



~AT HOME WORSHIP~

1st November 2020



Service Theme:

All Saints – Blessed are you...

Preparation

Find a place of quiet, set your things around you for the service and just sit in silence and stillness for a few moments. Focus on your breathing, that it brings you closer into the presence of God.

Hymn/Song: Here I am to worship (lyrics by Tim Hughes)

<https://youtu.be/QT8XXljHkw4>

Light of the world
you stepped down into darkness.
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus
Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days,
oh, so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor.

Chorus (x2)
I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross (repeat x2)

Chorus (x2)

Opening Prayer

We come together today, even when physically apart, with saints all over the world to worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We come as saints on earth to join our prayers and praises with the saints in heaven.

Prayer for the Day

Heavenly Father,
through the example of those who lived by faith in you,
strengthen us when we are weakened,
encourage us when we feel downhearted,
help us to trust in times of doubting,
and inspire us to lead lives of love and service.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Saying Sorry

Forgive us, Father,
for the times we have denied we know you.
Lord, have mercy.
Forgive us, Lord Jesus,
for the people we have hurt and ignored.
Christ, have mercy.
Forgive us, Gracious Spirit,
for the ways we abuse your love.
Lord, have mercy.
May Almighty God forgive us
and give us courage and strength to
turn away from sin and to follow Christ. Amen.

Saying Sorry – for children

God, for the times we have not
followed your guidance:
forgive us.

Jesus, for the times we have been as
kind to others as we could have been:
forgive us.

Holy Spirit, for the times we have
closed our eyes to the light that is
Jesus Christ.
forgive us. Amen.

BIBLE READING



Take your time reading the words from Luke's gospel today. Pause at the end of each verse. Reflect on it. What are the words saying to you today? What do they encourage you to do for social justice, for your community, for the world around you? What small thing would help make a difference to many?

Luke 6:20-31

Happiness and Sorrow

²⁰ Jesus looked at his disciples and said,

“Happy are you poor;
the Kingdom of God is yours!

²¹ “Happy are you who are hungry now;
you will be filled!

“Happy are you who weep now;
you will laugh!

²² “Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and say that you are evil, all because of the Son of Man! ²³ Be glad when that happens and dance for joy, because a great reward is kept for you in heaven. For their ancestors did the very same things to the prophets.

²⁴ “But how terrible for you who are rich now;
you have had your easy life!

²⁵ “How terrible for you who are full now;
you will go hungry!

“How terrible for you who laugh now;
you will mourn and weep!

²⁶ “How terrible when all people speak well of you; their ancestors said the very same things about the false prophets.

Love for Enemies

²⁷ “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone hits you on one cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. ³¹ Do for others just what you want them to do for you.

REFLECTION TIME



Short Reflection for All Saints Day by Revd Lis Arnold

The word “saint” conjures up a variety of images and notions. Someone who is perfect perhaps? Someone who is very holy and pious?

One image that springs to mind for me is of a stained glass window – looks perfectly o.k. until the sun shines through it and then it shines with light and glorious colours and becomes very special. I think a saint could be like that – someone through whom the love of God shines through in their loving actions and ways.

Then there are the famous saints that we know about. St Francis of Assisi, St Teresa of Avila, St Patrick, St Paul and St Peter. Could we be sure they were always “saintly”? I expect some of them could be difficult to live with. Some had very extreme ideas about mortifying the flesh – standing all night in icy sea water for example, going in for extreme regimes of fasting etc.

So we can see we are on slightly difficult ground when we try to define what makes a saint.

In the New Testament, there are references to “saints” and they refer to all the new Christians in the communities established by Paul (Ephesians 1:15 NRSV) says, “Keep alert and always pray for the saints”, he says in Ephesians 6:18. In his letter to Philemon Paul says, “Your love has given me great joy and encouragement because your brother has refreshed the hearts of the saints.” Are we then saints in our Christian communities?

So “saints” is not a single category nor is it easy to define.

Technically speaking, saints are “holy ones”, in Greek “hagioi”, the blessed of God, “makarioi”. And it is this blessedness that Jesus focuses on in his Sermon on the Plain which is our Gospel reading for today. And of course it includes the Woes, in direct contrast to the blessedness.

Jesus focuses his ministry on the poor, the hungry, the crying, the hated, the ostracised and powerless. They are always his focus. They have nothing – nothing to insulate them from the harshness of life. They know they are at the bottom of the pile – people like tax collectors and prostitutes whom Jesus says will go into the kingdom first because they believed John the Baptist’s call to repentance. They know their need of God. They are blessed. The rich and comfortable are protected by their wealth and worldly possessions and are not aware of their need of God. We have to be very careful as we too can fall into that same trap of complacency. It’s alright to have wealth, health and power, what is important is what you do with them. And that they do not come between us and God. The woes are directed at that sin.

So, finally, I think that saints are those people who show the love of God in their lives, who know their need of God and try to do his will. They may be Premier Division Saints like the historically famous ones or they may be people we see everyday doing remarkable things because they care about their neighbour. There were, and are, many saints during this present pandemic who risk their lives for others.

Jesus says this. “Do to others as you would have them do to you” – it’s a good code to live by and could be the foundation of sainthood! Amen.

[Children may choose to use the Activity and Colouring Sheet](#)



Family Song: This little light of mine

<https://youtu.be/NsbRIg-ebWg>

Time for Prayer



Spend time in prayer for:

-those who are struggling to make ends meet during the pandemic

-those who are having to travel to get to work but who are scared too of being close to others.

-those in authority that they may focus on the care of all

Ask God's blessing on them

During the week, choose one area or place to pray specifically for, that their needs may be met and a sense of hope is felt.



Spend time in prayer for:

-those who struggle to find enough food to eat to stay healthy

-those whose drinking water is contaminated or where clean water is several hours walk away

-those who are working within their communities to provide food and comfort to people in need

Ask God's blessing on them

During the week, choose to prayer for one more local charities, such as the Food Collective, Filling Station and Harbour Project, who are a lifeline to many.



Spend time in prayer for:

-the children who have very little in their lives, locally and elsewhere

-those who will not eat a regular, healthy hot meal during half term

-those who feel lost and lonely

-those in authority who can make a difference to children's lives

Ask God's blessing on them

During the week, choose to pray for our local schools who work to nurture young people.

Use this space to add words or phrases that come to you during your time of prayer. You may have something specific to hold in your prayers and writing it down can help with keeping it as a focus. Or you may wish to draw something that is a prayer on your heart at this time.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours
Now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn/Song: For all the Saints (lyrics by William Walsham How 1864)

<https://youtu.be/1OaBgaMcOvM>

For all the Saints
who from their labours rest
Who Thee, by faith,
before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus,
Be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock,
Their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain
In the well-fought fight,
Thou in the darkness, drear,
their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest Communion,
Fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle,
They in glory shine;
Yet all are one
In Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

The golden evening
brightens in the west.
Soon, soon to faithful
warriors cometh rest.
Sweet is the calm
of paradise the blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

But yonder breaks
a yet more glorious day.
The saints, triumphant,
Rise in bright array.
The king of glory
passes on his way.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds,
From ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl
streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Closing Prayer

May the gifts you have given me bear fruit
in my life,
that I may be as one of your saints,
faithful and true, generous and bold,
humble and dedicated.
In the name and spirit of Jesus Christ,
Amen.

Dismissal

Grace, mercy and peace,
from the God of all ages,
the saviour of all peoples
and the source of all goodness,
be with us all, and all God's saints,
now and evermore.
Amen.

God bless you now and always

