Sunday Worship Service – November 1, 2026

Worship words from various sources as indicated in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment for Reflection

Call to Worship [1]

Bless the Lord, whose love shines upon us.
Bless the Lord, my soul!
Bless our lives, that reflect God's love.
Bless the Lord, my soul!
Bless our worship, that it may glorify God.
Bless the Lord, my soul!

Opening Prayer

Glorious God, we come into your holy presence with joy and gratitude. Bless this time of worship to draw us closer to you. Bless our lives to shine brightly with your love. Bless our work in the world to bring your justice and compassion to life. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Gathering Hymn ***"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"*** **#413**

1. **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!**
   Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
   Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
   God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. **Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,**
   casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
   cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
   which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. **Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,**
   though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
   only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
   perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

4. **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**
   All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
   Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
   God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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[1] *Call to Worship* and *Opening Prayer* written by Mary Scifres, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

Confession & Assurance for All Saints [2]

Our lives are full of mistakes and errors – where we follow self-generated idols instead of the One True God. We are not alone in these mistakes – all of those who have come before us also were plagued with temptation and sin. Let us come before God, just as generations of believers have done, and pray for God's forgiveness and grace.

Beloved God, who was known to our mothers and fathers,
and even to our spiritual forebears, have mercy on us.

We do not always love as you would have us love.
We do not always do as you would have us do.
In our stubbornness, we turn from you when we should turn toward you.
Hold us, Holy One –
comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family,
and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence.

We praise you for the grace you shower on us,
constantly forgiving our errors,
especially the ones that we don't share with any but you.
Hear now the silent fears and worries of our hearts.

A time of silence

Friends, hear the good news! Though thousands upon thousands of our ancestors did not follow God's ways perfectly, we have hope in the one who did! Jesus, a man of a particular people in a particular time, taught through his words and deeds that God has already forgiven us. Thus, we and all who have come before us are rightly known as saints – the holy ones of God! Thanks be to God for God's mercy, grace, and love! Amen!

Hymn of Praise *"Lord God, We Praise You"* #558

1. **Lord God, we praise you, now the night is over,**
   active and watchful, standing here before you;
   singing, we offer prayer and meditation; thus we adore you.
2. **Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions;**
   banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
   bring us to heaven, where your saints united joy without ending.

[2] written by Rev. Lucus Keppel, Ancho Community & Corona United Presbyterian Churches, New Mexico. Posted on **LiturgyLink.** (liturgylink.net)

3. **All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,**
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;
yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding through all creation.

Prayer of the Day [3]

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray:
Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. This reading tells what will happen to the "saints", to those who are faithful at the End of Time or the Last Judgement. In this reading, the faithful are given the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory. A reading from the Book of Revelation, the seventh chapter:

After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. They cried out with a loud voice:

"Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

All the angels stood in a circle around the throne, and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, saying,

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

Then one of the elders said to me, "Who are these people wearing white robes, and where did they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you know."

Then he said to me, "These people have come out of great hardship. They have washed their robes and made them white in the Lamb's blood. This is

[3] *Prayer of the Day* from **Sundays and Seasons** © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN (sundaysandseasons.com)

the reason they are before God's throne. They worship him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. They won't hunger or thirst anymore. No sun or scorching heat will beat down on them, because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Here ends the reading.
Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our hope is that we shall see God as God really is. A reading from the First Letter of John, the third chapter:

See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are! Because the world didn't recognize him, it doesn't recognize us. Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him because we'll see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves even as he is pure.

Here ends the reading.
Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation *"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"* #509

God's word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay,
Lord, grant while time shall last your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Who Are These People?

Hymn of the Day ***"For All the Saints"*** [4] **#422** (alternate words)

1. **For all the saints, who from their labours rest,**
   who to the world their faith in God confessed,
   your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. **You were their leader, true unfailing light,**
   column of cloud by day and fire by night,
   known in the dark by faith, though lost from sight. Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. **So may your people still their footsteps trace,**
   fired by their triumphs in the well-run race,
   longing with them to see your glorious face. Alleluia! Alleluia!
4. **Soon dawns the promised day of Christ our Lord**
   when all creation rises up restored,
   and all our song, from heart and soul outpoured: " Alleluia! Alleluia!"
5. **From every age, from dawn to setting sun,**
   home come the saints to God the Three-in-One,
   bringing eternal praise on earth begun. Alleluia! Alleluia!

[4] Revised Hymn text by Marnie Barrell, 1992

Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

All Saints Day Litany [5]

We remember the great ancestors of our faith, from Abraham and Sarah, to Paul and Phoebe, from Francis and Clare, to Martin and Katharina:
Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God:
Teachers of the faith, we remember you.

We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, those who have gone before us in our lifetime:

[5] A*ll Saints Day Litany* written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, from her **Rev-o-lution** website.

Family of our faith, we remember you.

We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and parents whose lives ended too soon:
Those close in our heart, we remember you.

We lift up to you, O God, the names of those we have lost in this past year from our lives, knowing that they are with Your heart forever.
Those who have departed this life in recent months, we remember you.

As we read the names of those of our faith community who have died this past year we will pause after every name to remember, pray, and give thanks for their life.

(Reading of the names of those who have died in the past year. A bell is rung after each name is read and a moment of silence is kept.)

We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God, and lift up many more names in our hearts.
Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you.
We know you are with us in the spirit of worship,
and you will not be forgotten.
We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with You beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ, and know that in our grief and celebration, O God, you are with us through it all, and we are not left alone. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray.
Amen.

Placing of Candles

People are invited forward to light a candle in memory of loved ones, and to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the lives of their saints.

Hymn during placing of Candles "Behold the Host Arrayed in White" #425

1. **Behold the host arrayed in white**
like thousand snow-clad mountains bright,
that stands with palms and sings its psalms
before the throne of light!
These are the saints who kept God's word;
they are the honored of the Lord.
He is their prince who drowned their sins,
so they were cleansed, restored.

They now serve God both day and night;
they sing their songs in endless light.
Their anthems ring when they all sing
with angels shining bright.

2. **On earth their work was not thought wise,**
but see them now in heaven's eyes;
before God's throne of precious stone
they shout their vict'ry cries.
On earth they wept through bitter years;
now God has wiped away their tears,
transformed their strife to heav'nly life,
and freed them from their fears.
For now they have the best at last;
they keep their sweet eternal feast.
At God's right hand our Lord commands;
he is both host and guest.

3. **O blessed saints, now take your rest;**
a thousand times shall you be blest
for keeping faith firm unto death
and scorning worldly trust.
For now you live at home with God
and harvest seeds once cast abroad
in tears and sighs. See with new eyes
the pattern in the seed.
The myriad angels raise their song.
O saints, sing with that happy throng;
lift up one voice; let heav'n rejoice
in our redeemer's song!

Prayers of Intercession [6]

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

[6] *Prayers of Intercession* posted on **Literature & Liturgy**. https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com

Eternal God, in all times and places you have provided your church with individuals who have been used to point others to you. We are grateful for the testimony of the great cloud of witnesses who surround your throne:

- for the apostles and first believers . . .
- for those in the early church . . .
- for the martyrs of all ages . . .
- for those who have reformed the church in every age . . .
- for those who have ministered to us . . .

For these great examples of the faith we give you praise. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we join this communion of saints, we pray that we too may be worthy witnesses for you in our care of creation . . .

- in our interaction with people of other nations and ethnicities . . .
- in our respect for those in authority . . .
- in our care for those in our broader community . . .
- in our support of Christians around the world . . .
- in our daily lives of ministry . . .
- as we support persons with particular needs . . .

In all of this we look forward to the day when we will join those who have gone before us in praising you, the one eternal God, forever and ever. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurture programs and communities that support elders and those who are homebound. Bless caregivers, nurses, chaplains, social workers, and hospice staff. Guide this congregation's ministry with seniors and their families. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring comfort and care to all who are in need, especially all who mourn this day. Sustain any who are weary, experiencing loneliness, or struggling with chronic illness, especially those in hospital or rehabilitation facilities (*names*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With grateful hearts we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors. Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord taught us:

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing of the Quilts

The quilts we dedicate today are representative of the many quilts which the quilting group have put together over the last year. We commend the quilters of our church who so faithfully have met together to make these beautiful quilts. We thank them for their devoted service. May their example inspire us to renew our Christian promise to help those in need — to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger and be a loving neighbour to all the people of the earth.

Let us pray:
Gracious God, as we place our hands on these Quilts, we join giver and receiver, recognizing the unity of all your people in the body of Christ.
We celebrate being the children of God.

We give thanks for the variety of gifts that compose these Quilts: donations of fabric, thread and sewing machines, the faithful people who cut the squares, design the patterns, sew the tops, iron the fabric, make backs and fillers, tie and stitch the bindings, and distribute the finished quilts to the various ministries and agencies who make them available for those in need.
We celebrate generosity.

We give thanks for the fellowship of all who work together to make the Quilts, the laughter, the shared stories, the joy of crafting something with one's hands and heart for another and the time to reflect and wonder about the recipient.
We celebrate community.

We send these Quilts as a sign of God's love and blessing for each person who receives one, trusting that their Quilt will be a source of comfort and hope in the midst of difficulties and fear, a symbol of Christ's love to those who suffer, a reminder that each recipient is a beloved child of God.

We pray that these Quilts will serve a useful purpose in the life of the recipient; that they may provide warmth and security to those who have experienced tragedy, to those who have no other shelter, or those who simply need some warmth and comfort. May all who receive these quilts also experience the covering of your love and forgiveness. May they also encounter your grace and peace and so learn of the joy of life in Christ.
We celebrate hope in the midst of life's trials.

We remember those who have received our Quilts in the past and pray that their lives have returned to stability.
We celebrate the gift of life.

Bless your servants, Creator God; those who laboured in love to create these quilts. So inspire us in our service to others that more and more may see and experience your loving, caring hand in their lives. Bless the mission of those places that receive these quilts: North Central Family Centre, Indigenous Christian Fellowship, and Central Primary Health Care Network - that together we may minister to our neighbors in need.

Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are sewn together in the unity of your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Offertory Invitation

With gladness, let us present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord..

(an Offering plate is placed on the altar)

Offering Prayer [7]

Let us pray:

Holy One, thank you for blessing us in so many ways.
Please bless our offerings:
to bring your presence more fully into the world,
to spread your love to far and wide,
to bring hope and peace where despair runs deep.
In loving gratitude, we pray. Amen.

[7] *Offering Prayer* written by Mary Scifres, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

Sending Hymn ***"Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In"*** **#950** (All Creation Sings)

1. **Oh, when the saints go marching in,**
   oh, when the saints go marching in,
   O Lord, I want to be in that number
   when the saints go marching in.
2. **Oh, when the Lord in glory comes,**
   oh, when the Lord in glory comes,
   O Lord, I want to be in that number
   when the Lord in glory comes.
3. **Oh, when the new world is revealed,**
   oh, when the new world is revealed,
   O Lord, I want to be in that number
   when the Lord in glory comes.
4. **Oh, when they gather round the throne,**
   oh, when they gather round the throne,
   O Lord, I want to be in that number
   when the Lord in glory comes.
5. **And on that hallelujah day,**
   and on that hallelujah day,
   O Lord, I want to be in that number
   when the Lord in glory comes.

Commissioning [8]

You are called to be the saints of God. Go from here as those who are worthy of their calling.

Honour the saints of the early church, such as Paul, who were prepared to suffer and die for their Christian faith.

Follow the Celtic saints, such as Colomba, who were ready to endure difficulty and danger to explain the Christian faith to others.

Emulate the saints of the Middle Ages, such as Mother Julian, who listened with empathy to the needs of ordinary people and wrote of her spiritual experiences.

[8] *Commissioning* from **Responsive Prayers for Every Week of the Church Year A** © 2019 David Sparks, published by Wood Lake Books, Kelowna, BC

Look to the saints of the Reformation, such as Martin Luther, who broke free from powerful leaders and sought truth rather than obedience to the instructions of the church.

Rejoice in the saints of recent times, such as Oscar Romero, who would not put up with injustice and stood with ordinary people.

And there are saints we know, good people, humble people, compassionate people, who refuse the title "saint" but care and strive for justice like the saints of old.

We are called to be the saints of God. We will go from here determined to live out our calling.

Blessing [9]

May God, who has given us, in the lives of his saints,
patterns of holy living and victorious dying,
strengthen your faith and devotion
and enable you to bear witness to the truth
against all adversity. Amen.

Benediction Song ***"May the Grace of Christ Attend Us"*** (#963 Voices United)

May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.

Sending

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen

[9] *Blessing* from **The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition** © 2013 Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI