

Venice United Church of Christ

November 2, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Celebration of All Saints Day

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

Sermon: “Saints, All”

United in Christ’s love,

A just world for all

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Prelude *Playing of the Singing Bowl* Rob Dickason

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning, Venice United Church of Christ. Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus who welcomes each and every one of us into this sacred space this morning. I am Pastor Barb, Rev. Harold Steindam will be our liturgist today and will also be assisting with communion.

Beautifying our sanctuary today, we have flowers given by VUCC Choir in Celebration of Barb Quinn's Birthday. We are also thankful for the ongoing attentiveness of Victoria Augustine for the decoration of our sanctuary and communion table, as well as the preparations for our communion performed by Barbara and Bob Zittel.

For those of us who are worshipping online, whether today or some point in the future, I invite you to like us, share us, and let your presence be known in the comments so that we can keep each other in prayer. As it is the first Sunday of the month, are sharing communion today, so take this opportunity to head to your pantry to find something to eat and drink so that when we arrive at that part of the service, you might join us at Jesus' table wherever your table may be.

For those of us here in this space of stained glass and compassionate friendship, if you have a prayer request or a joy to share, please make sure that you let us know, whether through the app or by contacting the office, as I want to make sure that we can lift up everyone's prayers as we worship.

For some of you, this is your first time joining us. I hope that you have been warmly greeted and have notated your presence at our welcome table. We are excited to get to know you. We also have an exciting new gift for you, these gorgeous blue stainless steel water bottles, so please make sure to stop by our welcome table to pick one up.

For in this holy, wonderful, ordinary space,
as Venice United Church of Christ,
we empower and invite everyone
to join us in this divine place
that we share on line and in person.

For when we gather, everyone is invited,
no matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
and no one is turned away.

And, as a WISE community for mental health, that is, a congregation that is Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged, we invite and encourage everyone to wear a name tag so that even those of us who will more quickly remember your life story than your name, might be gifted with the honor to call you by name.

We do have a few announcements this morning.

Following Worship, we have several things occurring in quick succession. Susan Hartung Kotrba, the daughter of Virginia Hartung who was a member of our congregation many years ago and is a part of our amazing cloud of witnesses who rest in our memorial garden, requested that her ashes be scattered with her mother's. So immediately following worship, everyone who wishes to join me out the side door for her Committal Service is welcome to do so.

Also following worship, we are all invited to gather in Naar Hall for Fellowship Time. A big thank you to Ellen and Dick Schleicher, Ruth and Rex Ingerick, and Posie Gallaher for hosting. As you make your way to the table of good eats, please stop by the information table to check out our sign up sheets, for upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities. And for those who are becoming new members, we will be meeting in the parlor for a meeting after you grab your treats.

Tomorrow, 'Spirit Fed', our Zoom Bible Study, will meet at noon. The link is in Friday's Connect. It is also in the app, and help is available to log-in by contacting us in the office. This is a come-as you are, no need to study in advance time of prayer and conversation about our weekly scriptures and worship, so pack a Lunch and plan to join us tomorrow at noon.

I encourage you all to check out events that are happening throughout the rest of the week in our app. Our Library is open on Wednesday morning for those who would like to check out our fabulous collection of the best reads, our Wednesday Bible study continues to meet, and the Men's group is meeting for Coffee at Panera on Friday.

Next Sunday, we will be affirming and celebrating new members during our worship service, and following worship we will have an opportunity get to know them better during our fellowship hour. Our Mission Committee will also be hosting the Mission Market, so if you are looking for a different kind of gift to give your loved ones this Christmas, consider making a donation on their behalf to one of the many outreach ministries that we here at Venice UCC support.

For whether through worship, meetings, events, or fun activities, there are many ways to connect.

For we come to worship a generous, steadfastly loving God, who created and names each of us a beloved child of God.

So Come, beautifully authentic, humbly transforming, faithfully Good-news following body of Christ, and let us Worship God!

We Approach God's Presence

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Come to the Table

Nystrom

Responsive Call to Worship

from Psalm 119

Rev. Harold Steindam

Come and worship!

In wonder and awe let us unite as Christ's body as we seek the heart of God.

O friends, open your heart to the divine life!

Attune yourself to the Divine Guest within your being!

Your Word is my heritage forever;

yes, it is the joy of my heart.

When I meditate upon your light,

my heart opens with compassion for all life.

Break open the locks of your heart's door,

breathe deeply of sunlight's freedom and warmth.

We hold tightly to the hand of faith

for strength through deep valleys;

Learn to trust in the One,

who is ever your companion and guide.

For, when you come to know the Source of your life,

Love, the great transformer,

flows through us and radiates outward

Filling our hearts with Light.

Please rise in body or in spirit to sing *For All the Saints*:

***Hymn**

For All the Saints (Sine Nomine) 1,2,4 How

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
 Who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
 Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

You were their rock, their refuge and their might:
 You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
 'Mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
 we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
 Yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

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For All the Saints

Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who to the
 2 You were their rock, their ref - uge, and their might: you, Christ, the
 3 Still may your peo - ple, faith - ful, true, and bold, live as the
 4 Ringed by this cloud of wit - ness - es di - vine, we fee - bly
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, steals on the

world their stead-fast faith con - fessed, your name, O Je - sus,
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
 saints who no - bly fought of old, and share with them a
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet in your love our
 ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.
 were their one true light.
 glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 faith - ful lives en - twine.
 gain, and faith grows strong.

This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring Sine Nomine in The English Hymnal (1906).

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.104.
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Skeletons, adpt¹

John van de Laar

Let us pray our prayer for transformation and new life responsively:

In each of our hearts is a locked place, God;
Like a forgotten room or a dark cupboard,
We would prefer to forget it even exists,
But inside it are things that won't stay hidden.

Others would never suspect that we carry such a place;
We guard our faces so no evidence appears,
And we keep our lips sealed,
allowing no escape for the stories of the skeletons in our cupboard.

But in the quiet moments, the unguarded times of solitude,
The doors we struggle to hold shut fly open
and the skeletons – these living guilts – come out and dance
Mocking us and reminding us of our secret shame.

**Free us from the power and the prison
of the skeletons in our cupboards, Jesus;
Teach us that mistakes and brokenness and failure
are part of creative and bold living
Remind us that what is hidden holds us in bondage
and cannot be healed;
And lead us through our shame to confident joy in You.**

**Let us know the touch of your forgiveness and healing,
and teach us to pass this acceptance on to others
friends, family and strangers
who, like us, pretend to be whole
While within them, skeletons still dance. Amen.**

¹ <https://sacredise.com/skeletons/>

*Words of Grace

Hear these words of Grace:

Christ has freed us from that which binds us
into creative and bold living.

Adopted and now wholly God's,
be confident in the joy of our Lord
that bursts through the deepest suffering
and is not bound by limits of time or space.

Thank be to God! Amen

***Response**

Now I belong to Jesus

Clayton

**Now I belong to Jesus,
Jesus belongs to me;
Not for the years of time alone,
But for eternity.**

Now I Belong to Jesus

Refrain

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score includes a main melody and a separate line for the refrain, which is marked with a double bar line and the word 'Refrain' above it. The refrain melody is also in the same key and time signature.

Now I be-long to Je - sus, Je - sus be-longs to

me; Not for the years of time a - lone, But for e - ter - ni - ty.

TEXT: Norman J. Clayton
MUSIC: Norman J. Clayton

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ELLSWORTH
10.10.9.6. with Refrain

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We Encounter God in the Word

First Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

The Inclusive Bible

Hear these words from the letter to the Ephesians, chapter 1 verses 15-23, in which Paul prays for all the saints:

15-23 From the time I first heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of the holy ones, I have never stopped thanking God for you and remembering you in my prayers.

I pray that the God of our Savior Jesus Christ, the God of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation, to bring you to a rich knowledge of the Creator. I pray that God will enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see the hope this call holds for you—the promised glories that God’s holy ones will inherit, and the infinitely great power that is exercised for us who believe. You can tell this from the strength of God’s power at work in Jesus, the power used to raise Christ from the dead and to seat Christ in heaven at God’s right hand, far above every sovereignty, authority, power or dominion, and above any other name that can be named—not only in this age, but also in the age to come. God has put all things under Christ’s feet and made Christ, as the ruler of everything, the head of the church, and the church is Christ’s body; it’s the fullness of the One who fills all of creation.

The Word of God. Thanks be to God!

Story with Young People *Children of God*

Intro

Children of God, let’s love one another.

Love is a gift, a blessing of God.

Love one another, sisters and brothers.

Love is a gift of God.

Story

“From the time I first heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of the holy ones, I have never stopped thanking God for you and remembering you in my prayer.”

Such beautiful words, yes? From the time I first heard of your faith and your love for all of the saints, my perpetual prayers have been filled with memories and gratitude.

So, how many of you were busy two nights ago with candy and treats or special Halloween parties? While we have shortened its name over the years, All Hallowed Eve is a time of honoring and celebrating the lives of our ancestors. There are many different stories about where, when and how it began. And of course, other cultures may call it something different and honor their ancestors on a different day.

And yet, underneath all the candy and costumes and treats and tricks is a practice rooted in both memories and thanks-giving. And sometimes, that can bring with it a lot of jumbled-up emotions: laughter, and tears. Bitter-sweet memories. Hopes and fears. Today, we are going to take time to remember the friends and members of our congregation who have died over the past year.

Now, we have a tradition here of lighting a candle on the pulpit when someone dies, as a reminder that they have joined the chorus of witnesses. Last week, we lit a candle for Linda Levesque. This week, we have another candle to light. Usually, we light that candle at the very beginning of the service. This week, however, as we are also celebrating All Saints Day, it seemed appropriate for us to light a candle for Marge Johnson,

who passed away last Saturday, during this special time of remembrance.

Marge was born and raised in Randolph, Vermont, and spent her summers there even after claiming Venice and the congregation here as her fall and winter home. She fearlessly led the Spring Rummage Sale for 25 years, while also organizing cookie sales and soup-a-thons. In her free time, Marge spent hours praying and knitting shawls for the prayer shawl ministry, baby hats for the Birthing Center at the hospital in Randolph, and washcloths for the Fellowship Church in Randolph.

Like Paul, Marge was a worker for God. For she never stopped thanking God and remembering others in her prayers, spreading joy with the contagion of her giggles. And as we keep her family and loved ones in our prayers, may the words of her favorite hymn ring in our ears: for Marge cherished and clung to that old rugged cross, which she has now exchanged for a crown.

Prayer of Remembrance *“Unlikely Companions”* John van de Laar

“It was scandalous then, Jesus:
your inappropriate choice of associations,
your insistence on being with those
who were least likely to be friends of God.

It’s scandalous now, Jesus!

We like to think we’re more gracious than that,
but we still struggle
with who you choose to include.

Yet, you also include us who, if we’re honest,

are just as unlikely,
just as undeserving;
And as we walk with you and work with you
we discover others that journey beside us,
and who find us to be just as much the unlikely companions
that we find them to be;

So, we remember unlikely leaders,
who with few resources and little influence,
make significant contributions to the world;
We remember unlikely healers,
who through little more than their compassion,
bring wholeness to broken and wounded others;
We remember unlikely benefactors,
who, with no wealth to speak of,
give generously to those with even less;
We remember unlikely saints,
who, though tainted and stained, broken and imperfect,
bring sacredness and life to hopeless ones.

We remember:

Richard Railsback 12/13/2024

Patricia Hodgkins 12/17/2024

Connie Johnson 01/11/2025

Lenore Washburn 04/21/2025

Wallace H. Appel(pronounced a-PELL), Jr. 08/21/2025

Susan Hartung Kotrba 08/26/2025

Linda Levesque (pronounced LeVECK) 10/23/2025

Majorie Johnson 10/25/2025

...and other loved ones we hold in our hearts

And as we pray, we celebrate all the Zacchaeuses,
who, like us have been touched by your grace and forgiveness,
and have become your unlikely companions
in saving the world."². Amen.

Segue

Anthem

Jesus Took the Cup

arr. Hopson

² John van de Laar. "Unlikely Companions". *Sacredise*. <https://sacredise.com/unlikely-companions/> 10-29-2025.

Second Reading

Luke 19:1-10

CEB

¹⁻⁴ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but, being a short man, he couldn't because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.

⁵ When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today."

⁶ So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

⁷ Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much."

⁹⁻¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. The Human One came to seek and save the lost."

The Word of our Messiah. **Thanks be to God!**

May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of all of our hearts
Be acceptable to you, O God,
Our Steadfast cornerstone.

Many years ago, when multiple people were encouraging me to go to seminary and I was still trying on this whole ‘pastor’ thing, I was occasionally invited to preach at the church where Rob and I were raising our kids.

At that time, I was really into interactive sermons. So one Sunday, filling in as the church searched for a new interim Associate Pastor, I got to church early with a bunch of hand-made signs. And before anyone else got into the sanctuary, I was already walking down the aisles, alternatively taping signs that read ‘saint’ and ‘sinner’.

As people began filing in, I quickly discovered that if one ever wants to encourage worshipers to reconsider their traditional seats, the fastest way to do it is with signs that say ‘saint’ and ‘sinner.’ And yes, there were some really, shall we say, interesting comments. Loud enough to be heard musings on what their choice would look like to those around them. And pondering about which sign they most identified with. Yes, it was almost like a grown-up game of musical chairs.

Now that congregation did not have the many aisles that we have here. Instead, it was that 1960s simple rectangular worship space with a balcony above, a center aisle, and two side aisles. And what I did not tell the congregation as I began that sermon was that while the very back pew, as viewed from the center aisle,

held the sign ‘Saint’, if they had entered that same pew from the side aisle instead, the sign there proclaimed, ‘Sinner.’

In our parable from Luke today, we meet Zaccheus.

Now, those of us who have heard this story from infancy and Vacation Bible Schools may already be singing the refrain about this ‘wee little man’ in our heads, and some of us, although I am not admitting or naming any names, may have headed out straight after church or Bible Club or Vacation Bible School or Catholic school and challenged each other to climb the highest, hardest tree we could find.

Some of us may have even, well, um, really identified with his inability to see anything when surrounded by crowds of people.

But there was something I never heard in this story when I was younger, that I marvel at now.

Zaccheus Ran on ahead. He Climbed a tree. He Jumped down and joyfully accepted Jesus’ self-invitation to join him for dinner.

Do you hear it, too? All that youthful energy.

With all that drive evident in his desire to see Jesus, if Zaccheus was instead focused solely on his job — that as Chief Tax Collector — his wealth would have been on par to rival the Bezos (long a) and Zuckerberg’s of our day.

Which makes me wonder at this parable, for I discovered something new in the verb tenses as we were walking through our Bible study this week. The story of Zaccheus is traditionally

translated as proclaiming what he *Will* do... He *will* give half of his possessions to the poor, He *will* repay anyone he has cheated four-fold... And yet, the verb tenses as presented in the Contemporary English Version that we heard this morning may be more accurate, which changes the narrative of the story a bit. For instance, we are used to hearing that Zaccheus repents upon seeing Jesus and upon receiving Jesus' invitation. But what if, in all of his youthful exuberance, Zaccheus has already begun the process of halving his possessions and repaying everyone who had been cheated?

Now, in the Gospel of Luke, the story of Zaccheus follows two stories: the first is the story of the sad, wealthy young ruler who asks to follow Jesus, but is told that in addition to following the Torah he must sell everything he has and give it to the poor, and The second is the story of Jesus healing the sight of one who could not see.

And then Zaccheus shows up, with a job that oozes wealth, running ahead, climbing a tree, unable to see....

And while the religious leaders and townsfolk avoid him as the worst kind of thief and sinner, Jesus recognizes in him a child of Abraham.

For, according to the verb tenses reflected in this morning's passage, Zaccheus is in the process of sharing half of everything he has with the poor and refunding those who have been cheated four-fold.

Now, as familiar as we have been with this story, we still don't know Zaccheus' back-story. We don't know why he so

desperately wanted to see Jesus. We don't know why or how Jesus recognized him and called him by name. We don't know if in meeting Jesus he has a sudden change of heart or if he has heard or met him or John the Baptist before this encounter and already turned his life around before meeting the Divine face to face.

What we do know is that while everyone else around him despised and ostracized him as the worst kind of sinner, in his faithfulness in making amends, Jesus saw Zaccheus as the saint he truly was.

Now let's take a moment here, for just as the members of the congregation where our children were raised were struggling with choosing between being called either saint or sinner, and were startled to discover that under each of those signs was a second sign with the word 'saint,' our passage from Ephesians is very clear about the usage of the word saint: it means 'holy ones,' and Paul uses it to refer to each and every member of the body of Christ in communion with each other at Ephesus. Each of us, who through our adoption into God's family as Christ's siblings, are thus also the saints of the church. The members of the congregation where my kids were raised may have struggled with whether to call themselves saints or sinners, but Paul was very clear. All who hear the word of Jesus and do it, and yes, that includes Zaccheus, are God's holy ones. God's saints.

Now, there are some among us for whom the word 'saint' is very familiar. Whether named for a saint, surrounded and asking the saints to intercede, or being bestowed as a title after someone has died, our Catholic siblings are accustomed to living life with the saints surrounding them. The letter to the Ephesians expands

and shifts that practice for all of us, reminding us that all of us who are a part of the church are considered by Paul and the early church the holy ones. The Spirit of the Divine is within each of us.

So as we celebrate All Saints Sunday today, let us remember that we are Saints, all. All you'all's Saints. And just as Paul reminds us at the end of Romans chapter 8 that absolutely nothing, neither depth nor breath, neither death nor life, neither time nor space, can separate us from the love of God as revealed in Christ, so are we all one with the saints we honor today who have gone before and form the great cloud of witnesses. One God. One Christ. One Spirit. One body in communion. Thanks be to God.

We Respond to God's Grace

Prayer Concerns and Sharing Gratitude

Joys:

each beautiful new day, slow mornings, the depth of human creativity and spirit, skilled medical professionals, friendship, safe travels, gathering together to study God's word, rebirth and recreation in communities that empower and hold us as we ask tough questions of God and each other, those who pitch in and help out, birthdays, anniversaries, milestones...

Intercessions:

Jason	Joanne	William
Charlene	Colin	Albert
Dwight	John B.	Pastor John
Patricia	Rex and Ruth	Ken
Family and friends of Linda		Bill
Family and friends of Marge		
Roni (Ronnie)	Ami (awe-mi)	
Gay, Vicki, Pam, Jack, Clark, Pastor Attila		

Those affected by hurricane Melissa.

We pray for those people who have lost their jobs and their means of supporting their families, and for pets who have lost their people.

Everyone impacted by the decisions of governments that choose violence and war instead of diplomacy; all essential workers and all frontline healthcare workers; everyone impacted by recent hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, and flooding;

and

The staff and participants of Word Made Flesh in Sierra Leone, Immokalee Farm Workers, black and brown fathers and their sons, everyone living through domestic violence, people of all religions who are being persecuted because of their faith, all who struggle with or are affected by mental illness and depression. We also pray for law enforcement officers, service men and women, missionaries and rescue workers doing God's work in dangerous places.

First Sunday... debts and debtors sung

Silent Prayer

People's Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (sung)

God of steadfast love and abundant generosity,

We thank you for your presence of your child, our teacher, the one we call Messiah, Anointed, Christ, Brother, and friend, the one You named Jesus, among us. We thank you for the words of life that he has spoken, the gift of hope he has provided, the gift of love that will never be lost or destroyed.

We thank you for his humanity, so that as we experience the suffering that comes as a part of our living, we know that we are never alone in our experiences, for we are eternally loved into life by One who has also known both suffering and death, transcending the boundaries of time and space to be with us.

Be with us, O God, as we honor the path you have set before us. Hear our prayers for those who are grieving, for those who are suffering, for those who are sitting in that place of waiting and not knowing. Soothe our fears, nourish our bodies, and feed our souls with the bread and cup of your compassion and mercy.

We praise you for your vision of a new heaven and a new earth, in which everyone treats each other as your beloved children, and together we sing the prayer that you have taught us:

**Our Father which 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 debts
as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory.
Forever.
Amen.

We Share God's Love

Invitation to Generosity

Having received the gifts of God, let us faithfully return a portion of our abundance to the ministry of this faith community so that our collective offering will bless God and God's people.

(Offering plates are found by each doorway for your use.)

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication³**

Holy One, bless these offerings. May the work of our hands and the gifts we bring be a blessing. We dedicate them to your building of your vision for all of humanity. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

All the parts of this shared meal together come from our Communal Earth. The various ingredients of this gluten-free bread were grown with patience, tenderness and love. They were then gathered and baked into a loaf to be broken and shared together.

The grapes used to prepare this cup were also grown with patience, tenderness and love. They were gathered by the hands of migrant workers and pressed into juice to be shared together.

We too, are from the Earth. With patience, tenderness, and love we find ourselves here collectively willing to partake of elements that are meant to spark a new type of living in the world.

By sharing the bread and cup we live into God's vision and deep desire for us — to be reconciled to God and to each other as we participate in a feast of unconditional love and grace — for all people.

Just as Jesus practiced an Open Table at which he taught and ate with anyone who sought him out and many that he himself approached because of their previous experiences of being excluded by people in positions of power, so we too seek to welcome everyone to Christ's table in this community of extravagant grace and radical hospitality.

Christ has invited everyone to join together in this holy feast.

**We gather with sisters and brothers and friends
from every time zone
around this beautiful sphere God created
and that we call earth.**

As today's sunlight inches across the land and sea, we prepare our Lord's table so that all may come, all may eat, and all might be nourished by the bread Christ has offered that gives us life.

**We gather to eat the bread and drink of the cup
that fills us with God's abundant love,
that reforms us to be a reflection
of God's original blessing, and
that reconnects us to God, God's creation,
and each other.**

Let us pray,

Just as Jesus took the bread, blessed it, and offered it to his disciples, revealing himself in the image of a stranger along the road to Emmaus, so too, O God, we ask you to bless this bread and this cup, so that your presence and extravagant love may be revealed to us along the roads we are traveling and in the faces of everyone we meet. Breathe your Spirit among us, and make us whole: a beautiful, fragile, divine image of You. Amen

As you prepare to come forward to share in God's promise, the ushers will dismiss and direct you so that everyone may safely share in God's bounty. For those of you who would like assistance in your seat, please let the ushers know so that we can share God's promise with you where you are.

Come, for the meal is ready!

*(The ministers and servers will prepare the elements;
the congregation is then invited to come
and receive the bread and the cup.
If you cannot come but wish to receive,
the servers will come to you.)*

Communion Meditation

Partake of the Bread of the World

arr. Schram

We Go to Carry the Light

***Hymn**

For all the Saints

Bell/English folk melody

**For all the saints who've shown your love
In how they live and where they move,
For mindful women, caring men,
Accept our gratitude again.**

**For all the saints who loved your name,
whose faith increased the Savior's fame,
Who sang your songs and shared your word,
Accept our graitiude, Good Lord.**

**For all the saints who named your will,
And showed the kin-dom coming still
Through selfless protest, prayer, and praise,
Accept the gratitude we raise.**

**Bless all whose will or name or love
Reflects the grace of heaven above,
Though unclaimed by earthly powers,
Your life through theirs has hallowed ours.**

For All the Saints

1. For all the saints who've shown your love in how they
 2. For all the saints who loved your name, whose faith in -
 3. For all the saints who named your will, and showed the
 4. Bless all whose will or name or love re - flects the

live and where they move, for mind - ful wo - men, car - ing
 creased the Sav - ior's fame, who sang your songs and shared your
 king - dom com - ing still through self - less pro - test, prayer, and
 grace of heaven a - bove. Though un - ac - claimed by earth - ly

men, ac - cept our gra - ti - tude a - gain.
 word, ac - cept our gra - ti - tude, good Lord.
 praise, ac - cept the gra - ti - tude we raise.
 powers, your life through theirs has hal - lowed ours.

WORDS: John Bell

MUSIC: English folk melody; harm. by John Weaver

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***Blessing and Benediction**

May the Spirit of Strength sustain us on our journeys.

May the Christ of Grace fill our hearts with understanding.

May the God of Presence lead us from the depths of shadows into the light.

May we know we are never alone in treetops, in corners, or on roads. The steadfast love of God travels with us wherever we go!

***Sending Blessing** *Threefold Amen*
Postlude *Singing Bowl*

Danish
Dickason

**Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude as the
Light of Christ is carried into the world.
The worship has ended; our service begins.**

Supporting Our Service Today

Liturgist: Ellen Schleicher

Welcome Table: Gayle Davis

Greeter: John and Nancy Brex

Acolyte: Allison Rowe

Head Usher: Harold Steindam

Usher Team: Suzi Benscoter,
Mel Burrowes, Jane Chittick,
George Ikeda, Helen Markus,
Nancy Susskind

Technology Team

Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely,
Maria Groody, David Jack,
Linda Newton, Wally Davis,
Patty Fjetland

The **Lord's Table** was decorated
by Victoria Augustine

The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given
by Posie Gallaher in memory of
Bob Cook on his birthday and
"Happy Birthday to all of us
Octobers"

The **Church Sign** was changed by
Faye Newton & Lisa Sclafani

Sunday Librarian:

Hilda Dillman

Fellowship Hosts:

Church Family Life Committee



Senior Minister

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

Staff

Gary Leidheiser: *Custodian*

Barb Quinn: *Office Assistant*

Music Staff

Barbara Quinn: *Music Director*

Lynda Weston: *Bella Handbell
Director*

This Week at a Glance

Monday, November 3

SpiritFed at noon

Pack a lunch and join us **on ZOOM** for prayer, study and connecting with each other. It's a come-as-you-are space designed to help us confront the loneliness epidemic while growing closer to God.

Click on the link below to join.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?
pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4
OarYUtofaom.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4OarYUtofaom.1)

Meeting ID: 835 7659 4637

Passcode: 913882

Tuesday, November 4

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

6:00 PM Girl Scouts

Wednesday, November 5

9:00 AM - Noon Library Hours

10:00 AM Bible Study—CR

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 6

4:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 PM Daisies

Friday, November 7

8:30 AM Men's Coffee—Panera

Sunday, November 9

New Member Sunday

Mission Market

9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal —

Sanctuary

9:00-9:45 AM Library Hour

10:00 AM Worship

11:00-11:15 AM Library Time

11:00 AM Fellowship Time

11:00 AM New Members — CR

Coming Events

The church office is open
M-Th, 9-1.

Would you like to donate to
VUCC online?

Use this link:

<https://veniceucc.org/give>

Or... Use your Smart Phone
to scan the QR code:

and it will take you
directly to our
donations page.
It is really easy!



- 4:00 PM Thursday, November 6, Handbell Rehearsals Begin
- Sunday, November 9, Feeding our Hungry and Food Pantry Mission Moment, New Members Received, Mission Market
- 6:00 PM Saturday, November 15, Venice Area Audubon Society will host biologist/photographer/author Stan Tekiela in Naar Hall
- Sunday, November 16, after worship, Basket Auction
- 9:00 AM, Monday, November 24, Decorate Sanctuary/Naar Hall for Advent
- 7:00 PM Tues., Nov. 25, Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Jewish Congregation of Venice
- 2:00 PM, Friday, December 5, Women's Fellowship Tea—Naar Hall
- 7:00 PM Tuesday, December 9, Blue Christmas Worship Service
- Sunday, December 14, Christmas Fund Offering Begins
- 7:00 PM Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Worship Service

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- Sunday, January 11, Mission Fair—Naar Hall
- Tuesday, January 20, Women's Trip to Spanish Point in Osprey
- Sunday, January 25, CROP Walk
- 5:30 PM, Tuesday, January 27, Word Made Flesh Dinner, Naar Hall
- 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, Saturday, January 31, Venice Garden Club Flower Show—Naar Hall
- Friday/Saturday, February 6-7, Venice Coin Club Show—Naar Hall
- Sunday, February 8, On the Spot Mission Moment

- 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, Saturday, February 14, Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale
- Saturday, February 28, Christian Education Event TBA
- Sunday, March 8, Immokalee Sunday with Alan Penick