

# MUMC At-Home Worship:

November 1, 2020

Today's worship ties together two threads: a final word in our series on generosity and the celebration of All Saint's Day. Long a part of church tradition, All Saint's Day is set aside in the church year to remember those who have died over the previous year and celebrate that they are now living in the full presence of God. As we remember the witness of their lives, we find encouragement to live faithfully and follow on the path they have already walked. This year, I invite us to consider how the saints in the great cloud of witnesses invested in us and how we might generously give to those who come after us.

-Pastor Dillon

*If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:*

Almighty God, in whom the saints rest: grant us the grace to follow the saints in all virtue and holiness, until we come to those inexpressible joys which you have prepared for those who truly love you. Amen.

**Hymn:** *For All the Saints*, United Methodist Hymnal #711 – [watch/listen here](#)

**Naming the Saints:** speak aloud the names of those from your family or community who have died over the past year, pausing between names for a time of silent remembrance. Pray:

Holy God, whose loving presence reaches across both heaven and earth, hold in us the sure promise of resurrection as surely as you hold the saints who have gone before us. Amen.

**New Testament Reading:** Ephesians 1:11-23

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflect:**

1. The CEB translation of this passage from Ephesians as provided on the back chooses to say "God's own people" when other translations say "saints." How do you feel about the idea that you are counted among the saints? Does seeing ourselves and those around us as saints provide a comfort or challenge?
2. This passage speaks about God's power at great length. Why might it be important to highlight God's power? What difference does it make in your life to know of God's might?
3. The author's prayer for the Ephesians and for us is to see "the hope of God's call," which seems to describe placing our sights on a heavenly inheritance promised to us and living accordingly. How might the assurance of a spiritual inheritance change how we live our day-to-day lives?

**Hymn:** *How Firm a Foundation*, United Methodist Hymnal #529 – [watch/listen here](#)

**Prayer Requests:** Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*, United Methodist Hymnal #569 – [watch/listen here](#)

**Closing Prayer:**

Almighty God, may we follow in the ways of the saints, living with an earthly generosity befitting of our inheritance in Christ. Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

*For All the Saints*

**United Methodist Hymnal #711**

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.

*Refrain:*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

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.

*(Refrain)*

3. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.

*(Refrain)*

4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.

*(Refrain)*

5. 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.

*(Refrain)*

6. 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:

*(Refrain)*

*"For All the Saints" words are by William W. How, 1864, and are in the public domain.*

**Ephesians 1:11-23 (CEB)**

We have also received an inheritance in Christ. We were destined by the plan of God, who accomplishes everything according to his design. We are called to be an honor to God's glory because we were the first to hope in Christ. You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory.

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

*Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

### *How Firm a Foundation*

#### **United Methodist Hymnal #529**

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee  
to stand  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. "When through the deep waters I call  
thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways  
shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
5. "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor  
to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

*"How Firm a Foundation" words are from "K" in Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787, and are in the public domain.*

### *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*

#### **United Methodist Hymnal #569**

1. We've a story to tell to the nations,  
that shall turn their hearts to the right,  
a story of truth and mercy,  
a story of peace and light,  
a story of peace and light.

#### *Refrain:*

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
and the dawning to noonday bright;  
and Christ's great kingdom shall  
come on earth,  
the kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,  
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,  
a song that shall conquer evil  
and shatter the spear and sword,  
and shatter the spear and sword.  
*(Refrain)*
3. We've a message to give to the nations,  
that the Lord who reigneth above  
hath sent us his Son to save us,  
and show us that God is love,  
and show us that God is love.  
*(Refrain)*
4. We've a Savior to show to the nations,  
who the path of sorrow hath trod,  
that all of the world's great peoples  
might come to the truth of God,  
might come to the truth of God.  
*(Refrain)*

*"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" words are by H. Ernest Nichol, 1896, and are in the public domain.*