



*Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...
Dancing Saints Iconography at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco
Created by African American iconographer Mark Dukes*



ALL SAINTS DAY
A Service of Word & Feast
November 1, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

All Saints Day

“Recovering a vision of heaven cannot be achieved simply by biblical exegesis, intellectual rigour, artistic passion or cultural nostalgia. It has to emerge as human beings in their diversity encounter the friendship of Jesus within the brokenness and confusion of human life.”

— Michael Vasey

BLESSED

Prelude — “Chorale Prelude on VATER UNSER” by Böhm

Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ

Welcome & News from our Life Together

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship — drawn from Psalm 34

One: We will bless the Lord at all times.

Many: **God’s praises shall ever be in our mouths;
let us exalt God’s name together.**

One: Look upon the Lord and be radiant,
and let not your faces be downcast.

Many: **We call in our affliction, and God hears us
saving us from all trouble.**

One: Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!

Many: **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.**

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

All: **Blessed are you, O God,
for you are holy, gracious, and good,
the hope of all the faithful.
Empower the meek
and encourage the poor, we pray.
Comfort those who mourn
and fill humble hearts with gladness.
Give food to the hungry,
drink to the thirsty,**

peace to the peacemakers,
mercy to the merciful,
and honor to the despised.
Sustain your saints in ministry,
until at last they see their reward:
the joy of eternal life in you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn — “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

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Scripture Reading — Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God’s favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

The Early Word

Lisa Haupt

BELOVED

Music Meditation — “At the River,” arr. by Staneslow

Dr. Patricia Snyder, harp

*During the music, you are invited to meditate and reflect
on the text of the hymn “Shall We Gather at the River”:*

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

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever all the happy, golden day.
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.

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

At the smiling of the river, mirror of the Saviour’s face,
Saints, whom death will never sever, lift their songs of saving grace.
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.

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

Scripture Reading — Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

In the Midst of the Saints: A Rite of Remembrance for All Saints Day

INTRODUCTION & REFLECTION

REMEMBERING THOSE OF OUR CONGREGATION WHO HAVE DIED

A LITANY FOR ALL SAINTS'

One: We celebrate those who have loved us for ourselves,
looking with acceptance on all that we are,
and cherishing us without condition or constraint.

Many: **Holy God, within and among us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

One: We celebrate those who have stood alongside us,
holding us in the depths of elation or despair
where words of joy or rescue fall silent.

Many: **Holy God, within and among us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

One: We celebrate those who would not let us stand still,
edging us gently into the open space
of new understanding and delighted exploration.

Many: **Holy God, within and among us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

One: We celebrate those who have challenged us to grow,
perceiving all that we have it in us to become
and daring us to dream beyond our imagining.

Many: **Holy God, within and among us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

One: We celebrate those who have travelled before us,
showing us in their persistent courage and tenderness
how to live in love, and die in faith and hope.

Many: **Holy God, within and among us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

All: **For those who lit our lives with joy,
for those who have touched us with tenderness,
for those whose loss fills us with longing,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

REMEMBERING OTHER “SAINTS” IN OUR LIVES

PRAYER

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button.

Text: Text “StorrsCongChurch” to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. “StorrsCongChurch \$100”) to access online giving via text message.

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) during this time via the Chat feature in Zoom.

An Offering Thought

“I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” – Psalm 34:1

Today we begin our culture’s month of thanksgiving by giving thanks for the lives of the saints now at rest. This week spend time thanking God for those who have helped form your faith and encouraged your discipleship walk.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “Jesus, Be in My Heart,” Irish, arr. Robertson *Dr. Patricia Snyder, harp*

The Prayers of the People, *ending with* The Lord’s Prayer

Many: 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 glory forever. Amen.

BECKONED TO THE BANQUET

Hymn — “Shall Tribulation or Distress”

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Scripture Reading — 1st John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God’s purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

Invitation to the Table

Giving Thanks

One: The Lord be with you.

***Many:* And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

***Many:* We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***Many:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Thanks and praise to you, O God,
creator and lover of the universe.

You created all that was;
you nurture all that is;
you imagine all that will be.
You are the pattern of community,
Three-in-One God of mercy.
From the beginning of time,
you have created us for relationship
with one another,
with the earth,
and with you.

When we reject your call to community,
choosing isolation over partnership
and brokenness over healing,
you call us back, again and again,
with words of grace and the promise of new life.

Remembering that we are not alone at this table,
we join our voices with all the saints whom you have called,
from all times and all places,
who forever sing your praise:

***Many:* Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might:
heaven and earth are full of your glory!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ,
our host and our guest at this table.
Through his birth, you took on flesh,
affirming the goodness of our bodies and our world.
Through his life, you took on suffering,
sharing the truth of hope in desperation.

Through his death, you took on death,
revealing the depth of your love for us.
Through his resurrection, you brought new creation,
embodying the promise of life everlasting.

With thanksgiving, we take this bread and this wine,
gifts of the earth through which you bless us,
and we offer ourselves in your service.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God,
and upon these gifts of fruit and grain,
that we may taste your goodness,
see your presence,
and become one with you and your body.

Gathered at your table, we join all your saints
who have gone on before us
and remember them now before you:

(silence)

In life and in death, we belong to you, our Alpha and Omega.

**Many: All thanks and praise to you, O God,
Holy Three-in-One, now and forever.
Amen.**

Remembering the Stories & Sharing the Feast

The pastor will guide worshipers through the breaking of the bread and the sharing of communion.

An Open Table! When we celebrate Holy Communion we are all guests at the table, with Jesus himself as our host. We have not earned a place at the table, rather we are invited because of the amazing grace of God. For that reason, this celebration of the Holy Communion is open to all—including children—who wish to know the presence of Christ and the community of God's people, and not merely members of this congregation or denomination. This is a *joyful* feast for *all* the people of God.

Prayer after Communion

Many: God of glory, in this holy feast
you have made us one with Christ
and with that great multitude of the faithful—
those who hunger and thirst no more
and worship night and day in your temple.
Lead us in the paths of righteousness
and guide us to the springs of the water of life,
until we join the choir of the redeemed,
singing: Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSED FOR MORE...

Hymn — “For All the Saints”

this bulletin, pg. 11

Benediction

Postlude — “Toccatina in D minor,” BWV 565, by J. S. Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- Call to Worship drawn from portions of Psalm 34, as translated in the ecumenically-shared inclusive language psalter appearing in *Book of Common Worship*, ©2018 Westminster John Knox Press; originally prepared for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, ©2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
- Prayer of the Day from the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/prayers-all-saints-day/>
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I Sing a Song of the Saints of God 730



1 I sing a song of the saints of God, pa - tient and
 2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past; there are hun - dreds of



brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and
 made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for Je - sus'
 thou - sands still; the world is bright with the joy - ous



died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a
 sake, the whole of their good lives long. And one was a
 saints who love to do Je - sus' will. You can meet them in



doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep - herd - ess
 sol - dier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a
 school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in



on the green: they were all of them saints of
 fierce wild beast: and there's not an - y rea - son,
 shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just



God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.
 folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Despite the quaintness of some of the language in this text, it has an important message to communicate about the down-to-earth ordinariness of the holy people of God at all times and places. The tune name honors the island in Vermont's Lake Champlain where the composer lived.

823 Shall Tribulation or Distress

Capo 1: (G) (C) (G)

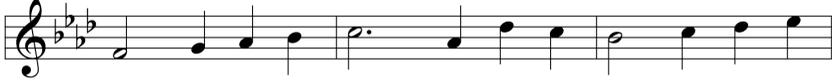
A^b D^b A^b



1 Shall trib - u - la - tion or dis - tress, shall per - se -
 2 Shall ill - ness, hun - ger, or de - spair, shall lone - ly
 3 No, nei - ther an - gel hosts nor thrones, nor height nor

(C) (Am) (B) (Em) (F)

D^b B^bm C Fm G^b



cu - tion, fire, or sword, or an - y per - il of this
 grief or anx - ious fears, or deeds of ha - tred and dis -
 depth of e - vil's reach, nor pres - ent things, nor things to

(C) (Am7) (B) (Am) (B) (G)

D^b B^bm7 C B^bm C A^b



world— or e - ven death, or e - ven death— shall an - y
 dain— or e - ven death, or e - ven death— shall an - y
 come— not e - ven death, not e - ven death— not an - y

(C) (Am) (Bm) (Em7) (C) (D7) (G)

D^b B^bm Cm Fm7 D^b E^b7 A^b



power of earth or heaven di - vide us from your love, O Christ?
 power of earth or heaven di - vide us from your love, O Christ?
 power of earth or heaven can part us from your love, O Christ.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Reversing the usual pattern, the tune came first in this hymn; the tune name was assigned only after the text was written. The author first heard the repeated phrase "or/not even death" implied by the melody, which sent her to the passage from Romans 8:31–39 paraphrased here.

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For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
 3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The broad and sweeping tune with which this hymn is so closely identified was created to be sung during a reverent but dramatic procession at the beginning of an All Saints' Day service, an enacted representation of the enduring "fellowship divine" celebrated by this text.

A Note on Giving: We welcome and encourage your financial generosity in support of the Storrs Congregational Church UCC! Giving back to God and God's mission through the life of this church is a part of your gratitude towards God and your faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to you.

- **Mail:** You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office
- **Drop-off:** You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.
- **Online Bill Pay:** Most banks and credit unions offer an “online bill pay” in their online account access. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will print a check and mail it to us at no cost—you don't even need to find a stamp!
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it *is* optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it *is* optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) If using a *credit* card, know that we as a church do *not* want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that's not good stewardship! If using a *credit* card, please make sure, for your own sake, that it's a card for which you pay off the balance each month.

If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).

We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to *all*. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We share in God's love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.*

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