

An Open and Affirming Congregation
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Sunday, November 1, 2026
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Day
Communion Sunday

John 18:33–37 (NRSV)
"Christ Among Us"

Pastor:	**Reverend Jonathan Paredes**
Music Director:	**Greg Wilfrid**
Liturgist:	**Deanna Pico**

Whoever you are, Wherever you are on life's journey,
You are WELCOME here!

We Gather Together in Hope for Worship
**Stand if you are able*
NCH - New Century Hymnal (Black book)
PH - Pilgrim Hymnal (Red book)

Prelude **Melody from Nimrod, from "Enigma Variations"** *(E. Elgar)*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship
Leader: Come, people of God, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.
People: We remember those who have gone before us.
Leader: Come to the table where generations of God's people have gathered.
People: We remember those who have gone before us.
Leader: Come worship the One whose love reaches beyond every boundary, even death itself.
People: We remember those who have gone before us.
Leader: Come follow Christ, whose power is revealed in truth, service, and love.
Unison: With all the saints, we worship God together. Thanks be to God.

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn** *(PH)* **# 296** **For All the Saints**

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**
Unison: God of grace and truth, sometimes we forget who we are. We forget that we belong to one another. We forget that compassion matters. We forget that love is stronger than fear. We forget that every person carries a sacred story. Too often we choose judgment over mercy, silence over courage, comfort over justice, and isolation over community. But even then,you continue calling us back. Remind us again that we are not abandoned. Remind us again that healing is possible. Remind us again that new chapters can begin. For we are still part of your story, and your story is still being written in love. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**
Pastor: Even in the moments when we lose our way, God continues to meet us with mercy and renewal. Friends, hear the good news: God is not finished with us yet. Love still speaks. Grace still restores. Hope still rises. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and invited forward together.
People: We are part of God's story. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**
Pastor: Because we have received God's grace and peace, it is in the Ordinary acts of life that we are invited to share that same peace with one another and with the world. Share a smile, a wave, or a gesture of welcome, as we greet each other in this sacred moment of belonging and may the peace of God be with you.
People: And also, with you.

***Song of Response**
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, amen.

***Second Hymn** *(PH)* **# 298** **I Sing a Song of the Saints of God**

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading **John 18:33–37** *(NRSV)* *Page 113*
Pastor: *The Word of God for the people of God.*
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon ***"Christ Among Us"*** *Rev. Jonathan Paredes*

Remembering of the Saints

Prayers of the People

Our 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

Sacraments of Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Unison: **We thank You for meeting us at this table. You have nourished us with the bread of life and the cup of blessing. We give thanks that this table is larger than any one congregation, any one place, or any one generation. Send us now to continue the faithful witness of those who have gone before us. May our lives reveal the way of Christ through love, truth, compassion, and service. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering
Leader: Today we remember generations of people who gave something of themselves so that others could experience love, community, and hope. Some gave their resources. Some gave their time. Some gave their wisdom. Some simply showed up again and again. Their faithful generosity helped create the communities we have inherited. Now it is our turn. As we present our offerings today, may what we give become part of the witness we leave for those who come after us. Let us give with grateful hearts.

Offertory **From All That Dwell Below the Skies** *(G. Young)*
Bethany First Church Choir

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Praise Christ the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts.
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***Offering Prayer & Blessing**
Unison: **God of abundance, Receive these gifts and the lives we offer alongside them. Use them to tell stories of hope, justice, compassion, and renewal in this community and beyond. May what we share today become part of the work of your Spirit in the world. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *(NCH)* **# 556** **God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens**

***Benediction**

Postlude **Now Is the Harvest Time** *(G.F. Root)*