



Sunday's @ 8:40 AM



Monday's 10:00 AM-1:00 PM;
2:00 PM-5:00 PM



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Wi-Fi Network: **Last Sunday:**
EIUMCguest
October 25, 2026
Attendance: 25
Password: (in person & online)
25!Happy
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After All Saints Day: What Now?
The Possibilities, Challenges, and Beauty of Being Saints Together

On All Saints Day, we remembered those who have gone before us. We spoke their names. We gave thanks for their witness. We allowed memory to meet hope. Yet All Saints Day is never only about the saints who have died. It is also about the saints who remain. That means us. Not because we are perfect. Not because we have reached some spiritual finish line. But because, as John reminds us, "we are called children of God, and that is what we are." The saints are not merely those we remember; they are also those whom God is still shaping.

The Possibility,

One of the great possibilities of the Christian life is transformation. The saints we honored were ordinary people who learned to trust an extraordinary God. They taught Sunday School. They raised families. They weathered illnesses, disappointments, failures, and grief. They practiced forgiveness when it was difficult. They prayed when answers seemed absent. They kept showing up. Their lives remind us that holiness does not arrive all at once. God continues to form people through acts of worship, prayer, service, friendship, generosity, and love. Every member of the congregation is a work in progress. Every day presents another opportunity to become a little more merciful, a little more patient, a little more Christlike. The possibility before us is not becoming famous saints. The possibility before us is becoming faithful saints.

The Challenge

The challenge is that life easily fills with gravel and sand. Schedules, obligations, distractions, worries, and endless demands compete for our attention. Before long, we can find ourselves exhausted and wondering where God has gone. Of course, God has not gone anywhere. The question is whether we have left room for the "big rocks" (from last week's sermon) that truly matter.

The Beatitudes remind us that God's kingdom often grows in places the world overlooks:
among those who mourn,
among those who show mercy,
among peacemakers,
among those who hunger for righteousness,
among those who quietly trust God.

The challenge for our congregation is to keep these priorities at the center. It is easy to become busy. It is harder to remain spiritually attentive. The saints show us that discipleship is not measured by activity alone. It is measured by faithfulness.

The Beauty,

Perhaps the greatest beauty of All Saints is the realization that no one walks this journey alone.

- The saints who shaped us are still part of our story.
- Their witness continues to encourage us.
- Their examples still teach us.
- Their faith still points us toward Christ.

And here in the present, God continues to weave our lives together. We bear one another's burdens. We celebrate one another's joys. We pray through losses, illnesses, uncertainties, and new beginnings together. A congregation becomes beautiful not because it is flawless but because it learns to practice grace. It becomes beautiful when people forgive one another.

- When meals are shared.
- When prayers are offered.
- When newcomers are welcomed.
- When tears are honored.
- When hope is sustained.

This is the vision Revelation offers: a great multitude gathered before God from every nation, tribe, language, and people. What we experience now in small glimpses, God will one day bring to completion.

A Question for the Week

Consider those saints whose names you remembered this year.

- What qualities of their lives reflected the Beatitudes?
- What "big rocks" did they place first?
- And how might God be inviting you to carry their witness forward in your own life?

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for the saints who have gone before us and for the saints who walk beside us today. Keep us mindful of what matters most. Help us to live the Beatitudes with courage and joy. When we are weary, remind us that we belong to you. When we stumble, surround us with grace. And as you shaped the lives of those we remember, continue shaping us into the likeness of Christ. Until that day when all your children are gathered before your throne, keep us faithful in hope and steadfast in love. Amen

Rev. Len Ripley.



To all who are weary and need rest; To all who are burdened and need relief; To all who are lonely and need friends; To all who are looking for something that only God can provide; To all who sin and need a Savior; To whosoever will come, this church opens its doors, and in the name of Jesus Christ says, "Welcome!"



PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE

(You are invited to share the Peace of Christ with your neighbor.)

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #328 “Surely the Presence”

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today in the thin, holy line between memory and hope.

We remember the saints who have gone before us, a great multitude no one can number.

They come from every nation, every people, every language.

They stand before the Lamb, robed in grace, held in mercy.

We remember not perfection, but belonging.

Not achievement, but God’s gathering love.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers.

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

God is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

See what love the Father has given us—

That we should be called children of God. And that is what we are.

Let us worship the God who wipes away every tear.

Let us worship with gratitude, hope, and praise.

*OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Holy God, you gather your people across time, across generations, across every boundary we create. On this All Saints Day, we thank you for the great cloud of witnesses who shaped our faith, who taught us to pray, who showed us mercy, who walked with us in love.

By your Spirit, form us into the likeness of Christ. Make us people of the Beatitudes—humble, compassionate, hungry for justice, steadfast in peace, courageous in hope.

As we worship, renew our hearts, strengthen our community, and remind us that we belong to you, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN #

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will; we have broken your law; we have rebelled against your love; we have not loved our neighbors; and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(You are invited to confess your sins in silence)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, open our hearts as we hear your Word— Revelation’s promise, the psalmist’s testimony, the Beatitudes’ blessing, and the assurance that we are your children. By your Spirit, illuminate our minds, that your Word may shape our lives and form us into a people of hope. Amen

1st LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17

PSALTER #809

Psalm 34: 1-10, 22

NEW TESTAMENT

1 John 3:1-3

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 5: 1-12

SERMON

*HYMN #711 “For All the Saints”

GLORIA PATRI #70 “Glory Be to the Father”

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER #895

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY #95 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

ANTHEM

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses who lived lives of gratitude, generosity, and hope. As we bring our gifts today, make us faithful stewards of your grace. Use these offerings to comfort the brokenhearted, to strengthen your church, and to bear witness to your kingdom on Edisto Island and beyond. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION #15

TAKING THE BREAD & CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD & THE CUP

PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn #

*Sending Forth

Go forth as children of God, claimed by grace, formed by mercy, and strengthened by the witness of the saints.

We live the Beatitudes in our daily life— in our homes, our work, our community, our church, and in every place God sends us.

We are all part of the great multitude. We all belong to God. We walk in hope.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN #

*BENEDICTION

May the God who gathers the great multitude, who wipes away every tear, and who calls us children, keep you in His grace.

May the Lamb of God lead you to springs of living water.

And may the saints who have gone before you intercede for you until that day when every tear is truly wiped away. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Prayer Requests

The Steele Family, Bob Spratlin, Patti Smyer, Haley Davis, Violet McKenney, The Loy Family, Duncan Bunch, Reynolds Hayden, Alex Cone, Tommy Keller, Donna Padgett, Butch Evans, Beth Warshaw, Bob Foster, Dylan Rearden, Ann Bond, Lacey Reeves, Laura & Jim Emory, Ethelynn Booser, Nancy Culclasure, Lauren (Donna’s niece), Thomas Tindall, Buff Yelton, Dawn & Berry Wren

Worship Participants:

Steve Strange, Donna Padgett, Johnelle Mische