

The Glebe-St. James United Church

All Saints' Sunday

November 2, 2025

Gathered by God

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME

Wendy Bergeron

In the name of the Holy Mystery,
who is Wholly Love,
we welcome you to Creator's House.

Thanks be to God!

Good morning and welcome, everyone, to our worship service at Glebe-St. James United Church in downtown Ottawa on Sunday, November 2nd.

My name is Wendy Bergeron and I am Chair of Council here at Glebe-St. James.

We're so glad you're here today. Whether you're a first-time guest or a longtime member, whether you are joining us in person or online, we hope you feel at home. This is a place of faith, love, and community. Glebe-St. James is an Affirming Community of Faith in the United Church of Canada We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment where people of all ages, backgrounds, and identities feel loved and supported. Thank you for being here.

Friends, note who is seated near you and extend our hospitality. If you want more information about Glebe-St. James, green cards are available near the entrances and during coffee hour. Just fill one out and place it on the offering plate or give it to one of the greeters and they will pass it into the office.

Today's worship service bulletin can be found on the GSJ website, along with a link to this week's announcements and a "donate" button to make your offering. If you are here in person, you can share your offering in the service, either in the collection plate, by e-transfer or through our website - the QR code, found on the back of the pews, will take you to the website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is a busy community, and lots is going on. You will find the announcements of activities on our website and scrolling on the screens here in the sanctuary before and after our service. In the interests of time, I will highlight just one.

This Wednesday, November 5th, we are holding another Congregational Conversation. This is an important evening of information sharing and conversation. We will be starting to talk about upcoming challenges at the national church level that will cause us to reflect on our future direction at Glebe-St. James.

Doors open at 6:45 with the meeting starting promptly at 7:15. Please join us first for cold drinks and cookies in Fraser Hall. The meeting itself will then take place in the sanctuary. Please use the red door entrance on Lyon Street or the ramp entrance as needed.

As background to our upcoming conversations, you will have received earlier this week, via email from the office, an electronic copy of our draft Operational Plan for 2026. A limited number of hard copies are available at the back of the church this morning and at coffee time.

And now, let's acknowledge the land on which our sanctuary stands.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ruth Burnett-Cole

Glebe-St. James acknowledges that the land on which we gather and work is the traditional and ancestral territory of the Algonquin People unceded and unsurrendered. For Indigenous Peoples land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values. On this Sunday when we remember all who came before us in faith, let us also remember the many Algonquin elders and ancestors who taught respect for, and stewardship of these lands.

And now, let us prepare our hearts and minds for Worship.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE I Am Sending You Light

TLUS 99, *chorus only*

I am sending you light to heal you, to hold you.

I am sending you light to hold you in love.

I am sending you light to heal you to hold you.

I am sending you light to hold you in love.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gathers the poor of the earth.

Glorious is our God, who wipes away the tears of sorrow.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives inheritance to the meek.

Glorious is our God, who satisfies the hunger of the just.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives mercy to the merciful.

Glorious is our God, who gives vision to the pure in heart.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who adopts the peacemakers.

Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who finds the lost.

Glorious is our God, who awakens the dead.

HYMN For The Faithful Who Have Answer

VU 707

- 1 For the faithful who have answered
when they heard your call to serve,
for the many ways you led them
testing will and stretching nerve,
for their work and for their witness
as they strove against the odds,
for their courage and obedience
we give thanks and praise, O God.
- 2 Many eyes have glimpsed the promise,
many hearts have yearned to see.
Many ears have heard you calling
us to greater liberty.
Some have fallen in the struggle,
others still are fighting on.
You are not ashamed to own us.
We give thanks and praise, O God.
- 3 For this cloud of faithful witness,
for the common life we share,
for the work of peace and justice,
for the gospel that we bear,
for the vision that our homeland
is your love - deep, high, and broad -
for the different roads we travel
we give thanks and praise, O God.

OPENING PRAYER

In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,
we come to be your people, O God.

Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,
we come to be your people, O God.

Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,
we come to be your people, O God.

Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and
we come to be your people, O God.

Bless this gathering as we join together in wholehearted worship. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

One of the hallmarks of faithful living is concern for others –
we pray for better conditions for people here and throughout the world.
We seek to build peace in our homes and workplaces,
and on the national and international stages.
It is in remembering this sacred duty that I say to you:

Friends, the peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you.

HYMN Peace for the Children

MV 149

**Peace for the children, peace peace.
Peace for the children we pray.
Following the path of One of peace,
we work for healing, we work for peace;
peace for the children today.**

Peace for the nations, peace peace.
Peace for nations, we pray.
Following the path of One of peace,
we work for healing, we work for peace;
peace for the nations today.

Listening for Wisdom

THEME CONVERSATION All Saints Day

PRAYER FOR INSIGHT

Holy One,
as we listen once more to the wisdom of your Word,
may we be fed both in mind and body.
Help us open to your revelation of love
and to receive your blessing with grace.

GOSPEL Luke 6:20-31

David Brown

Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

This is wisdom from our ancestors in faith.

GIFT OF MUSIC Be Thou My Vision

Bob Chilcott

Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me,
Save that thou art;

Be thou my best thought
In the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,
Be thou my true word;
Be thou ever with me,
And I with me, Lord;

Be thou my creator,
And I thy true child;
Be thou in me dwelling,
And I with thee one.

Be thou and thou only
The first in my heart;
O Sovereign of Heaven,
My treasure thou art;

Great heart of my own heart,
Whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision,
O Ruler of All.

REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole

Since the earliest days of Christendom, the faithful have gathered to give thanks for the life and ministry of the saints – women and men whose witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ has been a blessing in every generation.

The witness of many of these blessed women and men – such as Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Theresa of Avila or Saint Augustine of Hippo – are well known. Many of their writings have become popular, their deeds inspire us to name hospitals and schools and churches for them, and their service to the Church is taught to the faithful in every generation. Yet, for others – such as Saint Anthony or Saint Jude – little is known beyond their names.

But regardless of how much or how little we know about these faithful witnesses, one thing is certain: Their life and ministry has richly blessed the church. And as we gather to celebrate the Feast of All Saints, we are called to give thanks to God for the blessings that the saints have bestowed upon the church, as well as the many blessings God has bestowed upon us.

Of course, by worldly standards, it would appear that the saints didn't know very much about blessings. Most of them didn't know the first thing about wealth, and many lived all or part of their lives in poverty. Status and the power that comes with it was a foreign concept, as many of the saints never knew high-paying or revered jobs, choosing instead to work for little or no money at all, serving the poor and the helpless. And far from inspiring fear or subordination, many of the saints were hated and met their untimely death precisely because of the faith they so boldly proclaimed.

But worldly standards weren't how the saints patterned their lives. They lived by Jesus' standards. And as the Gospel of Luke tells us, Jesus' standard for what constituted a blessing is radically different from the standards that the rest of the world is accustomed to:

"Blessed are you who are poor," Jesus says, "for yours is the kingdom of God."

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled."

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven."

Poverty, hunger, mourning, hatred, exclusion, revilement and defamation – these things certainly don't seem like blessings!

But Jesus is convinced that they are. And most shocking of all, Jesus says that these are the sorts of people to whom the Kingdom of God is entrusted.

Of course, some will raise their hands in objection and say, "We can't possibly entrust the Kingdom of God to a bunch of poor folks. They don't know the first thing about business or what it takes to run a kingdom."

Others may say, "The Kingdom of God is just a fancy term tossed around by theologians. It isn't possible on Earth. There's just too much violence and oppression and chaos."

Or worst of all, some will hear the words of Jesus and say, "See there? Jesus will take care of the poor and the hungry and the sorrowful and the hated in heaven. Who am I to get in the way of God's will?"

Yet, with piercing clarity, Jesus looks the opponents of the Kingdom of the God in the eye and pronounces a stern warning: "Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation!"

"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry!"

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep!"

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets!"

In other words, woe to you who don't know what poverty looks like, or what hunger feels like. Woe to you who have never known an occasion for mourning. And woe to you who manage to tell everyone what they want to hear instead of the truth they so desperately need to hear.

And so, we gather here on this Feast of All Saints with words of blessing and words of woe ringing in our ears, amidst beautiful trappings and festive liturgies and memorial celebrations. But let us not lose sight of the fact that today, God is calling us to action – God is calling us to bear witness to the Kingdom of God!

And the Kingdom of God witnessed by Jesus in Luke's gospel is not some abstract theological term about a time and place the world has never known. In fact, the Kingdom of God can be a place that all of us can come to know.

The Kingdom of God breaks through when we love our enemies. It takes hold when we do good to those who hate us. It comes alive when we bless those who curse us. It shines brightly when we pray for those who abuse or mistreat us. It shows up when we honor the request of beggars.

And when we live our lives by the principle of “do to others as you would have them do to you,” we become citizens of the Kingdom.

Of course, the work of building the Kingdom is not easy. But then again, as Jesus reminds us here in Luke’s gospel, life with God isn’t easy, either. Life with God means that we will know what it is to be poor, hungry, sorrowful and cursed.

Life with God means that we will know what it is to be unpopular – to be discounted and overlooked.

And life with God means that we will know what it is to be hated.

But the Good News is that the Kingdom of God is built – brick by brick, stone by stone – by people such as these: people who know what poverty and hunger and sorrow and being cursed looks like. People who know how it feels to be overlooked and discounted. People who know what being hated feels like.

So today, on this Feast of All Saints, let us begin to live by a different set of standards. Instead of worldly standards, let us begin to live by the standards of the Kingdom.

It starts today. It starts by loving our enemies. It starts by showing kindness to people who don’t deserve it. It grows into the ability to bless those who curse us; to pray for those who mistreat and take advantage of us. It manifests itself in the ability to listen and show honor to those who are forced to beg.

It is lived out, not in the comfort of our homes or our churches or our offices, but among the poor and the hungry and the sorrowful and the hated; because, after all, the Kingdom of God belongs to them.

And when we do that – when we exchange our worldly standards for Kingdom standards – the blessed communion of saints cries out, “Alleluia! Alleluia!”

Responding in Thanksgiving

HYMN Deep In Our Hearts

MV 154

1. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.
2. Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.
3. Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.
4. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

INVITATION TO GIVE

Now in response to God's love and generosity,
let us take up our offering in support of the mission and ministry of our congregation
and the Mission and Service of our wider church.

OFFERING HYMN Ev'ry Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving

MV 185

Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
God, you've been so good to me.
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O my God today!

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all generations, as we worship today, we offer our whole selves to you, all that we have and all that we are. Like your saints who have gone before us, we pray that you will help us be bold in our mission and in our witness. May we who have been given so much give freely, ministering in your compassion to the multitudes near to us and far from us; so that one day we may stand amidst the multitude that gathers at your heavenly throne. We pray this in the name of our Savior and Redeemer, Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Your Will Be Done

MV 151

**Your will be done, be done on earth
Your will be done, be done on earth
Your will be done, be done on earth
Your will be done on earth
Your will be done on earth**

PRAYER OF JESUS

**Our Mother and 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Sent by the Spirit

HYMN For All the Saints

VU 705

**1 For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

- 2 You were their rock, their fortress, and their might:
you were their captain in the well-fought fight;
you, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one within your great design.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 4 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 5 But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
as God to glory calls them all away.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

SENDING FORTH

In communion with all the saints,
Go into the world, this week,
Determined to share God's lavish love
With all whom you encounter.
Go love God,
Go love yourselves, and
Go love others,
Knowing that God the Source of love,
Jesus, the Love in Human Love,
And the Holy Spirit, Love's comfort and power,
Go with you!

SUNG AMEN

Merritt in G

MUSIC TO SEND US FORTH

End of Worship - Beginning of Service

Thank you to all who participated in today's service – you stand among the saints of GSJ! Please join us in Fraser Hall following the service for coffee and fellowship.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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E-Update

The e-update is available online or you can sign up to get it by e-mail. More information on the following events is available in our e-update or contact Jennifer (admin@glebestjames.ca) and she can help.

Monday Crafts @ Judy's, 1-4 pm
Monday Meditation, weekly at 7:30 pm on zoom
Check Mates – weekly on Tuesdays, 10 am (Sanctuary)
Nattering Knitters – weekly on Tuesdays, 1:30 pm (Lounge)
Men & Friends' Potluck, on a Wednesday each month
Women's Intergenerational Group, today @ 12 Noon
Labyrinth Walk, today, 3-5 pm

Congregational Conversation

November 5th, 7:15 pm, Lyon Street doors

If you need to use the ramp, it will be open as well

Photo Directory – November 7, 8 & 10th

We look forward to having you included in our new photo directory! [Book Online](#) or call 1-888-769-7339, Ext 1 for Brenda.

Sunday, November 9th

Remembrance Day service

This week's Virtues

Grace & Courtesy

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