



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
All Saints Memorial Communion Service
Sunday, November 3, 2024**

*As a Christian community of faith and love,
we at First Church strive to accept and respect all people.*

- Core Values, 2022

For All Your Saints, O Lord

1 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live,
2 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die,
3 They all in life and death, with you, their Lord, in view,
4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new
5 To God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, ev - er blest,

who fol - lowed you, o - beyed, a - dored, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.
who count - ed you their great re - ward, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.
learned from your Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
that we like them in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.
the One in Three, the Three in One, be end - less praise ad - dressed.

Text: Richard Mant, 1776–1848, alt.
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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In today's service we are remembering the following individuals: Dick Balch - Ellen Balch - Gertie Balch - Francis Beaulieu - Michael Beaulieu - Douglas Blake - Rev. Bertha Brown - Lee Carlin - Leo Carlin - Margaret Carlin || Bruce Clarke - Joseph Cordaro - Mary Cordaro - Donald E. Cortis, Jr. - Alan Cyr - Bert Cyr - Juliette Cyr - Margaret R. Dill - Philip H. Dill, Jr. - Tooie Fallon || Clifford Graves - Edward Harris - Ruth Heal - William Heal - Frank Kent - Peggy Kent - Lillian Lewison - Barry Lukens - Allen Mahler - Joan Becker Marshall || Florence Misa - Joe Misa - Andrew Myers - Terry Lynn Paluch - Ellie Parker - Tiny Parker - David Ramsey - Esther Reynolds - George Reynolds - Jeffery Reynolds || Edward Roberts, Jr. - Elizabeth L. Stanton - Kenneth A. Stanton - Jean Taylor - Michael Thumm - Douglas Walker - Charles White - Irene White - James White, Sr. - Elizabeth Worthington - Walter Worthington

Prelude *Priere* - Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Stewardship Moment - Sarah Brown

Stewardship Hymn *They'll Know We Are Christians*

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Welcome and Announcements

Stewardship Guessing Game - Suzanne Kelley

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Introit

*Passing of the Lord's Peace

*Call to Worship

(JSS)

L: There are many who have walked the path toward God before us, showing us the way with their lives.

P: *We come to give thanks for them.*

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

P: *We come to ask for guidance and courage.*

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

P: *We come to worship the Holy God.*

*Opening Hymn

For All Your Saints, O Lord

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*Prayer of Confession

(MCT)

Holy One, we confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, our soul, our strength, our mind. We have not loved our neighbors with a deep and abiding compassion. And we have not loved ourselves and cared for our own truest needs. Transform our shallowness, enliven our deadness, heal our wounded, broken places, and so fill us with your spirit that we can be forgiven, even as we forgive ourselves and others. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ who brings us love that has no end. Amen.

***Words of Grace and Assurance**

There is no greater joy in the heart of God than the moment when a son or daughter opens to the gift of forgiveness. God's Spirit reaches out to assure us of welcome in Christ. Accept the grace of forgiveness.

***Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen. Amen.*

Anthem

For All the Saints

Giving of Ourselves Call to Offering



We remember today those whose lives of faith helped guide our steps as we attempt to live ours with the same sacrifice and generosity. In that spirit let us this morning give with generosity our tithes and offerings.

Offertory Hymn *Come, Let Us Joy with Faithful Souls* (Page 8)

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

*We dedicate these tithes and offerings to you, Holy One.
May they be used to honor you in this place and
throughout the world.*

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. ⁸Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I

am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

The Gospel

John 11:32-44

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Sermon

“Saints”

Litany of Remembrance

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Please partake of the bread at the moment most meaningful to you. Please wait to partake of the cup until all are served; then we drink as one.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Closing Hymn**

For All the Saints

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***Benediction**

Postlude *In Memoriam – Flor Peeters (1903–1986)*

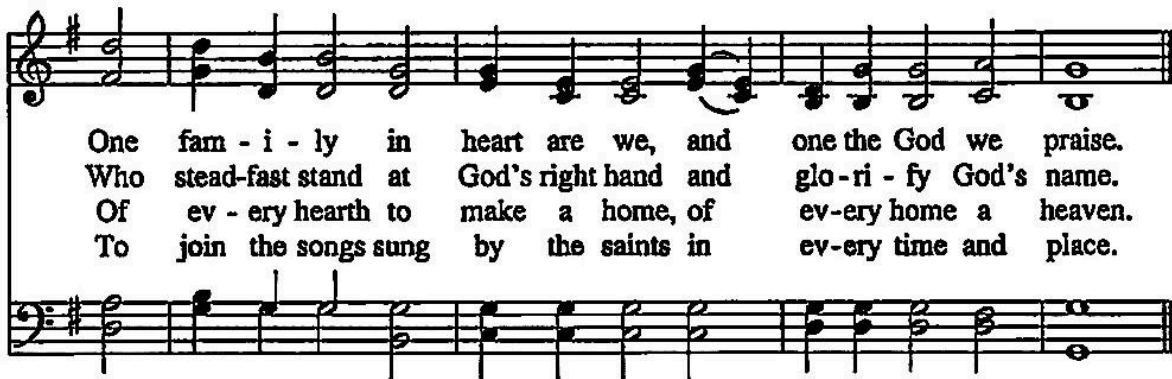
Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

William G. Tarrant, 1892; alt.

Rev. 5:11-14



1 Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise;
2 Faith - ful are all who love the truth and per - fect truth pro - claim,
3 And faith-ful are the gen - tie hearts to whom the power is given
4 O God of hosts, our faith re - new, and grant us, in your grace,



One fam - i - ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.
Who stead-fast stand at God's right hand and glo - ri - fy God's name.
Of ev - ery hearth to make a home, of ev - ery home a heaven.
To join the songs sung by the saints in ev - ery time and place.

A leader of the Unitarian Church in England, William Tarrant edited a Unitarian weekly and for thirty-seven years ministered to the Unitarian Christian Church in London. This hymn was one of many he wrote for use by that congregation.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Arr. Lowell Mason, in *Modern Psalmody*, 1839

For All the Saints

1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest, — Who thee by faith be -
 2. You were their rock, their fortress and their might; — You, Lord, their Cap - tain
 3. O may your sol - diers, faith - ful, true and bold, — fight as the saints who

fore the world con - fessed, Your name, O — Je - sus, be for - ev - er —
 in the well - fought fight; — You, in the dark - ness dread, their one — true —
 no - bly fought of old, And win with — them the vic - tor's crown — of —

blest.
 light. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 gold.

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Serving You Today

Worship Leaders

Ministers of the Congregation
Pastor
Director of Music Ministries
Greeters/Ushers
Lay Reader
Fellowship

All Members of First Church
Rev. Jack Kraaz
Kiel Krommer

Doug Kelley
Hearts Willing

Officers

Moderator
Clerk
Treasurer
Chair, Board of Deacons
Chair, Board of Trustees

Cindy DeSellier
Carol Mullen
Suzanne Kelley
Jeanne Dill
David Sanborn

Members at Large

Lynn Galica
Elaine Harris
Mary Newland

Staff

Church Administrator
Sunday School Superintendent
Custodian

Lee Brahen
Erin Greene Wallace
Linda Whippie

Office Hours, Pastoral Care, and Contact Information

The office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pastor Jack is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at other times by appointment. You can always leave a message on the church answering machine at 413-267-3312 when the office is not staffed or contact the office by email at office@firstchurchmonson.org.

IN OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS

Please complete a Prayer Request Form and place it in the offering plate if you wish to include a name in next Sunday's bulletin. Your loved one will remain on the prayer list for one month, after which you may resubmit a request if necessary.

For healing and support:

Stephen Kraaz

Kathy

Dan & Judie Newberry

Doris Carpenter

Annie

Carolyn Lewis

Judy Omero

Beverly

Marilyn Leister

Ellis

Richard D'Aquila

Ernest Gunther

Martha Warren

Diana Nothe-Taylor

Jolene Mason

For comfort in grief:

The Family of Dr. R. Carl Szarlan

The Family and Loved Ones of Joel Wheeler

The Family of Andrew Myers

For strength and comfort during war:

The people of Ukraine

The people of Israel and Gaza

The people of Palestine and Lebanon

For strength in times of adversity:

Haitian communities in Ohio and Wisconsin

People affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton

For all service people, wherever they may be:

Chelsea Carr

Malik Pugh, USMC

Michael Wales, USN

Stephen Dill, USN

Tim Olson, USN

This Week in the Life of the Congregation

November 3, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) and Sunday School (SSA) 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship (F)
November 4, Monday	3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SSA) 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Cub Scouts (SSA)
November 5, Tuesday	4:00-5:00 p.m. - Barre Above Class (SSA)
November 6, Wednesday	6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SSA)
November 7, Thursday	6:30-8:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl (F) 6:30-8:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal (C)
November 9, Saturday	7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA (L)
November 10, Sunday	Stewardship Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) and Sunday School (SSA) 11:00 a.m. - Stewardship Luncheon (F/K)

C - Julie Sprague Chapel

F - Fellowship Hall

K - Kitchen

L - Library

PS - Pastor's Study

S - Sanctuary

SA - Sunday School Auditorium

SS - Sunday School Classroom

SSC - Silver Street Chapel

Church News

Church World Service Response to Helene. CWS has shipped 3,296 emergency cleanup buckets and 4,360 hygiene kits to local organizations responding to Hurricane Helene. This is why First Church supports CWS!

Period Packs. As a service project this fall, Hearts Willing will be assembling Church World Service (CWS) Period Packs at our November meeting. Many of our neighbors live in period poverty - lacking necessary feminine care supplies. Hearts Willing is accepting donations of the following items:

- Tampons, unscented, regular absorbency
- Tampons, unscented, super absorbency
- Sanitary napkins, unscented, long super ultra-thin
- Wet Ones, travel pack
- Flushable wipes, unscented, 42- count package.

Collection boxes are located in the narthex and Fellowship Hall. Completed packs will be brought to the Feeding Hills Congregational Church for shipment to the CWS distribution site. We are thankful for your generosity in helping us with this service project.

Thank You. Thank you to all for supporting the Music Committee's grant proposal to the Community Preservation Committee and the Town of Monson for the Restoration and Preservation of the Swell Division of the three manual Johnson & Son Organ, Opus 781, 1892. At the Town Meeting on October 28, 2024, the grant was approved by a unanimous vote. Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc. will begin work on this project in January, 2025.

Stewardship Thoughts

“Where there is love there is life.” – Mahat ma Gandhi

“The only thing we never get enough of is love; and the only thing we never give enough of is love.” – Henry Miller

THIS IS MY CHURCH – Anonymous

It is composed of people like me. We make it what it is.

It will be friendly--- if I am.

Its pews will be filled--- if I help fill them.

It will do a great work--- if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes--- if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship--- if I bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit--- if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be.

Welcome to First Church



Welcome! If this is your first or second Sunday with us, we are grateful that you've come to be with us this morning. It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ and God's presence during our worship. If you have any questions at all about where to go or what to do, our deacons, ushers, and church members are here to assist in making you feel right at home, so please do not hesitate to ask.

All members and guests are encouraged to wear name tags. Guests may obtain a temporary adhesive name tag from an usher.

The Sacrament of Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. It is up to parents to decide whether their children are ready to receive this Sacrament.

Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp to the church and Fellowship Hall are on the High Street side of the building. Hearing assistive devices are available from the ushers.

Fellowship Hour begins after worship in Fellowship Hall (just follow the crowd). Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

Our Let's Eat breakfast is on the third Sunday of each month. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. before worship. Donations are gratefully accepted but not required.

Learn more. If you would like to learn more about First Church, please call us at (413) 267-3312, email to office@firstchurchmonson.org, or visit our website at <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>.

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*



Scan Here to Give Online