

**Service for Sunday 30 October 2022 – All Saints and All Souls**

**Call to worship**

We welcome you to this Service for All Saints and All souls, and hope you will find peace in this place.

All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day have been observed for most of the Church's history. On All Saints' Day we remember all those saints who left a name, whose work everyone knows something about: St Peter, St Paul, St Francis, and many others. Then on All Souls' Day we remember "the faithful departed", the ordinary people who may not have made a mark on the world, but who made their mark on us, the loved ones.

So this is a time to remember that those who have lived were made for God and were made for heaven. Today we remember them, remember that they are still part of us, and that beyond our horizons, beyond our boundaries, beyond our understanding, they are held in God's embrace.

*From Dunblane Cathedral: "All around Halloween" p18*

**Hymn** O worship the King

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have knit together your elect  
in one communion and fellowship  
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:  
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints  
in all virtuous and godly living  
that we may come to those inexpressible joys  
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Confession and absolution**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

*Romans 3:23*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins.

*1 John 1:8-9a*

Jesus says: I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.

*Mark 2:17*

Let us confess our sins together and seek God's forgiveness.

**Almighty God, we confess before you  
our own sin, the sin of the Church  
and the sin of the world, in which we share.  
We have not loved you with our whole being;  
we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.  
In your mercy,  
forgive us when we turn from you;  
release us from the burden of our past,  
and remake us in your image and likeness  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Silence*

The Lord says: See, I am making all things new.

*Revelation 21:5*

**If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.**

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself

*2 Corinthians 5:19*

Through him your sins are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

The Lord also says:

If any want to become my followers,  
let them deny themselves  
and take up their cross and follow me.

*Mark 8:34*

*URC Worship Book pp 3-4*

Reading      Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

Psalm 149

1 Alleluia.

O sing to the Lord a new song; "  
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

**2 Let Israel rejoice in their maker; "  
let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.**

3 Let them praise his name in the dance; "  
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and lyre.

**4 For the Lord has pleasure in his people "  
and adorns the poor with salvation.**

5 Let the faithful be joyful in glory; "  
let them rejoice in their ranks,

**6 With the praises of God in their mouths "  
and a two-edged sword in their hands;**

7 To execute vengeance on the nations "  
and punishment on the peoples;

**8 To bind their kings in chains "  
and their nobles with fetters of iron;**

9 To execute on them the judgement decreed: "  
such honour have all his faithful servants.  
Alleluia.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever Amen.**

Hymn           Blest are the pure in heart

Gospel           Luke 6.20-31

Sermon

Hymn           For all the saints

Meditation on leaves

Hymn           Beauty for brokenness

Poem

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Hymn            The head that once

Closing responses and blessing

May Christ being born  
anew in our hearts  
bring light, healing and wholeness  
to us and all our loved ones  
in this world and in heaven.

**And the saints shall tread  
the pilgrim road before us,  
behind us,  
between us,  
surrounding us  
with the unbounded love  
of God our creator.**

May God bless us and heal us  
and hold us in love  
today  
tonight  
and for evermore.

**Amen.**

*Most material for this service is taken from "All around Halloween – Resources for Samhain, All Hallows' Eve, All Saints' Day and All Soul's Day" edited by Ruth Burgess and published in 2019 by Wild Goose Publications, the publishing division of the Iona Community.*

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