

The Eve of All Hallows

*A Candlelight Service Celebrating
God's Victory Over Outer and Inner Darkness*



*Federated Church
October 27, 2010
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.

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) 767

Celebration & Consecration

Leader With the saints, who have been with us,
All We claim the victory of the Lord.

Leader With JoAnne Wild, mother of Bob and child of God,
All We claim the victory of the Lord.

Leader With quiet C. Ray Williams who now sings lustily with
the choir celestial,
All We claim the victory of the Lord.

Leader With Mary Helen Schmidt, who taught that worth
was connected to work and whose worth was connected
to the work of God,
All We claim the victory of the Lord.

Leader With Robert Grenard who at wood bench and forge
wielded many a tool and who in family, community
and church family was a tool wielded by God,
All We claim the victory of the Lord.

Leader With Bette Matter whose “tropical sneakers” now
patter up and down the streets of glory,

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

Leader With Naomi Norman whose knowledge of Psalm
85: 10 (*righteousness and peace will kiss each other...*)
was applied to her sister, her family, her friends
and now, through Christ, with her God,

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

Leader With little Pat Trice who looked everyone in the eye
and who now looks upon the God who became small
so that she might become great,

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

Leader With Clarence May who loved God, numbers and
Esther and who now in God's love is numbered with
the saints awaiting Esther,

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

Leader With Clyde Smith, who joyfully gave away all his tools
and who joyfully knows that he was, is and ever more
shall be a tool in God's hand,

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

Leader With Davidson Hughes, grandson of J.P Lisack and
child of God,

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

Leader With Ruby Minniear, who even in her hospital bed was
sure to wear her Boilermaker cap and who now wears a
crown of glory,

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

Leader With Jim Roy, beloved husband of Betty and brother-
in-law of Lois Schmidt,

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

Leader With Terry Enyeart, son of Mary Lou Enyeart and
nephew of Bonnie Whelchel,

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

Consecration by Candlelight

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.

Reflection

Rev. David Mills

Hymn:

Amazing Grace

343

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.

Hymn:

When We All Get to Heaven (verses 1 & 3)

772

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 riding up the heavenly way;
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

Gary Tyner