

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 East Moline, Illinois
 Pastor Becky Sherwood
November 7, 2021, All Saints' Sunday
 Isaiah 25:6-9, Revelation 21:1-6a
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 2021

Jesus speaks to us this day from John 11:25-26: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

We are gathered together on this All Saints' Sunday to honor and remember the lives of our church members, family members and friends who have gone Home to Heaven in the past year. We gather in the grace and presence of the Living Christ, entrusting each of them again into our God's welcoming arms.

Today we gather together to remember and savor the ways their lives have touched our lives.. Today you will hear the names of people you knew, and people whom you never met until this morning. Today we will spend time with 10 people who were cherished by their families and their church family.

Today we can gather with the deep, comforting joy that each of these people have heard God's words of welcome: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord."

May our lives and hearts be touched by the legacy of their lives again, whether we knew them for years, or you are meeting them for the first time today. May we learn from the ways they lived their lives and hear God's invitation to each of us to:

live and enjoy life,
 to live and practice the life of faith,
 and to live and share the love that we have been given.

We are also gathered together on this All Saints' Sunday to celebrate the good news that in life and in death we belong to God, and there is nothing, not even death that can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Therefore, we trust with confidence that each of these people are safely Home in Heaven, face to face with our God of love. Truly they are Children of God and Saints in the Kingdom of God.

Today, as we remember, we will recite the words of the Hymn *For All the Saints* as Linda, our Organist plays. Because of Covid restrictions we are not yet singing, but together we can say the words and poetry of this hymn that has been a part of worship for over 150 years. Please join me in slowly reading the words of Verse 1, following the brief introduction that Linda will play.

Read Verse 1

1. 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!

Following the remembrances for each of our members, I invite you to join me in the responsive reading you will find listed in the bulletin. Let us remember together:

Remembering God's saints:

Randy Buss, August 9, 1958 -- November 17, 2020

A Mechanical Engineer who worked in nuclear plants at Cordova, and in numerous states.
 A man who was a careful collector of his family's genealogy; who read about history, archeology, biblical archeology, science fiction, and space exploration. A member of the National Space Society, who loved attending their annual International Space Development Conferences.
 A world traveler who was happy to share his beautiful photographs with anyone who would look and listen.

A bicyclist who traveled Quad Cities bike trails with Don, and often biked much farther afield in the United States and beyond.

A man of deep and inquisitive faith who spent his entire lifetime at First Presbyterian Church, a member for 49 years. A Deacon, and an active member of the Outreach Commission. In the first summer of the pandemic, part of the team that took care of the church grounds with the Property Commission. His bass voice will be missed from the back row of the choir where he sang for years. In the words of his family: "A kind and thoughtful person whose friendliness led to conversations with lots of people. His unique personality will be missed by his church family and friends." (from his obituary)

Loved youngest brother to Char and Don, brother-in-law to Tom and Aneita.

Pastor: Randy Buss, A Child of God,

ALL: AND A SAINT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Marynell Kirkwood, May 23, 1923 -- November 26, 2020

A woman who was a learner and a teacher throughout the 97 good years of her life.
 A missionary teacher at Woodstock School in the Himalayan Mountains of India. Then later a teacher and Acting Principal of the Baldwin Girls School in Bangalore, India.
 A world traveler. The best person with whom to visit an Indian restaurant.
 An artist who loved quilting, sewing, doing cross stitch, knitting, and making batiks. Along with Liz Litton, the first to create our All Saints' Sunday banners the first two years we had them.
 A woman whose faith, Bible Studies, and expressive singing touched lives around the world, at Friendship Manor, and in our sanctuary. One hymn Sunday, she asked us to sing Jesus Loves Me, writing: "It took me years before I believed it! Today nobody demonstrates LOVE as He does to me. I am blessed. Marynell.
 Mother to Randall & Eileen, Kathryn, and Karla & Greg, loved by 9 grand-children, and 9 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild.

Pastor: Marynell Kirkwood, A Child of God,

ALL: AND A SAINT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Bob Dravis, June 15, 1933 -- January 3, 2021

A man who served his country in the U.S. Air Force, and worked for Bituminous Insurance Company for 27 years.
 An avid Iowa Hawkeyes and Chicago Cubs fan.
 A friend to people of all ages, in his community, his church, and wherever he might bump into them.
 A creator, with Jan, of wonderful family vacations.
 A man many of us knew best for his catch-phrase: "I do wood," and all the marvelous creations he designed and created. An avid woodcarver who founded the Mississippi Valley Woodcarvers Club in 1970, that now meets in our church basement. A creator of Christmas Ornaments, pins for children and friends, the Presbyterian symbol that graces our sanctuary, palm crosses that touched hundreds of lives, and a builder of furniture for his daughter Sue, and a table for us that holds our Advent Wreath, wedding Unity Candles, Stewardship Sunday offerings and more!

A member at First Presbyterian Church for 54 years, serving as a Trustee, Deacon and on Property. Husband to his cherished wife Jan, who was his best friend since early childhood, who joined him 11 days after his arrival in Heaven. Father to his beloved daughter Sue.

Pastor: Bob Dravis, A Child of God,

ALL: AND A SAINT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Betty Aldene, March 20, 1930 -- January 3, 2021

A woman of deep faith, visceral love for her family, and a life-time of service to her church family.

A woman who was an employee at Von Maur for many years in a variety of roles.

A woman who retired into volunteering and caring for others at the hospital and for many years with Meals on Wheels.

A maker of music with the church's Bell Choir and the RSVP Silver Linings Bell Choir.

A lover of books.

A woman cherished by her friends. with a quiet sense of humor that many of us remember fondly.

A traveler with family and friends, creating vacation memories with her children and later grandchildren, and exploring Elder Hostel and Roads Scholar classes around the country.

An active member at First Presbyterian Church for 78 years, joining when she was 12 years old, serving as an Elder and Deacon and on many committees, active with the Mariners, 2nd Friday Movies, lunching with the Presby. Srs., creating years of Prayer Shawls as one of the original members of the group, and in her last years, winter caps for school children, deciding to take over Peg Noakes's ministry of knitted caps, a regular and active learner with Sunday School and Presbyterian Women.

Mother to her cherished daughters: Kathie, Jan, and Sue and grandmother to her four grandchildren who held her heart.

Pastor: Betty Aldene, A Child of God,

ALL: AND A SAINT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Please join me in slowly reading verse 2

Read Verse 2

2. 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!

Remembering God's saints:

Jan Dravis, June 23, 1933 -- January 14, 2021

A woman whose kindness, deep faith, and joy and delight in living touched many lives, creating friendships with people of all ages.

A graduate of the American Institute of Commerce in Davenport, who worked at Deere & Co. as a legal secretary until her daughter Sue was born. In later life she was the Church Secretary here at First Presbyterian Church.

A volunteer at Illini Hospital and with Bob as a tutor to 2nd Graders at Ridgewood Elementary for many years.

A member at First Presbyterian Church for 54 years, serving as a Deacon and on many committees.

A lover of music, a piano player, a long-time supporter of the symphony, and a long-time member of the church choir, sitting in her spot with the altos!

Wife to her cherished husband Bob, who was her best friend since early childhood, joining him just 11 days after his arrival in Heaven. Mother to her beloved daughter Sue, with whom she created a

lifetime of loving memories.

Pastor: Jan Dravis, A Child of God,

ALL: AND A SAINT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Carol Brewer, October 30, 1932 -- March 15, 2021

A woman of deep kindness, deep faith, great helpfulness, and a memorable sense of humor.

A woman who offered her gentle welcome to so many.

A graduate of Buffalo State Teachers College, becoming an home economics teacher.

An amazing quilter, knitter and seamstress who created beautiful works of art to wear and use.

An active member of Questers and PEO, an avid bridge player, who loved to travel around the country and around the globe.

A faithful active member of First Presbyterian Church for 60 years, serving as a Deacon and an Elder,

An active learner with good questions at the Adult Sunday School Class and the PW Women's Bible Study.

One of the original members of the Prayer Shawlers, who knitted beautiful shawls to be given away.

Wife to her best friend and husband Don for 56 years, a couple who truly enjoyed each other and the life they created together.

Mother to her cherished children and their families: Bill, Melissa & Steve, Bob & Sara, and Steve & Julie, her 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Pastor: Carol Brewer, A Child of God,

ALL: AND A SAINT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Lloyd Strohm, February 1, 1928 -- April 10, 2021

A man remembered by many for his joyful laugh and welcoming smile for friends old and new.

A man who served his country in WWII in the Navy.

The President and later CEO of Frank Foundries, until his retirement.

A resident of Bettendorf, then Port Aransas, TX, and the back to the Illinois Quad Cities.

A man who loved to travel with family and friends.

A man of deep faith, an active member of Bettendorf Presbyterian Church for many years, serving as an Elder, with a great interest and devotion to the Stewardship Committee. He cared deeply about how people supported the life and ministry of their churches. A man who came to our church in the last years of his life and connected to so many of us!

Husband to his cherished wife Dottie who preceded him to Heaven. Father to his beloved children: Tara, John & Mary Pat, and Nina & John, Steve & Cheryl and "Jay." Grandfather to 8 and their spouses, great-grandfather to 10.

Pastor: Lloyd Strohm, A Child of God,

ALL: AND A SAINT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Please join me in slowly reading verse 3

Read Verse 3

3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!

We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;

Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Remembering God's saints:

John Runburg, December 24, 1937 -- June 4, 2021

A man of strong & deep faith, a caring heart, a memorable sense of humor, and a deep and constant love for his family.

A graduate of the University of Michigan with a Pharmaceutical Degree. A true "Michigan man." With many Michigan neck ties to prove it.

A Pharmacist and Store Manager for Walgreens for 40 years

A father of five, who married Cathy Lambrick in 1978 becoming a dad to six!

A man who loved traveling with Cathy to family around the country, and throughout the American southwest.

A man who loved mystery books, cowboy movies, and buffalo--seeing them, collecting figurines and pictures...and looking into their brown buffalo eyes.

An active member of St. Anne's Parish before coming to the Presbyterians with Cathy. A Deacon, an Elder, and an active member of the Finance & Memorial Commission for many years, helping with Memorials, and many Stewardship Campaigns. A man who found great comfort and strength in the Lord's Supper.

Husband to his cherished wife Cathy. Dad to Kirsten, Jon & Lisa, Gregg & Jan, Kurt & Andrea, Amy & Ric, and Paul & Dawn. Grandpa to 11, great-grandpa to 9

Pastor: John Runburg, A Child of God,

ALL: AND A SAINT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Paul Glockhoff, September 25, 1949 -- June 8, 2021

A collector, an artist, and a designer, who graced our lives with his good heart and his many creations.

An always-exploring artist who kept trying something new.

A man with a caring and gentle soul who had grace and love for everyone he met.

A graduate of Northern Illinois University, who taught art for a while, and then worked in the advertising department of Eagle Foods, and later in graphic arts and printing.

A religious quester and philosopher, who found truth in many places including the Bahai Faith and Presbyterianism.

A man who put love into action, caring for those in need, spending hours with the Watertown Food Pantry and the Meal Site at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

A man who liked to walk in the silence of our area rivers and streams, finding lures too many to count.

A member at First Presbyterian Church since infancy, serving as an Elder, and on many commissions, with a deep heart for outreach; the creator of Vacation Bible School and Christmas Pageants props and sets that will live on in our memories for years to come.

A man who embodied the call to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Dad to his girls, Naomi, and Ivy who preceded him into Heaven. Grandpa to his three cherished granddaughters: Hayley, Grier and Harper. Brother to Gary & Kristin, Carolyn & Mike, Gail & Jamie, Julia, and Joanna & Brad.

Pastor: Paul Glockhoff, A Child of God,

ALL: AND A SAINT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Bobbi Petersen, July 13, 1937 -- June 29, 2021

A woman whose joyful, fun-loving, kind spirit touched all who knew her.

A woman whose friendships ran deep and strong.

A woman of deep faith, who held tightly to her God in the last three short weeks of her living.

A woman who showed her faith by what she did: giving, serving, hugging, laughing, and loving anyone God put into her path.

A member at First Presbyterian Church for 71 years, who came in the doors below the hill as an infant in her mother's arms. All of her life First Presbyterian was Bobbi's church where she served as an Elder and a Deacon, on too many committees to list, and in innumerable behind the scenes ways where help was needed

A woman who showed us that Bible Study and life-long learning are part of the Christian journey.

A woman who taught us to tell the people we love that we love them...out loud and often.

A woman who loved her family fiercely: Wife to her beloved husband Leroy who preceded her to Heaven. Loving mother and friend to Gayle and Scott, devoted grandma to Matt and Sara. Cherished sister to Nancy and beloved aunt to her nieces, nephews and extended family.

Pastor: Bobbi Petersen, A Child of God,

ALL: AND A SAINT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Please join me in slowly reading verse 4

Read Verse 4

4. 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!

Remembering God's saints:

We remember together our **family and friends**

I invite you now to name those people whom you have loved who have gone Home to Heaven in this past year, or in years past. You are welcome to speak their names out loud, or to speak them in your hearts. Let us name the saints who have touched our lives either out loud, or in our hearts. I begin with the Rev. Walter Wangerin and the Rev. Jane McChesney.

Congregational Response:

Pastor: All these we have named out loud, and named in our hearts are Children of God,

ALL: AND SAINTS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In the wise words of a pastor whose words I found this week:

"Those who love us are with us always. They're near, dear, and not-so-departed. They remain an intimate and important part of our daily journey to become more loving people..." (emphasis mine)

Death Cannot Separate Us From Love, <https://sojo.net/articles/death-cannot-separate-us-love>

By Joe Kay 11-01-2018

As we rest in our memories, with all the joy and the sorrow that they bring, as the journey of grief continues, as we continue to love those who have gone before us into Heaven, hear these living words of Jesus from Matthew 11:28, that are for each of us this day:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28)

And let us hold onto the promises we hear in John 14:11. Jesus says to us: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Please join me in slowly reading verse 5

Read Verse 5

5. 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!