



Order of Service for Sunday, October 31, 2021

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

***= stand if you wish, and are able.**

Thank you for joining us today.

For Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and our Prayer List, [visit this week's E-Pistle here](#), where you can also subscribe to receive it by email, if you like:

Prelude, *Taste and See*, Peter Black

(Please use this time for quiet reflection and preparation for worship)

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of Altar Candles & Ringing in the Hour

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

Introit, *Love and Justice*

*Love and Justice, Peace and Power, show us how to live each hour.
Raise us up, and set us free, show us how to live and be.
Tell your neighbors, tell your friends, here's a place hope never ends.
Love and Justice, Peace and Power, God is with us in this hour.
God is with us in this hour, God is with us in this hour,
God is with us in this hour.*

Call to Worship for All Saints Day

One: Those who cared for, nurtured and protected us

Many: *They are always with us*

One: Those who have loved us unselfishly

Many: *They are always with us*

One: Those who have inspired us to greater things

Many: *They are always with us*

One: Those who have listened to us when we were struggling

Many: *They are always with us*

One: Those who shared their wisdom with us and enabled us to see more of the truth

Many: *They are always with us*

***Opening Hymn, *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, (Green Gather Hymnal No.726)**

Unison Prayer

Loving God, You have blessed us with many saints throughout our lives, those who have touched us with their compassion, and those who illumine the way for us. You surround us with saints, even when we don't recognize or much less appreciate them. Some live down the corner from us, while others are on the other side of the world. Today, we remember the saints who have already gone home to You, as well as those saints who are currently in our midst. Help us also to remember that we, too, have been called to be saints for one another. For all the saints of every age, we give to You, O God, our gratitude and our praise. Amen.

Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: *And also with you.*

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

***Passing the Peace** *Spirit, Fill Me*

*Spirit come and fill me, fill me with your peace,
fill me with your joy and your love.
Spirit come and show me, show me how to care,
show me how to share your light.
Help me give my hand to those in need,
let my heart be open to receive.
When we share your love, we can work together
to heal this broken world.
Spirit come and fill us, fill us with your peace,
fill us with your joy and your love,
Spirit come and show us, show us how to care,
show us how to share your light.*

Words of Integration & Guidance by Christian Villa

Every year on November 1, All Saints Day, I remember Sacred Heart cemetery in the town where I grew up. It was a huge Polish cemetery situated on a long sloping hill next to a busy intersection. Starting at dusk on November 1, the eve of the Catholic All Souls Day, the entire cemetery would be lit up with thousands of red votive candles on nearly every grave. It looked like the dead were getting ready to have a party and had turned on all the lights in the house. It sounds weird to say that the cemetery looked festive, but that's exactly how it looked. Lit up like Times Square, it looked more like life than death. It confused the categories of living and dead. It made the dead seem less separated from us, and not so different from us. When I was a child, those candles burning all night on all those graves used to make me think that it must make the dead people happy. Of course that's a childish belief with no theological depth, but now I wonder: why not? If death is not the end, then it's not the end of celebration or joy. And not just the theoretical, pie-in-the-sky kind of celebration and joy, either. The real thing, the exact same happiness we know now, the kind that makes us light Advent candles and put up Christmas lights. The kind of happiness that makes us wish it could last forever. And possibly, it does.

For All the Saints

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Ruth 1:6-18
One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Mark 12:28-34
Many: **Glory to you, O Christ.**
One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Many: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily *"Called to Be Saints," Rev. Salvatore Sapienza*

Offering & Offertory *"Remember Me," Jeff Spangler and Peter Black
Songwriter: Mark Schultz*

Love One Another

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!
Many: **Alleluia!**
One: O God,
Many: **Hear our prayer.**

***Doxology** *Give Thanks to the Lord*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good
and God's mercy shall endure.
For God alone has done marv'ulous things,
give thanks unto the Lord.
God made the earth and heaven
with a strong and mighty hand.
God has moved us to sing, proclaim this song!
Give thanks unto our God.*

***Celebration of Holy Communion**

One: God be with you.
Many: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
Many: We lift them up to God.
One: Let us give thanks to God.
Many: It is good to give God thanks & praise

***Creation’s Praise** *Sanctus (Patriquin)*

*Holy holy holy,
God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full,
are full of your glory:
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes,
who comes in God’s name.
Hosanna in the high – est!*

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**
The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

**AFTER COMMUNION TODAY, WE WILL END THE STREAMING SERVICE,
AND PROCEED TO THE MEMORIAL GARDEN.**

Remembrance of Names

Benediction

Closing Hymn, "Amazing Grace"

Have a great week! Keep up with the Douglas UCC community and the work of our service groups here:

- www.douglasucc.org
- <https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>
- <https://www.facebook.com/douglasucc>
- <https://www.instagram.com/douglasucc>