

Sunday October 31, 2021
We Creatures Ever SO Close

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Hear, O people of God: our God is one.
Hear the commandments of our God.

People: **First, love your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind,
and with all your strength**

Leader: Hear, O people of God: our God is one.
Recite the commandments and hold them in your hearts.

People: **Second, love your neighbor as yourself.**
There is no commandment greater than these calls to love. Amen.

Opening Prayer **Unison**

**O Holy One, Source of all life and Ground of all love,
we thank you for your love that never lets us go.
Thank you for the privilege of gathering
with these your people – our neighbors – to worship you.
We gather so that our hearts might be opened to you and to one another.
As we worship you today, help us to respond to the call of love
– to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves.
We pray for our nation that we may prayerfully choose to re-awaken to the
reality we are tied to a single garment of destiny.
We pray for those elected officials who serve all citizens
that they may be guided not by ego, politics or money,
but by compassion for all people.
Guide us as families, as a community of faith, as a nation
to follow the path of love. Amen.**

Hymn #311: Renew Your Church
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Keith Johnson

- 1) Renew your church, its ministries restore: both to serve and adore.
Make us again as salt throughout the land, and as light from a stand.
'Mid somber shadows of the night, where greed and hatred spread their blight,
O send us forth with power endued. Help us, God, be renewed.
- 2) Teach us your word, reveal its truth divine; on our path let it shine.
Tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace; from each page show your face.
As you have sent your Christ to save, in love to triumph o'er the grave,
O let our hearts with love be stirred. Help us, God, know your word.
- 3) Teach us to pray, for you are ever near; your still voice let us hear.
Our souls are restless till they rest in you; this is life, full and true.
Before your presence keep us still that we may find for us your will
And seek your guidance every day. Teach us, God, how to pray.
- 4) Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all—human-kind!
Break down old walls of prejudice and hate; leave us not to our fate.
As you have loved and given your life to end hostility and strife,
Your grace we must be mindful of: Teach us, O God, how to love.

Prayer of Confession Unison

**Again and again you call us
to care for widows and orphans,
to advocate for those in prison,
to welcome the strangers.
O God, we hear your call,
but all around us we hear the cry
that there is not enough for all, and that some are undeserving.**

**Again and again you call us
to love you with our whole heart, understanding, and strength;
such love demands that we seek justice
for those who are oppressed, poor, and forgotten.
O God, we hear your call,
But all around us are competing calls
of worldly loyalties, political parties, and public acclaim.**

**Again and again, you urge us to seek you first.
We long to trust the path of love for you and our neighbors as ourselves.
Yet we fear that our “land of milk and honey”**

**Has become a land of moral famine and economic hardship,
And we wonder at times if you have abandoned us.**

**Again and again you urge us not to lean on our own understanding
but in all our ways to acknowledge you, and yet
we are often distracted by the clamor of fear dressed up as reason.**

**As we prepare our hearts and minds in these days,
you remind us to follow you
so that it may go well for us, our neighbors, our nation, and our world.
Yet too often we forget to observe
your statutes of compassion and your ordinances of justice.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the word of God for this season and all seasons:
“Do not be afraid! I will never leave you or forsake you.”
Know that our God who began a good work in us is able to complete it.
As we open ourselves to the Spirit of God,
may we see more fully the wonder of God already at work in us.
And so it is. **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Reading

Louise Piper

Psalm 119:1-8 (NIV)

- ¹ Happy are those whose way is blameless,
 who walk in the law of the LORD.
- ² Happy are those who keep his decrees,
 who seek him with their whole heart,
- ³ who also do no wrong,
 but walk in his ways.
- ⁴ You have commanded your precepts
 to be kept diligently.
- ⁵ O that my ways may be steadfast
 in keeping your statutes!
- ⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,

having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.
⁸ I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

Special Music

Keith Johnson

Gospel Reading

Mark 12:28-34 (NIV)

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?”
²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³ and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Musical Interlude

Sermon: We Creatures Ever SO Close

Music for Meditation

All Saints Day Prayer

Prayers of the People

Hymn #537 Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed (verses 1 and 2)

**1) Christian, rise and act your creed;
let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
raise your work and life anew.**

**2) Hearts around you sink with care,
you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light,
strengthen them to do the right.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer Unison

Offering Invitation

Brothers and sisters, Dr. Martin Luther King reminds us:
"I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be.
You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be."
The invitation to bring our tithes, pledges, and offerings is an invitation
to support one another, those within this community and beyond,
to become all of what we are called to be.
Our tithes, pledges, and offerings—both monetary and other—
enable us to give thanks to God for the resources we have been given
and enable us to be resources for others.

Offering and Dedication Unison

**Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people.
Help us that we rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts,
but to seek your wisdom.
Knowing that as we do,
your will is revealed and your people near and far will be blessed. Amen.**

Benediction Unison

**Go forth, following as the Holy Spirit leads you,
moving in love and compassion, pursuing justice and mercy,
and trusting in the God of peace.
For the Source of all life and love is as close as your very breath.
Breathe deeply.
Amen.**

All Saints Remembrances

Mary Alice
Robin Bailey
Roland Bailey
William (Cliff) Bailey
Edith Barber
Rick Barber
Millie Fowble Bellamy
Brook Bland
Mary Alice Bland
Joseph Buhner
David Burnett
Shelly Busky
David Canterbury
Paul Carter
Uncle Cook
Maggie Cox
Alexander Derry
Juanita Derry
Miles Derry
Harold (Hal) Domchick
Connie Folk
Lawrence (Larry) Folk
Louis & Beatrice Folk
Carl Dean Folsom
Sue Gagne
Franklin Galvin
Wade Ginglesberger
Helen & Bill Gransfor
Gertrude Green
Emory Harmon
Ada Hatch
Ed Herbert
Duc Hua
Thoai Van Hua
Harold Huffendick
William & Ruth Hull
Mr. & Mrs. George Jones
Norma & Paul Jones
Margaret Joyner
John Kramer
Marion Lane
Rosita Laznick
Brian Leverone
Carolyn Leverone
Eva Leverone
Joseph Leverone

LeRoy Leverone
Mark Leverone
Grandma Lill
Edna Grant Littlefield
Ocean Star Littlefield
James Manning
John (Rock) McBride
William (Bill) McCarthy
Eugenia Miers
James A. Miers
Clarence & Hazel Moreland
Thom Thi Nguyen
Uncle Paul
Betty Portney
Sam Portney
Ed Pray
Mary Ransom
Will Ransom
George Reeves
Franklin Reid
Albert J. Schaffer
Margaret G. Schaffer
Barbara Schindler
Jean Shade
Mr. & Mrs. Boston Sheelor
Billy Smith
Charlotte Smith
Beatrice Straw
Katherine & Paul Switzer
Maria Switzer
Marge Taylor
Phil Taylor
William Taylor
Ann Thompson
David Thompson
Charles Tilton
Mary Jean Tilton
Grandma Tomkins
Theron & Alberta Tompkins
Otto & Evelyn Voigt
Rena Hull Voigt
Rosemary Walker-Butler

Living Saints

Patti Stange
Gwen Vaccaro