



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God  
November 6, 2022

**All Saints Sunday**

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Meditation (*from Thais*)

Massenet  
Susan Charlton, flute

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you create, redeem and sustain us, every moment of our lives. In you we place our trust. When we face illness, conflict and fear, you are our steadfast protector. When we suffer setback and loss, you restore us through your love. When our lives prosper and we are comfortable, you move us to share our blessings with others. In times of hardship and plenty, you alone are the source of new and renewed life. Encourage us today as we remember the saints who have gone before us. May we remember them and ourselves be inspired to reach out to encourage others in your love. Holy God, in love and trust, we live by the power of your grace through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 91

Those who need rest and shelter,

**God welcomes.**

Those who are drowning in life's trials,

**God rescues.**

Those who call out to God,

**God will answer.**

Let us gather trusting God as our refuge and our strength.

\*HYMN No. 260 (V.1-4)

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great,  
And, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
The Man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is He,  
Lord Sabaoth His name,  
From age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim,  
We tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure,  
For lo! his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,  
No thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Through Him who with us sideth;  
Let goods and kindred go,  
This mortal life also;  
The body they may kill,  
God's truth abideth still,  
His Kingdom is forever.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Life and Light, you call us to trust you in every circumstance of our lives, yet far too often we do not. In times of hardship, we lose hope. When enduring natural disasters, suffering illness, or facing death, we often grow bitter and forget your love. Stripped of the idols of our wealth and status, we try in vain to control our lives. Eager to be powerful and successful, we wander away from you, falling into the pain of addiction, greed, and blind ambition. Absorbed by our wants and desires, we ignore those around us who need our care. Forgive us, O God. Forgive our despair, our bitterness, and our fear. Turn our hearts to you, that we may taste fullness of life and trust your unending love.**

*Silent prayer*

**Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's loving presence never abandons us, not even when we abandon God. God delivers those who seek and love the Lord. All we have to do is call, and God answers us. God answers us with rescue and honor, forgiveness and mercy, life and love.

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 91

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High  
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

**This I declare about the Lord:**

**God alone is my refuge, my place of safety; in God I trust.**

For he will rescue you from every trap  
and protect you from deadly disease.

**God will cover you and shelter you under his wings.**

**His faithful promises are your armor and protection.**

Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies in the day.

**Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness,  
nor the disaster that strikes at midday.**

Though thousands fall and die around you,  
these evils will not touch you.

Just open your eyes and see how wickedness is punished.

**If you make the Lord your refuge**

**if you make the Most High your shelter,**

**no evil will conquer you;**

**no plague will come near your home.**

For he will order his angels

to protect you wherever you go.

**They will hold you up with their hands**

**so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.**

You will trample upon lions and cobras;

you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!

**The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me.**

**I will protect those who trust in my name."**

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 4:1-8

SERMON

Be encouraged. Be an encourager.

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

## THE NAMING OF THE SAINTS

*We read the names of those in the church who have died this past year.  
Names of others who have died may be said aloud by members of the congregation.*

## ANTHEM

Dwell in the Light Forevermore

music: Lloyd Larson  
text: Susan Bentall Boersma

Into the valley of shadows, under a veil of gray,  
God calls the good and the faithful, then guides us on the way.

Through the valley of shadows, lost in the dark of night,  
Our God goes before us to lead us to the light.

There will be no more night!  
No need for lamp or ray of sun, the Lamb will be the light.

There will be no more night!  
No need to fast, to watch, and to weep  
around the throne so bright.

Out of the valley of shadows, we step into the day.  
We see the Lamb upon the throne and hear the Savior say,  
“Well done, well done, my good and faithful one!  
Come dwell in the Light of Life forevermore!”

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Gifted with the grace of God, let us offer ourselves to the building of God’s kingdom.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Bless the gifts given in thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all, that we might serve you and your people with great love. In Christ’s name, amen.

## \*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Christ’s table is wide, and his welcome is for all. Jesus dined with sinners and saints, with farmhands and foreigners, with disciples and doubters, with children and cherished friends, with the outcast and the outspoken, with lepers and loved ones.

And just as he ate at others' tables, when Christ set his banquet table, we welcomed us all too. As we gather around Christ's table, we are united with all of God's beloved across the world through the love and grace made known in the bread broken and cup passed. So come to the table where we witness Christ's love and peace for all.

#### THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### PRAYER

With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus of all the saints to sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

#### PRAYER

...Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The bread and juice are distributed together and can be enjoyed immediately.*

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, your people of all the ages live and praise you without ceasing. In our communion with you, we have had communion with generations past and generations yet to come. Before your throne we are one as we join with people from every nation, culture, language group, region and race. Grant to your church on earth that we may celebrate the faithfulness of your saints. May we be inspired by their example and enter with them into the inexpressible joys you have prepared for all who love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*HYMN No. 526, V. 1-4

For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us with our eyes fixed on Christ.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May God's face shine with delight and look upon you with favor. And may you rest forever in God's peace.

POSTLUDE

For All the Saints (Hymn 526)

arr. Callahan

### **Notes on Worship**

All Saints' Day has been celebrated on November 1 since the year 835. All Saints' Day in the Reformed tradition is a time to give thanks for the lives of the *whole* people of God. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks to members of the community of faith who have died in the past year. We also pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

### **Notes on Today's Anthem**

"I was working on Susan Bentall Boersma's new lyric, Dwell in the Light Forevermore, on Friday, December 14, 2012, when a lone gunman burst into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, inexplicably taking the lives of twenty young children and six adult staff members within a matter of minutes. As news of the tragedy spread, I, like so many, was devastated by the senseless loss of life. I found Susan's words to be a source of solace and hope that day: 'Through the valley of shadows, lost in the dark of night, our God goes before us to lead us to the light. There will be no more night! No need for lamp or ray of sun, the Lamb will be the light. There will be no more night! No need to fast, to watch, to weep around the throne so bright.'"

- Lloyd Larson

*The flowers on the Communion Table are given in memory of Kevin Martin by Bud and Linda Martin.*

*The carnations are a gift from the Board of Deacons in memory of the following members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Easton who joined the Church Triumphant during the past year.*

*John Wilson, member of First Presbyterian Church*

*David Kreidler, member of First Presbyterian Church*

*Alfred Hubscher, member of First Presbyterian Church*

*Linval Francis, member of First Presbyterian Church*

*Gordon Plank, brother of Linda Martin*

*Gladys Pulsinelli, aunt of Art Charlton*

*Dennis Lalley, a Charlton Family cousin*

*Barbara Pantuso Simon, a Charlton Family cousin*

*Mary Francis Kuhn, cousin of Elizabeth Campbell*

*Jennifer Kuhn McCutcheon, cousin of Elizabeth Campbell*

*Olga Picconi, aunt of Chris Gulotta*

*Kenneth Kaufmann, cousin of Bill Schroeher*

*Lynn Steckley, neighbor of Bill & Carol Schroeher*

*Ed Folk, neighbor of Bill & Carol Schroeher*

~\*~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Linda Martin, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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*Each Sunday we sing hymns taken from the blue hymnal provided for you in the pew where you are seated. Though we print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin, we encourage you to turn to the hymnal so you can also read the accompanying music.*

## **2 Timothy 4:1-8**

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.