, the grace of God that can help us on our own journey. As someone said, "Christian sisters and brothers who have journeyed through Jesus story, journeyed through discovery and communion with God, will lovingly accompany us as we seek to do the same."

Not only are we surrounded by these wonderful people. We are these wonderful people - trying to live into the "st" in front of our own names. This is not easy, but it is our calling.

As Father Ed Hays points out:

This is a day to celebrate all the saints, including the unknown saints whose names are not mentioned in the Holy Hall of Fame of the Church. A day to recall that we are all called to be holy. Pray today that someday in the future this will be your feast day too.

We will never achieve that holiness by our own efforts. It is by God's grace and by God's gift. It is good to remember that October 31st, 1517, was the day that Martin Luther nailed the theses of

the Protestant Reformation to the door of the Palace Church in Wittenburg, Germany. One of his main principles was “By grace you are saved through faith.”

There is a story about a man who was trying to learn how to shoot birds. I hesitate to use it on this particular Sunday so close to hunting season. This guy was so bad that not only could he not hit a bird in flight, he couldn’t hit one on the ground. Finally his hunting buddy told him to practice shooting at pieces of blank cardboard. When you have finished he said, you can just draw a bird around each hole.

In our Christian journey we aim at holiness. We aim to do what God wants us to do, to be what God wants us to be. If we do so faithfully, we can leave it to God to draw the little halo of light around our lives afterwards.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Song – Precious Memories – Slim Whitman

Dedication of Offering

Great Healer of Body and Soul, we experience freedom as we share our abundance. Receive the fullness of our offering. Increase the joy of our serving. Welcome our expressions of the good news. Set free the love of doing your work. In the name of our Sustainer, we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Oh God, we thank you for the many people throughout the ages who have followed your way of life joyfully; for the many saints and martyrs, men and women, who have offered up their very lives, so that your life abundant may manifest itself within us.

For your love and faithfulness we praise you.

Oh God, we thank you for those who chose the way of Christ. In the midst of trials, they held out hope; in the midst of hatred, they kindled love; in the midst of persecutions, they witnessed to your power; in the midst of despair, they clung to your promise.

For your love and faithfulness we praise you.

Oh God, we thank you for the truth they passed on to us: that it is by giving that we shall receive; it is by becoming weak that we shall be strong; it is by loving others that we shall be loved; it is by offering ourselves that the kingdom will unfold; it is by dying that we shall inherit life everlasting. Oh God, give us the courage to follow your way of life.

For your love and faithfulness we praise you.

Thank you for witnesses of the faith, O God; for those who have helped us hear the story of your people, for the ways the story has touched our lives.

Thank you for the evangelists who have written the gospel; for the power of their telling. Thank you for the prophets who have disturbed us; for their ability to help us examine our living.

Thank you for those people we have known who have lived out the faith; for the inspiration they have been to us. Thank you for the courageous disciples who have stood up for their beliefs. Help us also to be witnesses to the faith. Let our living be consistent with our preaching. Help us to be powerful prophets.

Let our work of justice and compassion influence our society. Help us to be disciples serving and ministering in your name. Let us convey everywhere the graciousness of your love. We pray for the Saints in our midst, for those who are unable to be with us today due to illness We pray for

For all your saints, oh God, we raise our our voice in the words you taught us to pray. Amen

Hymn: "Blessed Assurance"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. R
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. R

Commissioning and Benediction

Go from here both challenged and comforted by the Spirit.
Go from here surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses.
Go from here to praise your Maker while you have breath,
and to love your neighbour as yourself.

Postlude

November bulletins are sponsored by: Audrey Gutz & family in loving memory of Ritchie Gutz. And by: Eleanor McLaughlin in loving memory of Marvin McLaughlin and Harold & Marjorie Dougherty.

**Church Office # 613-582-7174 Kevin (cell) ~ 613 585-0132
Office Secretary Betty Black pcsecretary@nrtco.net home # 613-646-2120
CD of Sunday's Service available—contact Jean at 613-582-3597.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gifts with Vision catalogues are in. There is one at the back of each church and you can order online! [gifts with vision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca)

Although food donations are not being accepted at this time, let us continue to think of others that are less fortunate through our financial donations.

Service Times

Oct thru December Trinity ~ @ 9:30 a.m., St. Andrew's @ 11 pm.

Prayer List: Let us keep the following people in our prayers for healing at this time.

Rob Marson, Murray Anderson, Bernie Lemke, Leanne Caniff, Audrey Gutz, Lorna Stevenson, Ruby Bell, Freda Kinnear, Mervin Kinnear, Elaine Moore, Lola Byce, Bill Douma, Keith Johnson, Nora Bennett,
Please contact me if there is someone that you would like to add to our list for special prayers or you feel is in need of a pastoral care visit. I would request that you please ask the person's permission before submitting their name to be put in the bulletin. *Rev. Kevin*

Trinity

Nov 4th ~The Seekers will meet at 7:30 pm