



*The First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ,
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 2, 2025 10:00 a.m.

On this Communion Sunday children start in Sunday School. Younger kids to classroom #3, the older ones to #4. Nursery care is available during worship.

On this Sunday prayers need to be written on a paper slip. Please give the slip to a Deacon or place it in the offering plate.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Sean Lewis

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

INTROIT

In This Place (Butler)

Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Charlotte Rodgers

— from Seasons of the Spirit: All Saints Day — Year A (adapted)

One: We come, O God.

All: In all our weakness and strength, with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,

One: we come to be your people.

All: Strong in faith and eager with questions, singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

One: we come to be your people.

All: Filled with saintly determination yet mindful of our human limitations,

One: we come to be your people.

continued

**All: Made strong in your endless love for us, reconciled through the
wideness of your mercy we know ourselves to be yours and**

One: We come, O God, to be your people.

All: Bless us that it may be so. Amen.

*HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

see page 6

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Gabriel's Oboe (arr. Johnson)

David Diggs, oboe

*DOXOLOGY

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

One God, Triune, whom we adore.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

UNISON PRAYER

written by Rev Abi, on her *Long and Winding Road* blog

**Almighty God, we thank you for those who have gone on before us,
pioneers in faith and ministry, thought, word and deed.**

We thank you for their example of living a Christ like life.

**We know that they were no more perfect than you and I,
but we all are your children.**

**Help us to remember when we are running the race of life, that all these
people stand by us, cheering us on, praying for us, and loving us.**

Also, Lord in your compassion,

comfort those who are grieving the loss of their saint(s).

Comfort the churches. Comfort the Pastors. Comfort your people. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

CONTEMPORARY READING

Tim Bosworth

Prayer for all Saints and All Souls Day, by Brian Doyle

And if ever there was evidence of the wry genius of Catholicism it's right here, with these two days of prayer and remembrance, back to back. The first acknowledges, up front and publicly, that we pray for saints known and unknown — the latter faaaaaar outnumbering the former; and how true and real and honest this is, for there are and have been millions of saints who trudged along humbly beneath immense loads, sharing their mercy and cheer and song and food and drink and courage and hope with everyone they met, and now their names are as dust; but we remember them today, and thank them, and ask their mercies on the tumult of the world; as we sing also the saints we know, the brave testy ones, the quiet ones who smiled under the lash, the bold ones who saw what we could be and spoke us closer to that bright country. And then the next day we pray for all those who have gone back into the Dream from which they came, all the billions of holy beings who strove and struggled and soared or sank; all of them our brothers and sisters, all of them our teammates on the road to light; we pray even for the worst among them, those blinded by blood, that Your mercy drowned their evil, washed them of their sins, and set them to work in Your vineyard, from which all blessings flow. This we pray in the Name of the One Who came among us, and took our form, and draped His incomprehensible soul with the flesh and bones of a young teacher; may we someday reach the house where He waits for us all. And so: amen.

*HYMN	<i>O Savior, for the Saints</i> , vss. 1 & 2	see page 7
SCRIPTURE READING	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	pew Bible page 161
REFLECTION	<i>Giving Thanks</i>	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	<i>O Savior, for the Saints</i> , vss. 3 & 4	see page 7

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

We will be using the practice of intinction. You may come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you cannot come forward we will bring the meal to you.

THE INVITATION, THE STORY, AND THE BLESSING

Litany from third-space.org.uk/blog

One: In our sharing bread today, we include in companionship
the saints alive and the saints resurrected.

All: Make us one in the sharing of the bread.

One: In our sharing bread today, we include the saints of this local church and
the saints of our hearts. Here and now call their names out that we might
remember them.

<<Time for sharing>>

All: Make us one in the sharing of the bread.

One: In our sharing of bread today, we include in companionship
the poor, marginalized and rejected of this world.

All: Make us one in the sharing of the bread.

One: In our sharing of bread today, we include in companionship
those known to us and those not known, who need Jesus now.

All: Make us one in the sharing of the bread.

One: In our sharing of bread today, we include in companionship
Jesus, our incarnated, broken and risen Lord.

All: Make us one in the sharing of the bread. AMEN!

One: Sharing the cup is for sorrow and for joy, for suffering and for celebration,
for forgiveness and for New Relationship.

**All: We drink in the truth of our lives and in the gift of reconciliation until
Christ returns and we are all made fully one. AMEN!**

SHARING OF THE MEAL

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

It is a tradition of this church on Communion Sunday to invite people to bring items or donations for the Pop-Up Pantry – please place in boxes at doors.

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*HYMN

For All The Saints, vss. 1, 2, & 4

**1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**4 Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

SENDING PRAYER

**And so we pray: Send us out to wait and to work for the Kingdom.
Make us people of hope, fanning the flames of redemption and
resurrection in the world. AMEN!**

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE

Sean Lewis

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THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY

Text: Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

Tune: ST. HELENA – Calvin Hampton



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the_ sea;
2. There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in_ heaven;
3. For the love of God is broad - er than the mea-sure of the_ mind;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind-ly judg- ment_ given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won-der - ful - ly_ kind.



There is wel - come for the sin - ner and more gra-ces for the
 There is plen - ti - ful re-demp - tion in the blood that has been
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's



good; there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in Christ's
 shed; there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the
 word; and our life would be thanks-giv - ing for the good-ness of our



blood.
 Head.
 God.

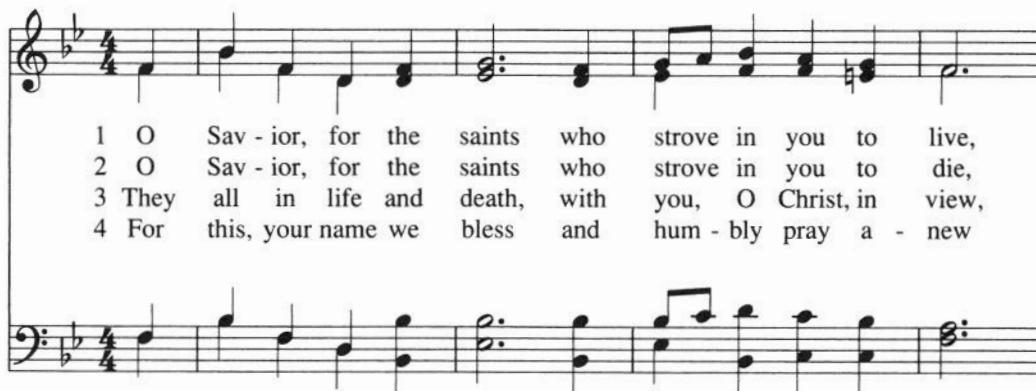
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O Savior, for the Saints

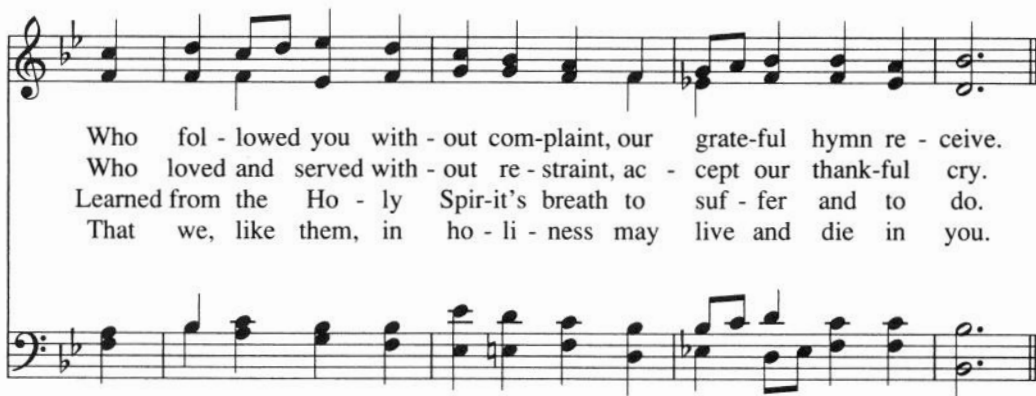
298

Richard Mant, 1837; alt.

Rom. 14:7-9



1 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to live,
2 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to die,
3 They all in life and death, with you, O Christ, in view,
4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new



Who fol - lowed you with - out com-plaint, our grate-ful hymn re - ceive.
Who loved and served with - out re - straint, ac - cept our thank-ful cry.
Learned from the Ho - ly Spir-it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
That we, like them, in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.

This was one of several original hymns appended to Richard Mant's book of translations of Latin hymns from the Roman Breviary. A priest of the Church of England, Mant was for many years a bishop in Ireland.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Elizabeth Young, Jo Ann Levitt, Drea Pecor, and Helen McCormick; readers Tim Bosworth and Charlotte Rodgers; greeter Margaret Hornick, ushers Margo Davis and Jon Geldert; fellowship Kirsten and Kaylin Fredsall; storytellers Jeremy Ridenour, Megan Kolano, and Linda Hoddy. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream. Mari Brennan and Dana Sanchez are in the nursery.

Lord's Prayer

Mark Miller

mp

Our God, — in hea-ven, — ho - ly is your name, — your

reign come, — your will done, — on earth as in hea-ven. —

slower

Give us to-day our dai - ly bread, and help us for-give, as we have been for - giv - en. —

mf

In the time of tri-al — lead us in - to light, — for yours is — the kin- dom, and the

f *mp*

po- wer, — and the glo- ry, — for - e - ver. Our God, — in

hea- ven, — ho - ly is your name, ho - ly is your name. —