



DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Communion of the Saints

And the rulers of the earth shall bring into it the glory and honor of the nations.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
Let us worship God.

*Hymn

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God
(Music may be found on page 9.)

GRAND ISLE

Prayer for Wholeness

God of our ancestors in faith, through the ages you called forth people – courageous, faithful, and steadfast. Forgive us when we disregard the witness of those who have gone before us. Open us to the past and to their bold love of you, that we might shine in our time as they shone in theirs. Connect us to that “great cloud of witnesses,” so that we might be strengthened in our efforts to be your faithful disciples, and to bring peace and justice to your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness *(from Psalm 34:22)*

“God redeems the life of God’s servants; none of those who take refuge in God will be condemned.”

Friends in Christ, believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Scripture

Isaiah 25:6-9

Message for All Ages

Music for Meditation

Justorum animae

William Byrd

“The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there no torment shall touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: but they are in peace.”

Scripture

Revelation 21:1-6

Sermon

The Communion of the Saints

*Hymn

Shall We Gather at the River (Verses 1 and 4)

HANSON PLACE

(Music may be found on page 10.)

Invitation to the Offering †

Offertory Music

Death Shall Not Destroy My Comfort

Arr. Mac Wilberg

American Folk Hymn

*“Death shall not destroy my comfort, Christ shall guide me thro’ the gloom;
Down he’ll send some heav’nly convoy, to escort my spirit home.*

*Ref.: Oh, hallelujah! How I love my Savior, Oh hallelujah! That I do;
Oh, hallelujah! How I love my Savior! Mourners, you may love him too.*

*Jordan’s stream shall not o’erflow me, while my Savior’s by my side;
Canaan, Canaan lies before me! Soon I’ll cross the swelling tide. (Ref.)*

*See the happy spirits waiting, on the banks beyond the stream!
Sweet responses still repeating, “Jesus! Jesus!” is their theme. (Ref.)”*

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Let songs rise up from earth below;

Let stars and galaxies enthrone;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

In this life, O God, you lead us, comfort us, guide us, and redeem us in countless ways. In death you usher us to even greater blessing, embracing us in your endless light. These gifts we bring are but a token of our thanks, seeds to be planted for the growing of your realm, in which we have a sure and certain hope, through the grace and power of Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*Hymn

For All the Saints (Verses 1 and 3)

SINE NOMINE

(Music may be found on page 11.)

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table (*responsively*)

We gather around this holy table
at the invitation of our God,
**and in communion with generations past
and generations yet unborn.**

This is Christ's table,

A banquet spread across time and space.

All are invited to this foretaste of the Age to come.

Come, for all things are now ready.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit
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 Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Music at Communion

Deep River

Negro Spiritual

Stephen Lloyd, soloist

Arr. Howard Helvey

Prayer of Blessing

Holy God,

in deep gratitude

for this moment, this meal, these people,

we give ourselves to you.

As we leave this Table for now,

ask much of us, expect much from us,

enable much by us, encourage many through us.

So may we live to your glory,

both as inhabitants of earth

and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

Litany of the Saints

(See insert)

*Hymn

For All the Saints (Verses 1 and 5)
(Music may be found on page 11.)

SINE NOMINE

*Charge and Benediction

Choral Response

Come Away to the Skies

Arr. David Cherwien
American Folk Hymn

"Come away to the skies, my beloved, arise and rejoice in the day you were born:

On this festival day, come exulting away, and with singing to Zion return.

For thy glory we were first created to share both the nature and presence divine;

Now created again, that our lives may remain throughout time and eternity thine.

We with thanks do approve the design of that love which has joined us to Jesus' name.

So united in heart, let us nevermore part, till we meet at the feast of God."

Text: Charles Wesley

Passing of the Peace

Thank you to . . .

 The Deacons for the flowers giving in loving memory
of those we lost this past year.

Carol Snook for the candle display on the communion table

Liturgist: Kim McConnell

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Anna Martin, Sipra Agrawal Kolar, Joan Sussman

Alto: Liz Jackson, Catherine LaValle, Emmalouise St. Amand

Tenor: Jason Cloen, Mark Darling, Evan McMahon

Bass: Rob Brown, Bob Cowles, John DeHority, Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd

†You may give your offering
in the offering plates near the front of the sanctuary after worship
or

by mailing a check to: 121 N. Fitzhugh St, 14614

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WELCOME to everyone who is visiting this morning!
We are happy that you are here and invite you to come again.

We seek to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our
services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as
needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the “T”
(telephone) position.

This Week at Downtown Church

<u>Sunday, November 7</u> 10:45 Nursery Care 11:00 Worship Preacher – Rev. Laurie Tiberi Liturgist – Kim McConnell <u>Wednesday, November 10</u> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<u>Sunday, November 14</u> 10:45 Nursery Care 11:00 Worship Preacher – Rev. Laurie Tiberi Liturgist – John Williams
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What's All Saints' Day?

Saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversaries of the deaths of martyrs. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, remembered and forgotten, known and unknown. It has been celebrated on or around November 1st since the ninth century.

In our Reformed tradition, the emphasis of this festival is on the ongoing sanctification of the whole people of God. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, we also give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in this and every age, especially those who have died in the past year.

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God 730



1 I sing a song of the saints of God, pa - tient and
 2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past; there are hun - dreds of



brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and
 made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for Je - sus'
 thou - sands still; the world is bright with the joy - ous



died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a
 sake, the whole of their good lives long. And one was a
 saints who love to do Je - sus' will. You can meet them in



doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep - herd - ess
 sol - dier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a
 school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in



on the green: they were all of them saints of
 fierce wild beast: and there's not an - y rea - son,
 shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just



God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.
 folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Despite the quaintness of some of the language in this text, it has an important message to communicate about the down-to-earth ordinariness of the holy people of God at all times and places. The tune name honors the island in Vermont's Lake Champlain where the composer lived.

375 Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
 grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

A Baptist pastor wrote this hymn while seated at his parlor organ. Created as an alternative to gloomy "river of death" hymns, it is a celebration of the "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1 KJV).

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For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
 3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



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

The Downtown Church Staff

The Rev. Laurie Tiberi, D. Min.,
Interim Pastor
Jackie Griffin, Nursery Coordinator
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Robert Clement, Maintenance

Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
Penny Crudup, Church Secretary
David Mear, Business Manager
Teresa Ward, Bookkeeper
& Receptionist Coordinator
Keisha Betts, Receptionist
Theresa Reddick, Receptionist
Tamar Reynolds, Receptionist

Parish Leaders

John DeHority and Nancy Lauder Brown, Co-Clerks of Session
Joan Mackey and Carol Snook, Co-Moderators of Deacons

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Litany of the Saints

Let us remember those gone before,

**Whose souls are in the hands of God,
Where torment shall never touch them.**

In the eyes of fools, they seem to have died,

In the eyes of the sages they appear in glory.

In the minds of fools their death was destruction,

In the minds of sages, transformation.

They were embattled;

They are at peace.

They were fatigued;

They are at rest.

They were distressed;

They are at ease.

They were alone;

They are one with God.

In life they fought their own mortality;

In death they yield to immortality.

In life they dimmed, their bodies tarnished;

In death they shine, their spirits burnished.

Like gold in a furnace they were tried and tested;

Like gold in a wheat field they reached the harvest.

Yes, let us remember those gone before,

**Whose souls are in the hands of God,
Where torment shall never touch them.**

And let us remember those of our fellowship now live eternally with God:

Betty Smith

Virginia Carl

Elizabeth (Liz) Bell

Rev. Bruce Billman

Eloise Nielsen

Joyce Button

Debbie Trout

Shirley Tuites

Connie Rochelle-Woodley

Margaret McIrvine

Walter Sanborn

moments of silence

(You are invited to break the silence by speaking aloud the names of other persons to be remembered.)

We praise you, O God, and thank you for the memory of these saints. Give us sure faith and true hope, that we may without fear trust those who are dear to us to your never-failing love.

O God, hear our prayer.

Enable us to go forward in faith to live as people of Christ's compassion, justice, and love.

O God, hear our prayers, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Alleluia! Amen.