

# Eve of All Hallows

*A candlelight service celebrating  
God's victory over outer and inner darkness*



*Federated Church  
October 28, 2009  
6:30 p.m.*

## **An All Hallows Eve Primer**

*Join with others in following my example, brothers and sisters, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.*

*Philippians 3:17*

Long before it became associated with ghosts and ghouls, Halloween was connected to Paul's instructions to "take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you." As this passage indicates from the very beginning, Christians have recognized the value of finding and emulating faith heroes. As the church moved from one generation to the next this appreciation of spiritual mentors manifested itself in the setting aside of feast days to remember the lives of the saints. The linkage between the church calendar and the desire to focus on faith heroes also may be seen in the Eve (or the night before) of All Hallows, or All Saints Day.

Appearing in most church calendars, this day was given over to celebrating not only canonized saints, but also the sanctified status of all Christian people, known and unknown. Originally, the feast was closely associated with the resurrection and, in Eastern Orthodoxy, with the season of Pentecost. In the West it was moved to November 1 in A.D. 835. Much of the form and content of tonight's service is derived from a Celtic Eve of All Hallows liturgy that scholars believe was developed approximately fifteen hundred years ago.

Liturgy (*laos* = people + *ergon* = work) is by definition the work of the people. Federated Church's worship planners and leaders are especially grateful to the many people who, in their prayerful consideration of the lives of our Federated saints, took a hand in the work of developing tonight's service.

## An Eve Of All Hallows Service

*Celebrating God's victory over outer and inner darkness*

Prelude

Gary Tyne

### Call & Confession

Leader We call on the God of lights.  
We call on the Champion of fights.  
We call on the Strength of Heaven.  
Sin has weakened our resolve:

**All Invade us once again.**

Leader Sin has blunted our stewardship:

**All Invade us once again.**

Leader Sin has soured our relationships:

**All Invade us once again.**

Leader Sin has fragmented your beautiful body:

**All Invade us once again.**

Leader Sin has set us in frozen isolation:

**All Invade us once again.**

Leader Sin has blighted our cities, soil and souls:

**All Invade us once again.**

Hymn: *O God, Our Help In Ages Past* (v 1, 2, 5, 6)

680

### Prayer & Proclamation

Leader Light-creator, evil and sin cannot forever make their home where you are welcomed in.

**All Forgive us for the places where your light has been shut out.**

Leader Light-giver, fear and fault-finding have no place where your love is invited in.

**All Forgive us for the places where your love has been shut out.**

Leader Light-conductor, loneliness and self-sufficiency have  
no place where your saints are welcomed in.

**All Forgive us for the places where we have shut  
them out.**

Leader Compassionate God of heaven's powers:

**All Screen us from people with evil intentions.**

Leader Compassionate God of freedom:

**All Screen us from curses and spells.**

Leader Compassionate God of the saints:

**All Screen us from bad deeds, bad words, bad thoughts.**

Leader Compassionate God of eternity:

**All Screen us from bad influences rooted in past wrongs**

Leader You were here before all these evils,  
You are here now,  
You will be here at journey's end.

**All Amen.**

Leader Lord, hear our prayer.

**All Your Cross be between me and all things greedy.**

**Your Cross be between me and all things mean.**

**Your Cross be between me and all things gruesome.**

**Your Cross be between me and all things coming  
darkly towards me.**

Leader God be in your thinking. God be in your sleeping.

God be in your dying.

God bring you into the company of the saints.

God of strength, God of peace;

God of time, God of eternity;

God of the saints; in you is all strength;

You are:

**All Stronger than the elements,**

**Stronger than the shadows,**

**Stronger than the fears,**

**Stronger than human wills,  
Stronger than the spirits,  
Stronger than the magic, spells and fantasies  
that assail us.**

Hymn: *For all the Saints* (v 1, 2, 5, 6)

76

### **Celebration & Consecration**

Leader Along with all those who are no longer with us,  
**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Wyman Nyquist whose name was written in God's  
"book of life",  
**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Desmond Gick, son-in-law of J.P. Lisack and  
teacher of many,  
**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Dwight Steckel, who now smiles as he looks  
through the windows of heaven,  
**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Dick McDowell, friend of students and friend of  
God,  
**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Charlotte Williams, small in stature and huge of  
heart,  
**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Carol Eldridge, who no doubt is helping prepare the  
feast for the "marriage of the lamb",  
**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Eleanor Morse, who "rose up on wings of eagles  
and now runs and is not weary, walks and is not  
faint."  
**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Flora Simcox, who gave birth to Audrey Nolley and  
now is reborn in Christ,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Bob Brock, through whom God built our  
community

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Duane Wilson, who now keeps watch on the fields  
of the Lord,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Harold Nolley, who never hesitated from jumping  
out of a plane, into an exchange of ideas and into  
God's arms,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Christopher Timmons, grandson of Hazel Timmon  
and beloved child of God,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Joyce Hiday, whose head is now arrayed with the  
glory of God,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Jimmy McGill, father to Kelly and Stacy, whose  
father was the Lord,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Josephine Ores, sister of J.P. Lisack, caring for  
others, and now in God's loving care,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Dona Irion, who listened always for God and who  
God will listen to eternally.

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With John Green Jr., who was blown north by a hurricane and into God's arms by a "mighty rush" of the Holy Spirit,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With all others near and far who have touched our lives and shown us how to walk in Jesus' footsteps,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

## Consecration by Candlelight

Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

34.

*As we sing the hymn you are invited to make your way to the front of the sanctuary when your row is dismissed. There light a small votive candle from the larger Christ candle and place it on the table. As you do this, give thankful consideration for the faith-heroes God has blessed you with and the ways in which God has, is and will use you to make his presence felt in the lives of others.*

### Scripture Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-2, 32 - 12:3

*1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. 37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. 39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. 40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*

*1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us*

*run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Message

Rev. Susan Lisacl

Hymn: *Lord, I'm Coming Home* (v 1, 4)

490

## **Benediction**

Leader We bind to ourselves this day  
the strong Name of the Trinity,  
by invocation of the Three in One and One in Three.

All **We bind to ourselves this day the power of faith,  
Christ's Incarnation;  
His baptism in the Jordan river;  
His death on the Cross for my salvation;  
His bursting from the spiced tomb;  
His coming at the day of doom.  
Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger..**

Leader Yes, the shielding of God be with us;  
the love of God to enfold us;  
the peace of God to still us;  
the Spirit of God to fill us;  
the saints of God to inspire us;  
this hour, this night and forever.

All **Amen.**

Postlude