

Peace UCC
November 1 2020
Totenfest

Prelude “For All the Saints”

Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. Hal H. Hopson
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Welcome

Opening Words Jewish Prayer of Remembrance by Jack Riemer and Sylvan Kamens

One: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
Many: we remember them.

One: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
Many: we remember them.

One: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,
Many: we remember them.

One: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
Many: we remember them.

One: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
Many: we remember them.

One: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
Many: we remember them.

One: When we are weary and in need of strength,
Many: we remember them.

One: When we are lost and sick at heart,
Many: we remember them.

One: When we have joys we yearn to share,
Many: we remember them.

One: So long as we live, they too shall live,
for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.

Opening Response "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place" Mark A. Miller

There's a spir - it of love in this place, there's a spir - it of love in this
pres ence of peace in this room, there's a pres ence of peace in this
place. You can't see it, but it's there, just as pre-cious as the air. There's a
room. In God's ten - der-ness is found peace that pass - es hu-man bounds. There's a
spir - it of love in this place. There's a room. O al - le -
pres - ence of peace in this
lu - ia,___ sing al - le - lu - ia! We bless you ho - ly___
name. O al - le - lu - ia,___ sing al - le - lu - ia! There's a
spir - it of love in this place.

Totenfest

Today we celebrate Totenfest, the German word for Festival of the Dead. It was established in 1816 by Prussian Emperor Fredrick William III as a day to remember that nation's soldiers who had died in the recent Prussian War. It was an important observance in the Evangelical Church in Prussia, the predecessor of the German Evangelical Church of America, of which this congregation was a part. Its roots go back even further to the All Saints and All Souls days of the medieval church. In recent years, many churches like ours that celebrate Totenfest have also added the listing of all babies born during the previous year, celebrating the fullness of life from birth to death.

Reading of Names

Remembrance— We remember those who have died in the past year, celebrating their lives, even as we continue to grieve.

Celebration— We give thanks for the blessings of new life and new families.

Time of Silence

Prayer

As I live every day,
I want to be a channel for peace.
May I bring love where there is hatred
and healing where there is hurt;

joy where there is sadness
and hope where there is fear.
I pray that I may always try
to understand and comfort other people
as well as seeking
comfort and understanding from them.
Wherever possible, may I choose to be
a light in the darkness, a help in times of need,
and a caring, honest friend.
May justice, kindness, and peace
flow from my heart forever. Amen.

Word in Song “Shall We Gather at the River” Chancel Choir
Robert Lowry, arr. Hal H. Hopson
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Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

For the wisdom contained in these words we give thanks. Amen.

Sermon Jen Einspahr

Hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

NCH #295 Tune: Grand Isle



I sing a song of the saints of God faith - ful their whole lives
They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov - ing that made them
They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are hun - dreds of thou - sands



through, who brave - ly la - bored, lived, and died for the
strong. They did what was right, for Je - sus' sake, lived__
still. The world is filled with liv - ing saints who__



God they loved and knew. And one was a doc - tor, and
just - ly their whole lives long. And one was a proph - et, and
choose to do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the



one was a queen, and an - oth - er a shep - herd in pas - tures green: they were
one was a priest, and an - oth - er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is
road, or at sea, in a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the



saints of God, if you know what I mean. God,
no earth - ly rea - son,___ none in the least, why
saints are folk like___ you and like me, and



help me to be one, too.
I should - n't be one, too.
I mean to be one, too.

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Creator, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kin - dom come, your 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 yours is the kin - dom, and the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, come.
Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.
Bless all of us in our eating and drinking
that our eyes might be opened,
that we might recognize the risen Christ
in our midst, indeed, in one another.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Pray of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love
by bringing us to this meal.
We go from here renewed in faith,
renewed in courage,
and strengthened by your presence.
Thank you for loving us so tenderly.
Thank you for challenging us
to know you better and to receive you more fully. Amen

How Shall We Join God's Work in the World

Gracious God, we give thanks.
We ask your blessings on these gifts of time,
talent, and treasure as we use them to join
Your work in the world. Amen

Closing

Postlude "When The Saints Go Marching In" Traditional
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