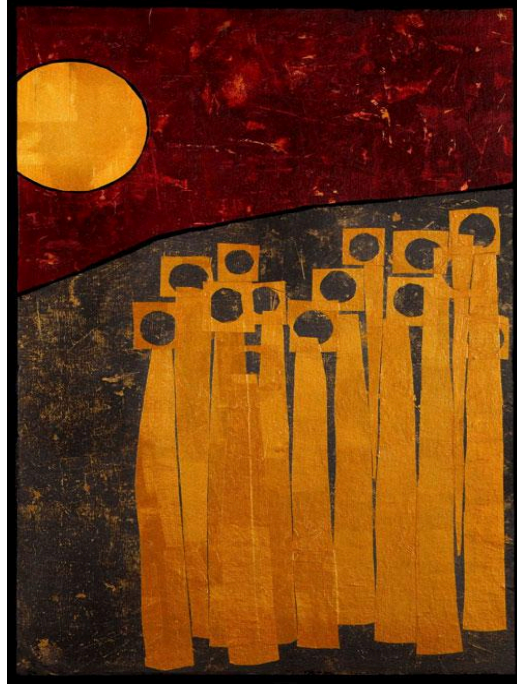


First Congregational United Church of Christ
November 3, 2024 ~ The Rev. Kaity Kemp
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY



For Those Who Walked With Us by Jan Richardson

PRELUDE

Variations on a Them from Pachelbel's Canon

David Lanz

RINGING OF THE BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

The Rev. Kaity Kemp

(Following announcements, please turn and greet your neighbor "good morning", new children are welcome to join other children up at Kid's Church on 3rd floor- see usher for assistance)

OPENING HYMN #752

Dona Nobis Pacem

Congregation sings, standing

(Congregation to sing top section 4 times, while small choral group will be signing the lower section of hymn in a round)

ALL SAINTS POEM

For Those Who Walked With Us by Jan Richardson

Travis Nelson

For those
who walked with us,
This is a prayer.

while they lived,
This is a Thanksgiving.

For those
who have gone ahead,
This is a blessing.

For those
who journey still with us
in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory,
in the landscape of our dreams,
This is a benediction.

For those
who touched and tended us,
who lingered with us

PRAYER SONG#814

In God Alone

Congregation, seated, before and after prayers

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Congregation, seated

Loving God, Grant me grace to release everything too much or too little into your transforming fire of refinement. Sear in me the strength of your saints – generous and gentle, focused and fierce just enough to answer every devilish temptation distracting or denying Your Holy hope for my re-formation. Yes, Love, form me anew from the inside out, centering others ahead of every selfishness that dares me to choose anything less than You. Release me from the burdens and brokenness of my own making, that I may be ready to meet You in every ordinary saint whose path crosses mine in the gift of this day. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

The Rev. Kaity Kemp

PASTORAL PRAYER

Congregation, Seated

PRAYER SONG#814

In God Alone

Congregation, seated, before and after prayers

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

The Rev. Kaity Kemp

DOXOLOGY#612

We Praise You, O God

Congregation sings, standing

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The Rev. Kaity Kemp

FIRST READING

Ruth 1:1-18

Travis Nelson

GOSPEL

Mark 12:28-3

The Rev. Kaity Kemp

REFLECTION

The Rev. Kaity Kemp

PASTOR: All Saints Sunday gives us an opportunity to celebrate and remember those saints in our lives who have gone before us. Their presence in our lives has contributed to and shaped our work, our life, character and story. When remembering those who have died, it's easy to ignore our grief or to sink into it. To paint over it and create a facade that everything is ok, or to submit to despair that nothing will ever be ok. But there is light that shines in the darkness. A light that gives us courage to face the dark. A light that gives us faith to hope for a future. They once dwelled among us, the people of memory.

ALL: They who knew us, they who taught us, They who hurt us, they who loved us.

PASTOR: They touch our lives time and again,

ALL: Through their presence and their absence. Through familiar scents and favorite songs, through old stories and renewed sorrow.

PASTOR: As the earth turns and leaves fall, We reach back to renew the bonds between us.

ALL: With hearts and hands open We hold onto love, Ever-stronger than death.

PASTOR: We reach back in gratitude and understanding—Without our time together, The pain and the joy.

ALL: We would never be who we are today; We would have little to pass on ourselves.

PASTOR: Without fear, with thanksgiving and with hope for all that awaits

ALL: We remember those who have gone before, We honor the circle of life and death, And our place within this sacred thread.

PASTOR: We remember church members: Sid Scott, Larry Collins, Charles Pearson, Melba “Elaine” Freebolin, Kathi Flannery, Dan Schumacher and Kert Marty

PASTOR: This Sunday, we light candles for those who have died. It is a somber moment for some. A moment of gratitude for others. For most, it’s probably a bit of both. Light in darkness. The image of a solitary candle burning will give way to an image of a table of candles. A table of candles, representing the sorrows and gratitudes born by our whole congregation. We’re each too weak to bear these on our own. But together with God, it also becomes a moment of beauty.

*Congregants may come forward to light a candle in memory of their departed loved one
Please remain silent and meditative during this time of special music*

REMEMBRANCE & SPECIAL MUSIC

The Rev. Kaity Kemp

Song “A Brief Walk Together” written by Mary Bryant.

Featuring: Mary Bryant on harp and accompanied by Joanne Wright on piano

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right to give you thanks, God,
creator of all we know,
all that is seen and unseen.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

ALL SAINTS PRAYER

The Rev. Kaity Kemp

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Congregation, Seated

Our Father, 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.

COMMUNION

The Rev. Kaity Kemp

All who wish to know the love of Christ are welcome to receive communion. We receive communion by coming forward as the ushers invite you, to receive the bread in your hand and then drink your individual cup. We offer gluten and grain free bread. The cup contains grape juice.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Be Still, For The Presence of the Lord

Jill Heitzman

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Congregation, seated

Jesus Christ, lamb and shepherd,
we remember you here,
as we remember all your saints.
Help us to remember you
not just in this sanctuary
but in our homes and schools

our cars and offices
to remember that every part of our life is
saturated with your grace
and that we are never alone
but surrounded by a cloud of witnesses
united by your love. Amen

HYMN#326

For All the Saints

Congregation sings standing

BENEDICTION

The Rev. Kaity Kemp

ALL: Thanks be to God

BENEDICTION SONG #543

God, Be the Love to Search & Keep Me
(Verse 1)

Congregation sings, standing

POSTLUDE

For All the Saints

Cindy Berry

