



All Saints Sunday

First United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation

November 7, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

Prelude *Voluntary in C Minor: Largo, Allegro* Maurice Greene (1696-1755)

Welcome

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music *Come, Let Us Worship God* Ray Makeever (1983)
(join in as directed)

Call to Worship Adapted from Jan Richardson

One: For those
who walked with us

**Many: For those
who have gone ahead**

One: For those
who touched and tended us,
who lingered with us
while they lived,

**Many: For those
who journey still with us
in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory,
in the landscape of our dreams,
we give you thanks, O God.
Let us worship with all the saints.**

Opening Hymn *For All the Saints (verses 1–3)* NCH #299 (Sine Nomine)

v1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast love confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

v2 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

v3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,
live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and share with them a glorious crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

A Remembrance of Those Who Have Died

**Bonnie Turnquist
David Walters
Bill Haslett
Penny Cupp
Gary Stromley
Mary Cay Longley
Jerry Hankins
Helen Woehrlin**

Sung Response

For All the Saints (verse 4)

v4 Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Time With Children

**Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.
All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.**

Scripture

John 11:32-44

Elizabeth Olson

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Prayer Hymn

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

NCH #295 (Grand Isle)

v1 I sing a song of the saints of God,...
faithful their whole lives through,
who bravely labored, lived, and died
for the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and another a shepherd in pastures green:
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one, too.

v2 They loved their God and they lived that love.
It was loving that made them strong.
They did what was right, for Jesus' sake,
lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
and another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
there is no earthly reason, none in the least,

why I shouldn't be one, too.
v3 They lived not only in ages past,
there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is filled with living saints
who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea:
for the saints are folk like you and like me,
and I mean to be one, too.

v4 They come to church at First UCC
In Northfield, USA.
They gather together once a week
But are faithful ev'ry day.
They are baby and youngster and woman and man.
They were here in the past when our church began.
We are saints of God and together we stand,
And I want to be one too.

(verse 4 by First UCCer Anne Rasmussen)

The Prayers

We will begin prayers in song, then a minister will pray, and there will be time for silent prayer. Then we will sing again. All joining worship on Zoom are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

Sung Response

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,
Many: **God, let your spirit move in us.**

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:

Our God, 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.

Offertory

So They Gave Their Bodies to the Commonwealth

Peter Aston (1976)

So they gave their bodies to the commonwealth, and received praise that will never die and a home in the minds of all. Their story lives on, without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other new lives.

—from Pericles' Funeral Oration in Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*,
translated by Alfred Zimmern

Prayer of Thanks

adapted from Carol Penner

Eternal God, thank you for the transient things we know well and love deeply. And thank you for the things that do not end. All of it is from your hands. Keep the love of the saints alive in us, and multiply it through the gifts we give, that the whole earth may be filled with your love. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Come, My Way

NCH #331 (The Call)

v1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as conquers death.

v2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.

v3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
Such a heart as joys in love.

Invitation & Telling the Story

Blessing the Meal

Sharing the Bread & Cup

(Please ready your bread and cup for partaking)

Music During Communion

Behold the Host All Robed in Light
(words at NCH #296)

Norwegian folk song,
arr. Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Behold the host all robed in light,
arrayed like snow-clad mountains bright,
With palms they stand--who is this band
who gather in God's sight?
These are the faithful ones, the same
who through the time of trial came,
Who Christ has raised that they might praise
unendingly God's name;
And now their journey finished they
with joyful voices join to pray,
glad songs they sing.
Their thanks they bring to God both night and day.

Their work was hard, their journey long,
but by God's grace their faith was strong.
These saints made pure, their trials endured,
forever to God belong.
How often in their earthly day
they silently did weep and pray,
But conflicts past, brought home at last,
God wiped their tears away;
No hunger now, nor thirst they know;
Oppression cannot cause them woe.
The Shepherd feeds and gently leads
Where living waters flow.

Prayer After Communion

Hymn of Sending

God, We Thank You for Our People (verses 1, 2, 4) NCH #376 (Holy Manna)

v1 God, we thank you for our people,
roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving,
strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations,
you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember
may our song to you be raised.

v2 Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure:
lessons learned and secrets told,
hopes and memories saved as treasure,
passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories,
food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence
in our tears and laughter shared.

v4 By your Spirit of creation
keep us bold for risking still,
eager in anticipation,
ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another,
sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother,
all your children on the earth.

Benediction

Prelude in F minor, BWV 534

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Postlude

We are so glad you worshiped here today!

Zoom breakout rooms are available for friendship and conversation after the service. Whether you attended in person or online, you're invited after worship to join in conversation and friendship on the church lawn. We hope you will stay!

News to Note

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. in person on Sundays, no registration required. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here! Are you visiting today? [Fill out our virtual visitor card.](#)

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. Give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking the "Give Now!" button under the "Giving" tab, or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up-to-date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! [Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter](#), and find First UCC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

This Week at First UCC

Tuesday, November 9

10 a.m. Women's Group (Zoom; contact wjk@q.com for log-in details)

1-2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 10

7 p.m. CONNECT Group (Library)

7-8:15 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, November 11

11 a.m. Bell Ringing for Armistice Day

Friday, November 12

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Organ Tuning (Sanctuary)

Saturday, November 13

2 p.m. Helen Woehrlin Memorial Service (Zoom)

Sunday, November 14

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship: Immigrant Welcoming Sunday

Thank you for your gifts!

Thank you to everyone who has sent in an estimate of giving, filled out a volunteer survey, and contributed to First UCC's stewardship campaign this fall. You are each a piece of the puzzle that makes it possible for First UCC to engage in impactful ministry through worship, faith formation, and social justice in our community!

If you haven't filled out an estimate of giving yet, please consider doing so and returning your estimate to the church office in the next two weeks, as the Trustees and Council are planning for the 2022 budget. Knowing what you plan to give will help First UCC plan for its ministry in the next year. [Fill out an estimate of giving card here.](#)

New Member Orientation TODAY

A new member orientation will be held after worship today at 11:45 a.m. in the Assembly Room. New members will be welcomed officially to First UCC on Sunday, November 21. Even if you didn't sign up, you can attend today's orientation! We invite those of you who have not joined First UCC as members to prayerfully consider doing so.

6–12th Graders: Bonfire on the lawn after worship today!

WHAT: Bonfire and hangout on the church lawn

WHEN: TOMORROW, November 7

TIME: 12 noon to 3 p.m.

WHO: First UCC 6th to 12th graders!

There will be s'more fixings, hot cocoa, roaster sticks and the Vikings game on in the background. Stick around after church to hang out and maybe throw a football or some bean bags!

CONNECT Groups

Two new CONNECT groups are starting up soon, [and you're invited to join!](#) These small groups for adults are offered periodically for 6-8 weeks at a time. The Wednesday evening group (7 p.m.) is now full. Spots are still available for the group meeting at 4:30pm on Wednesday afternoons (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26), facilitated by Erin Barnett. Sign up at <https://firstucc.org/connect/>.

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the money for Neighbors in Need is awarded as grants to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. [Learn more about Neighbors in Need.](#) First UCC will be collecting an offering for Neighbors in Need next Sunday, November 14. Please consider contributing to this important special mission offering!

Operation Joy

Operation Joy, a community-wide gift sharing program of the Community Action Center (CAC), is set to take place on December 8, 2021! Through the generosity of hundreds of individual donors and dedicated volunteers, approximately 900 Northfield area children from 350 households will receive gifts through Operation Joy this year. The best way to support this goal is through monetary donations. Donate online at communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy

ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)

“Our faiths and spiritualities teach a duty to care...for the environment in which we live. ...Now is the time to take transformative action as a common response” (World Religious Leaders and Scientists COP26 statement). Join ISAIAH and Interfaith Power and Light leaders on November 9 at 7 p.m. to learn more about this week’s UN Climate Talks. [Register to attend here.](#) Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

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First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Sam Steinberg

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Minister for Congregational Life: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Theo Wee

Director of Communications & Operations: Green Bouzard

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Thanks to this Week's Leaders



Ushers: Pat Richardson, Elise Eslinger, Lois Langerak, Linda Larson,
Kathy Sandberg, Nalani McCutcheon, Crystal Henslin

Reader: Elizabeth Olson

Digital Zoom Host: Gary Wagenbach

Tech Team: Mackenzie Perkins

Worship Arts: Linda Gagnon