

twelvebaskets



ALL SAINTS DAY A

A complete Sunday service ready to use
for worship and inspire ideas in your church

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All Saints Day - Year A
1st November 2026



Order of Service

Call to worship

Hymn:

407 STF – Hear the call of the kingdom OR

687 STF – One human family God has made

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Hymn:

451 STF – Open the eyes of my heart, Lord OR

340 STF – Ye servants of God

Readings: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

Hymn:

331 STF – King of Kings, Majesty OR

72 STF – Father God, I wonder

Reflections on the readings

Hymn:

765 STF – Blessing and honour, glory and power are rightly yours OR

745 STF – For all the saints who from their labours rest

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

Hymn:

358 STF – Let earth and heaven agree OR

255 STF – The kingdom of God

Blessing

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Call to worship

Holy, loving and inspiring God,
Help us to know that you are here amongst us, we pray.
God who is Spirit, may we hear your voice, I pray.

Amen.¹

Hymn:

407 STF – Hear the call of the kingdom OR
687 STF – One human family God has made

Opening Prayers

Loving God,
As we come to you this day, we do so knowing that we travel the road of so many that
have come before us:

Mothers, fathers, aunties, uncles,
sisters, brothers, neighbours, friends.

We join a pilgrimage of people seeking, grappling and finding solace in you.

We dip our feet into the stream of the ancestors that have come before us,
and of all the lives still to come that our existence will impact, both known and still
unknown to us.

May we feel our way into this heavenly collective this day and worship as one, with our
hearts open.

Amen.²

We say together the Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

Throughout November, the All Age talks for The Vine have been prepared by our friends at All We Can, the Methodist Church's international development agency. Each week, we are highlighting one of All We Can's 'Extraordinary Gifts', which are a great way to do your Christmas shopping! Why not buy a gift that transforms life for someone in one of the countries where All We Can's partners are working this Christmas – find out more and order a catalogue for your church online at allwecan.org.uk/extraordinary-gifts

Today, we are focusing on Tools for Success (*you might like to display a picture of this gift from the All We Can website, or invite people to turn to the relevant page in the gifts catalogue*).

¹ Call to worship written by Tim Baker

² Opening prayers written by Hannah Baker

The New Testament letter 1 John says this: 'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!'

Today, we give our thanks to God for the security each of us has in our identity as God's children. As we approach this time of year when everyone is thinking about gifts and present-lists and maybe letters to Father Christmas, let us give thanks for the gift of God's love, described as being lavished on us.

What does lavish mean? You might like to share some examples with those sitting near you about a time or a story that you think describes 'lavish' gifts...

[Give people time to do this, perhaps share a story of your own – when have you received great generosity.]

At some point during our service today, any children – or indeed anyone who is that way inclined – might like to design (using the crayons and paper provided) a cake with lots of rich ingredients, imagine a really lavish cake!

Sadly, lots of people don't live lavish lives, in fact in places like Liberia children's childhoods have been stolen by war and they are now left with very little to survive in life. All We Can is working in those situations, to help people receive the generosity of God's love, even amongst such difficult situations.

The Tools for success gift can provide men, like Sumo, with the tools they need to reintegrate into their community after war and train in a new vocation. When Sumo was 13, his school in Liberia was invaded by rebels and he was conscripted into the army, where he served for 14 years.

But now, he is working as an electrician and his life is looking more hopeful. As he puts it: 'I was the first graduate from (All We Can's partner, Camp for Peace's) electrical training programme... I have my tools here, all the wiring, I am rendering it... Now, I have my own electrical shop.'

Can we help other people go on the same journey that Sumo has gone on? What does that look like for us, this Christmas season and beyond?³

Hymn:

451 STF – Open the eyes of my heart, Lord OR
340 STF – Ye servants of God

Readings: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

Hymn:

331 STF – King of Kings, Majesty OR
72 STF – Father God, I wonder

³ All Age Talk written by All We Can

Reflections on the readings

There is something rather wonderful about the picture we are given in today's reading from Revelation: a vast crowd, more people than anyone could count, people from every nation, every tribe, every language...standing together. No one is asked to change so that they 'fit in', no one is required to speak the same language, come from the same culture, or have the same story, but everyone is invited to belong. Perhaps that is one of the most beautiful pictures of the kingdom of God that Scripture gives us: not uniformity, but belonging, held together by love.

Today is traditionally a day when Christians remember the saints, and when we hear the word "saint", we might picture stained-glass windows, famous Christians, or people whose lives seem impossibly holy. However, the New Testament has a much broader understanding: a saint is not necessarily someone who got everything right, but someone who belongs to God. That means that perhaps the people we remember today are not simply the famous ones, rather it is the people who taught us how to love, the grandparent who always made room at the table, the friend who knew when to phone, the teacher who believed in us, the neighbour who quietly looked after everyone around them.

God's saints are often ordinary people whose lives have made an extraordinary difference to somebody else.

The Beatitudes give us another surprising picture of sainthood. Jesus looks at people who are poor in spirit, people who mourn, people who are gentle, people who hunger and thirst for justice, people who show mercy, people who make peace, people who are persecuted. And, looking at those people, he says: "Blessed are you."

That word "blessed" is sometimes translated as "happy", but that can make the Beatitudes sound rather strange. Jesus isn't saying: "Congratulations if you're grieving." He is saying something much deeper: God sees you, God has not forgotten you, your circumstances do not determine your worth. And the kingdom of God is moving towards you.

It is not a promise that life will be easy, but a promise that none of us is abandoned within the difficulties of life, which connects beautifully with Psalm 34: "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted."

What a simple and extraordinary promise, not that the brokenhearted will never exist, not that faith will prevent suffering, but that God draws close to those who suffer. And perhaps that is one of the most important things the Church can still offer today. Not explanations, because sometimes there are no explanations that can adequately answer grief, but presence.

What does that look like in your relationships this week? Can you be someone who shows a willingness to sit beside someone in their pain, to listen, to remember, to say: "You don't have to go through this alone."

The reading from 1 John takes us somewhere else: "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God."

Children of God, even before we have achieved or proved anything, before we have got our theology right, before we have made ourselves worthy. Before all of that, we belong. Our identity begins not with what we do for God, but with what God has already done for us. We are loved and held, by that which is greater than us.

And John then says something fascinating: "What we will be has not yet been revealed."

In other words, we are not finished, we are still becoming, the people we love are still becoming, our churches are still becoming, our world is still becoming. God has not finished with us yet, perhaps She's just getting started...

There is freedom in that: we don't have to have everything worked out, we can change and grow, we can discover new things about ourselves and about God, we can make mistakes and begin again. Grace leaves room for becoming.

Perhaps that takes us back to the great crowd in Revelation with people from every nation, those who have come through suffering, those who have known hunger, grief, persecution and loss, now standing together.

The picture is not of people who escaped suffering, but of people who came through it.

Hope does not deny the darkness, it looks directly at it and says: "The darkness is not all there is." The saints are people who have carried that hope before us, through war, illness, poverty, injustice and everyday, ordinary family or life. But, now it is our turn. Mine, and yours. We become part of that great crowd, not because we are perfect or have all the answers, but because we belong to God.

So perhaps today we remember the saints not simply by looking backwards, but by looking around, looking at one another, looking in the mirror, looking at the people whose names we carry in our hearts.

And we ask: what kind of people are we becoming? Can we become people who show mercy? People who make peace? People who hunger for justice? People who stand beside those who mourn? People who make room for everyone at God's table?

Perhaps sainthood doesn't have to be about becoming extraordinary, but simply about allowing God's extraordinary love to become visible through ordinary lives.

And perhaps, one day, someone will remember us in exactly the same way.

Questions for Reflection

- Who are the "saints" in your own life: people whose love, kindness or courage has helped shape the person you have become?
- Jesus calls the grieving, the merciful, the peacemakers and those who hunger for justice "blessed". Which of these Beatitudes speaks most strongly to you at this point in your life?
- 1 John reminds us that "what we will be has not yet been revealed". What might God still be inviting you, or us as a church, to become?

Prayers of Intercession

Amen.⁴

Hymn:

765 STF – Blessing and honour, glory and power are rightly yours OR

745 STF – For all the saints who from their labours rest

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray.

God of every nation and every generation,
You gather your people from every corner of the earth,
and you call us your children.

⁴ Reflection written by Tim Baker

Today we remember those who have gone before us,
those who showed us something of your love,
and those whose lives continue to shape ours.

With gratitude for all the saints,
we bring before you the needs of your world.

[Pause]

God of all peoples,
We pray for your Church throughout the world.

For churches large and small,
for communities of faith meeting in comfort and in danger,
for Christians who worship freely and for those whose faith brings them hardship or persecution.

May your Church become ever more like the great crowd of Revelation: diverse,
welcoming, inclusive, and united in love.

Where there is division, bring reconciliation.
Where there is exclusion, open the doors.
Where there is fear, give courage.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of the brokenhearted,
We pray for all who mourn.

For those grieving someone who died recently,
and for those carrying grief from many years ago.

For those who have lost a relationship, a home, a friendship, a sense of purpose, or a hope for the future.

We remember especially those whose grief is unseen by others.
May they know the truth of the Psalm: that you are near to the brokenhearted.

Give us the wisdom not always to search for answers,
but sometimes simply to offer our presence.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of justice,
We pray for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
For people experiencing poverty and hunger.
For those facing discrimination or exclusion.
For refugees and people seeking safety.
For communities affected by war and violence.
For all who campaign, organise, serve, and speak out for a fairer world.

Strengthen those who work for justice,
and keep us from becoming comfortable with injustice.

May your kingdom come, where mercy and peace are not distant ideals but realities for all.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of peace,
We pray for those who are caught up in conflict.

Where there is war, bring peace.
Where there is hatred, create understanding.
Where there is fear, create safety.

Give courage to those who build bridges between divided communities, and wisdom to those who negotiate on behalf of others.

Help us to remember that every person caught up in conflict is someone you love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of love,

We pray for those known personally to us.

For those who are ill.

For those who are lonely.

For those who are struggling with anxiety or uncertainty.

For those awaiting news.

For those caring for someone they love.

And for those whose faith feels fragile.

In a moment of silence, we bring their names and faces before you.

[Pause]

May they know that they are held in love,

and may we become part of the answer to their prayers.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of all our days,

We give thanks for those saints who have gone before us.

For the people whose names we remember.

For the people whose names have been forgotten.

For those whose lives were celebrated publicly,

and those whose greatest acts of love were known only to a few.

Thank you for all they gave, all they taught, and all they made possible.

Help us to carry their best gifts forward.

Loving God, when our own lives are difficult, remind us that we belong to a story much larger than ourselves.

A story of love that stretches across generations.

A story that leads ultimately to your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When we are discouraged, remind us that we are your children, and that the story is not finished.

For you are the God who wipes away tears, who gathers your people, and who promises that love will have the final word.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.⁵

We will now take up the offering.

⁵ Prayers of intercession written by Tim Baker

Family God, you are a God of relationships, and you call us into relationship again today – relationship to each other, to the earth and to people and places we have never met or visited.

May we use our gifts, and these gifts of money, to build better relationships and connections,

In Jesus' name,

Amen.⁶

Hymn:

358 STF – Let earth and heaven agree OR

255 STF – The kingdom of God

Blessing

Christ before, and Christ beside,

God all around me, and the Spirit at work in and through me,

May each of us take the relationship that is God with us, into the relationships and situations we will find ourselves in this week.

Show me how to love with your divine love, O God. Amen.⁷

⁶ Additional prayers by Tim Baker

⁷ Additional prayers by Tim Baker