

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
NOVEMBER 1, 2020
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ALL SAINTS DAY

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Shall We gather at the River

Text and Music by Robert Lowery
Arranged by Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP

Through Moses, God said, There are many who have walked the path toward God before us, showing us the way with their lives.

We come to give thanks for them.

As they were called, so are we called to live as Jesus did, answering the call of God, saying, “Here I am! Send me.”

We come to ask for guidance and courage.

We are, each of us, like those who have gone before us, a strange mixture of saint and sinner. God accepts us that way and fills us with the Spirit, who empowers us to act.

We come to worship Holy God.

HYMN

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

For all the saints who from their labors 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!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
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!

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Beloved God, who was known to our mothers and fathers, and even to our spiritual forebears, you call us your own children and cover us with your love. Have mercy on us. We do not always love as you would have us love. We do not always do as you would have us do. In our stubbornness, we turn from you when we should turn toward you. Hold us, dear One – comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family, and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence. We praise you for the grace you shower on us, constantly forgiving our errors, especially the ones that we don't share with any but you. Hear now the silent fears and worries of our hearts.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

JOYFUL RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gretchen Turner

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

MUSICAL OFFERING

EPISTLE READING

1 John 3:1-3

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

Hope Through History

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that on the first day,
God released love and creativity over a void;
and that void became mountains and rivers, sunsets and starry nights.**

**We believe God released
God's people from the grips of slavery,
liberating us day in and day out.**

**We believe God laid down with death
and was released from its grip,
knowing suffering and freeing us from this fragile life.**

**And we believe God invites us—
day in and day out—
to release our fears,
let go of assumptions, tear down walls,
throw open the doors, and walk closer to love.**

May it be so.

Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND WORLD

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory Response *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore

PRAISE GOD

Prayer of Dedication

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Prayer after Communion

HYMN

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith is Firm

REPTON

Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all around seems bleak:
On God's good promise they rely, so while they live and when they die
How forcefully they speak: the strong, who once were weak!

Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, beyond mere mortal sight:
who seek the city God has planned, the true, eternal promised land,
and steer on toward that light, a beacon ever bright.

Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a sparkling precious stone:
They show by what they say and do an inward beauty, warm and true,
For God's concerns they own: God's love through them is known.

Give thanks for saints of ages past and saints alive today:
Though often by this world despised, their hearts by God are richly prized.
Give thanks that we may say we share their pilgrim way.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

Chorale
from "Variations on Sine Nomine"

Richard Proulx



Notes on today's music

Opening Voluntary "Shall We Gather at the River?" or simply "At the River" are the popular names for the traditional hymn titled HANSON PLACE written in 1864 by American poet and gospel music composer Robert Lowry (1826- 1899). The arrangement is by Dale Wood (1934-2003), an American composer, organist, and choral director best known for his church music compositions.

Hymn Introduction The hymn introduction is from "Variations in Sine Nomine" by Richard Proulx, (1937-2010) an American composer and editor of church music, including anthems, service music, hymn concertatos, organ music and music for handbell choir.

First Hymn The text is by William How (1823-1897), first published in 1864 and intended as a processional for All Saints' Day, as a celebration of the Church Triumphant. The music, by the beloved English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), is recognized as one of the greatest hymn tunes of the 20th century. The tune name SINE NOMINE is Latin for "without a name."

Benediction in Music Another piece from "Variations in Sine Nomine," it offers a quiet reflection on the hymn as we consider the memories of those who are now gathered before the throne of God. The hymn tune is interwoven the motif of another well known tune RHOSYMEDRE by Ralph Vaughan Williams.