

**Peace UCC**  
**October 31, 2021**  
**Totenfest**

**Prelude** "Cantilena" Josef Rheinberger  
from Sonata in D minor Op. 148 No. 11  
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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 peacethat 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 your 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.

**The Witness of Music**      Chancel Choir  
"Shall We Gather at the River" Robert Lowry/setting by Hal H. Hopson  
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### Shall We Gather at the River

#### Verse 1

Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its' crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?

#### Chorus

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

#### Verse 2

Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we every burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown.

#### Chorus

#### Verse 3

Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace.

#### Chorus

**Readings:****Habakkuk 2:1-4**

I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what God will say to me, and what God will answer concerning my complaint.

Then the Holy One answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.

Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

**Psalm 110 (translation by Nan Merrill)**

The Beloved says to all who will hear,

“Come, walk with Me. Let us give birth to a new Earth!”

For, the spirit is the One who makes all things new, and ever awaits our “yes” to the Dance!

Those who offer themselves freely, without reserve, are guided through life’s rough paths.

Light beckons to light; divine dignity adorns them in holy array.

The Promise holds true forever, to all generations!

“As companions of the Most High, come! Claim your home in the Universal Heart!”

You, O Divine Breath, dwell within our hearts; with strong love, You assuage our fears.

You call us to holiness, to justice, and integrity, to free those bound by oppression, to bring light where ignorance and darkness dwell.

Come! Drink from the streams of Living Water.

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

**Sermon** Rev. Wendy Bruner

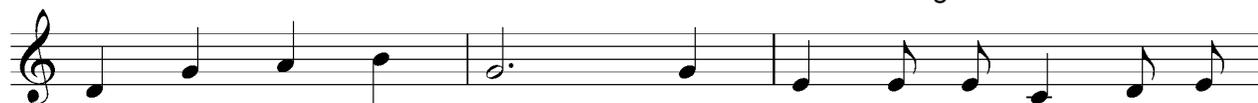
## Hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"



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.

## **How Shall We Join God's Work in the World**

Gracious God, we give thanks and ask your blessings on the many and diverse gifts we bring to join you in your work in the world.

## **Benediction**

**Postlude** "Trumpet Tune" Jason D. Payne  
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