



All Saints Day November 1st 2020

Welcome to our service for All Saints Day.

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Our first hymn is – [The Church is wherever Gods people are praising](#)



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Let us pray:

Dear Lord and Father, thank you that you promise us that where two or three are gathered

you are in their midst.

Lord we welcome you among us today and celebrate the gift of life that you have lavished

upon each of us.

We ask that you would open our ears to hear your voice
Open our minds so that we may receive your eternal wisdom
Open our spirits so that we may know your leading and guidance
And open our hearts so that we may receive your wonderful love
We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus
Amen

Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your Kingdom come, your 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
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory
For ever and ever Amen



Saints:

Many years ago the Bishops in England thought that there were so many good people to remember that a special day should be set aside to commemorate all those who had lived Godly lives and November 1st was designated as 'All Saints Day'.

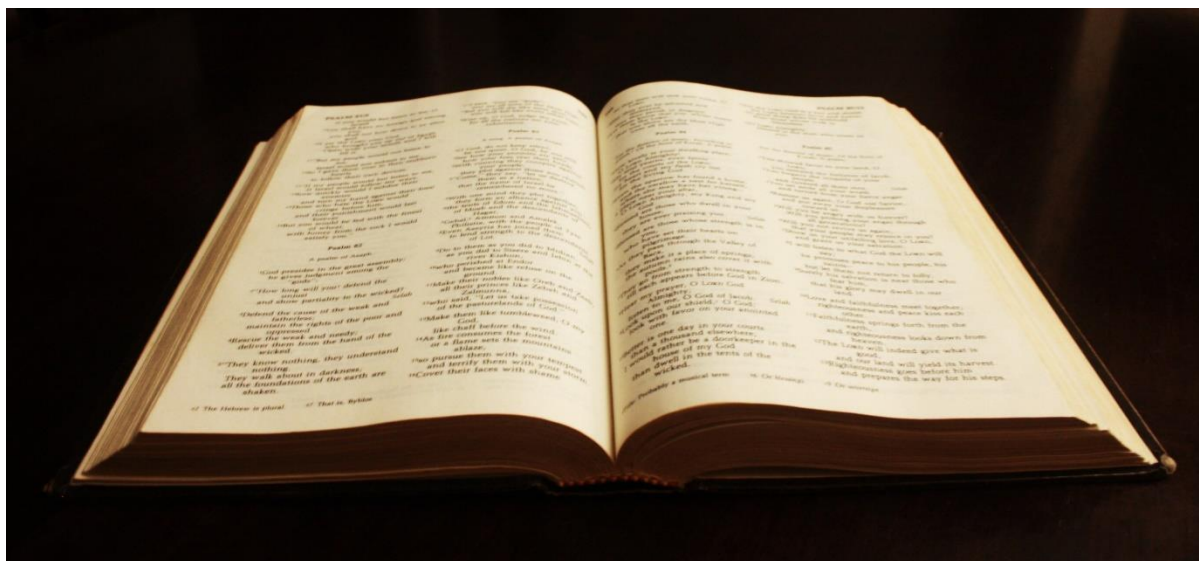
So today especially we remember Christians throughout the centuries who have lived their lives faithfully to their Lord and Saviour.

We thank God for those brave men and women down the years who have been faithful even unto death in making known the Gospel.

If there is one thing written large in the lives of these Saints it is that they came to know their need of God. He is at the very heart of the matter, not only for them, but also for us.

For Christians in every age need to recognise their deep need of God.

Our second hymn is - [For all the saints](#)



Our reading is from Romans 12 verses 1-3

12 So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. ² Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

³ And because of God's gracious gift to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you.

Our third hymn is – [I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart](#)

Saints:

The term Saint is used in the New Testament section of the Bible and is the word Hagios – meaning sacred, pure or blameless.

When St Paul writes to the church at Ephesus and at Phillippi he addresses them as Saints.

Philippians 1 in the King James Version says:

1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

And Ephesians 1 says:

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

In more modern translations the word saint is replaced with

committed servants of Christ Jesus and faithful believers in Ephesus.

The Use of the word Saint in the Bible means someone who has committed his or her life to follow Jesus Christ. As one commentator put it – They became saints by means of the Holy Spirit, which can only come from God.

God, therefore chooses his saints and fills them with the power of the Holy Spirit.

So cheer up being a saint has nothing to do with our goodness and everything to do with Jesus mercy.

But what does following Jesus entail?

Blondin was a famous tightrope walker in the 19th century.

In 1859 he spanned a rope across the Niagra falls and proceeded to walk across the Falls with his wheelbarrow.

When he reached the other side the crowds all cheered.

He went up to the crowd and asked them 'Do you believe I can walk back across the Niagra Falls on this tightrope without falling off?'

Many of the people replied 'Yes'



'Right then come and get into my wheelbarrow and I'll take you across with me' said Blondin.

'You must be joking' was their reply!

To follow Jesus means getting into Christ's wheelbarrow.

It requires faith and trust.

But it is not blind faith and trust.

It is faith and trust built up on the character of the one whom scripture reveals as Jesus Christ.

But being saints – those set apart for God – has awesome responsibilities too.

Are you ready to live set apart for God?

Are you willing to get into Christ's wheelbarrow?

This comment from Breakfast of Champions seems to tell us how to respond.

Referring to Psalm 95:7-8,

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts. It goes on to say-

Our hearts must be soft to His voice. When He speaks our hearts must respond with a resounding, "Yes". This Psalm says 'today', which shows that this call is for right now. It doesn't matter how many times we have said yes in the past, there's no end to our yes. This journey with Him is a journey of continually saying, "Yes, Lord". We could have spent a lifetime saying yes to Him, and there is still a yes for us to say again today.

We don't reach a point or a pinnacle where suddenly we have graduated from saying yes to the voice of God. When He speaks, our hearts must respond with obedience, whether we have done it once or ten thousand times. We never become too mature for obedience. Spiritual growth expands our wisdom over time, but we never grow to the point of not needing to say yes to Him anymore. Our



hearts must stay soft and easily moved by His whispers.

Whatever the request might be. Knowing that we have said yes so many times to His voice, knowing that it has already cost everything to follow, today we must soften our hearts and say yes again. One of the things that all believers have in common is that they must have soft hearts – whether they have followed for days or for centuries. Each day is a fresh yes to Him for every single believer. Hardened hearts go nowhere.

So, today I urge you to again say yes. No matter how hard it may be, obedience to His voice is always worth it. It is worth everything. Even if it has already cost you everything, take a deep breath and take another step forward. This is a call for today, not for what you did yesterday or five years ago. It is a call that counts today. Each day is a new opportunity to say yes to Him. Each day is a chance for Your heart to obey His voice. So, today if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart! We are never done saying yes to Him.

Our fourth hymn is – [I the lord of sea and sky](#)



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Prayers of intercession:

As part of God's family, let us pray for the church and for the world, and let us thank God for His goodness and His many gifts.

God our Father, we remember before you the kaleidoscope of people we call 'the church':

- Those who organise our church and have so much to think about on Sunday mornings that they scarcely have time for their own worship;
- The people sitting near to us, known and precious to you

May your blessing rest on each one.

God our Father, we remember before you the worlds great needs and its unnoticed sorrows:

- The countries where some are intoxicated with war, but most are desperately weary of it
- The countries where a silent slaughter is still happening while the world's gaze has moved on
- The countries where leprosy is still a disease which leads to isolation and disability
- The countries in deep need where children die for want of clean water

May your blessing rest on each one.

God our Father, we remember before you our families, friends and the community in which we live:

- The friend we have neglected for too long;
- The neighbour who always looks so burdened and so anxious
- Those who are struggling with illness or pain
- Those in our town who work for the good of others

May your blessing rest on each one.

God our Father, we remember before you the names on our hearts today

May your blessing rest on each one

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer. Amen.

Our final hymn is, specially prepared for us by members of our congregations is O When the Saints – [O When the saints go marching in](#)

Blessing:

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water;
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea.
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently,
By putting your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee...

And now

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. **Amen.**