

All Saints Service of Remembrance

November 1 @ 11 am

FPC Columbarium

Opening Sentences (Peter)

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. In life and in death we belong to God. Baptized into Christ's death we live unto him.

“If we live, we live unto the Lord and if we die, we die unto the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lords.”

Welcome and Opening Prayer (Peter)

In the early Christian traditions, All Saint's Day was a day for religious leaders to honor those titled “saints” and those who had passed on from their earthly life into their eternal life. In the reformed church, we don't just honor those titled saints. We recognize that all people are important; all are a part of God's family, and all are to be celebrated.

So... Today, we gather to celebrate believers of every time, with a special focus in honoring the faithful who have died during the past year in our own church community. Today is a day of gratefulness for those that have passed away who shared their faith with us, and a time to reflect on how we can continue to share our faith with others. Today, we not only remember those who have gone before us, but we anticipate the life promised to us all in Christ Jesus. It is a day when we remember that the line that separates life and death is not as stark as we sometimes assume. In Christ, we celebrate that not even death can sever the ties that bind us to one another and to all our ancestors in the faith. Nor can anything separate us from the love of God- the God who grants us visions, sparks our imaginations, and kindles our hope- the God who keeps every good promise.

Let us pray: Eternal God, you have knit your people of all times and places into one communion in the mystical body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant us your Holy Spirit of encouragement and strength so we may persevere in our leg of the relay race of faith until such time as we join the great cloud of witnesses who cheer us on the Way. Keep us one with all who proclaim your gospel until such time as we finish our race, collapsing into your arms where you wait for us at the finish of your new creation begun in Christ, the pacesetter and perfecter of the way, the truth, and life everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, who was born, lived, died, and rose again for all your children of every time and place. Let all God's people say... Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 103 (Chad)

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless the Lord.

God's dominion is forever.

As for us, our days are like grass:

Like a flower of the field, we flourish and then we die.

But the steadfast love of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

And God's righteousness is to children's children.

The grass withers and the flower fades;

But the word of the Lord stands forever.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless the Lord.

God's dominion is forever.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:3-5 (Chad)

Act of Remembrance (Peter, Chad)

Handbell 3x to open

With thanksgiving, praise, and honor, we remember...

List of Names, DOB and DOD... Handbell 1x after each name

Chad: Invitation for those present to name anyone they wish... Handbell 1x after each

Chad: We also remember those who grieve the loss of someone at any time...

moment of silence... Handbell 1x

Handbell 3x to conclude

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Intinction)

Invitation (Chad)

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Peter)

It is right to give our thanks and praise to you, the God of Abraham and Sarah, Miriam and Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Ruth, David, priests, and prophets, Mary, Joseph, Peter and Paul, apostles, martyrs, and ordinary unknown saints. You are the God of our mothers and fathers and our children to all generations. You, Everlasting One, made us all. You fashion us into one people and continue to love us even when we deny our godly heritage. Still, you call us home to you through saints dedicated to your will.

Blessed are you, most gracious God, for the gift of your child, our brother, Jesus Christ, who lived in accord with your will to the point of laying down his life for the good news he preached and passed on to us. On the night of his arrest, he taught us how to serve one another in love with a ritual of table fellowship enjoyed by Christians of all times and places. And so, in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves with thanksgiving as a living sacrifice. In union with Christ's offering for us, we live out the mystery of the faith we proclaim: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Spirit of the Living God make us one as we partake of these your gifts to us, so we might be in communion with you and one another. As we break bread together, may our eyes be opened to see your glory. As we lift the cup of salvation, may we be strengthened to follow your way.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor and praise are yours almighty God, now and forevermore. Amen.

Words of Institution (Peter- Bread, Chad- Cup)

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion (Peter)

Gracious and Eternal God, we thank you for this holy mystery that brings your children of every time and place together as one. We pray that it will nourish us and give us the strength we need to continue in our faithful call to love you and others in ways that bring you honor and glory. Lift our spirits, redeem our memories, and empower us with your love and grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.

Hymn: "Because He Lives"

Responsive Charge: Hebrews 12:1-2 (Chad)

Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,
let us throw off everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us with our eyes fixed on Christ.

Benediction (Peter)

And now, may the Lord bless us and keep us.

May the Lord be kind and gracious to us.

May the Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. Amen.

If you would like to speak with a pastor at any time regarding the loss of a loved one, take time to share the story of a loved one, or learn more about grief support.