



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, October 31, 2021)

**BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION**

Prelude:

**How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place**  
(Psalm 84 vss. 1,2,4)

Johannes Brahms

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;  
My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.  
Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.*

Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship**

Heidi Christensen, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:  
Praise the Lord, all you saints!

**Praise him all you heavenly hosts!**

Let us praise the name of the Lord:

**For his name only is exalted!**

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

**Isaiah, Jeremiah and all you Patriarchs and Prophets!**

Miriam, Ruth and Naomi:

**Elizabeth, Mary and all you Holy Women!**

Matthew, Mark and Luke:

**James and John and all you Evangelists and Apostles!**

Stephen, Thomas, Peter and Paul:

**Philip, Bartholomew and all you Holy Martyrs!**

Praise the Lord!

**O praise the name of the Lord!**

These are the saints whose robes are washed white in the blood of the Lamb.

**Praise the Lord!**

We are the saints who are the living body of Christ, the Church.

**Praise the Lord! O praise the name of the Lord!**

**Opening Hymn:**      "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper, he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he. Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, We will not fear for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also, The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

Confident in God's love for us, let us speak of our shared human experience. Let us pray together our prayer of confession:

### **Prayer of Confession**

**We come to you, Gracious God, Listener of our broken lives, with our hands soiled with the pain we have caused, with our ears stuffed with the words of those who speak falsely, with our hearts stained with those lusts and hungers we would be embarrassed for others to know. Forgive us and have mercy on us, as our humanity creeps in and blocks the dream you have for our lives. As we seek to journey from the baptismal waters towards the feast you prepare in glory, may we turn our faces toward you in every moment, listen to your words in the depths of our hearts, and follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, every step of the way.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Lift up your heads, saints of God! Your sin is gone, your hands once full of foolishness are now empty. God has clothed you with garments of joy to wear to the feast. Our former life has passed, our new life in Christ has begun. All things are new - including us! Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**Response:** "Gloria Patri"

**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.**

## **Passing the Peace**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **Children's Time**

### **Prayer for Illumination** (Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the Prayer for Illumination:

**Prepare our ears, O God, to hear your Word. Silence in us the other voices that would distract us, so that we may take it to heart, and to the best of our ability do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Reading:                    Revelation 21:1-6a

I, John, had another extraordinary vision. I saw a completely revamped heaven and a radically reconstructed earth. The first heaven, the first earth and the sea were all but a memory. Then I saw Jerusalem, the city dedicated to God, now made completely new. She was coming down the aisle from heaven itself, from God, and she looked sensational, like a bride on her wedding day. I heard a loud voice coming from heaven's throne. It said:

"See, God has moved in and set up home among ordinary people.

God will live with them and be their God,

and the people will gladly belong

to the God who lives right in their midst.

God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be abolished forever;

pain and grief and tears will be things of the past.

All these things have been made obsolete."

Then the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new – absolutely everything!"

"Write all this down," he said, "because these words can be depended on. They are the truth."

This is what he said: "The job is done! I am the whole story, from A to Z. I am the beginning and I am the end."

"paraphrase by Nathan Nettleton @ Laughingbird.net"

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Zombies & Saints

Rev. Gene Kendall, Jr.

**Middle Hymn:** "For All the Saints"

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed,

Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,

Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Call to offering

(Liturgist)

Grateful for the privilege of being the saints of God's kingdom, we offer what we have to meet the needs of our sisters and brothers in our community and around the globe. Thank you, as always for your generous and joyful giving. Please pray with me the prayer of dedication:

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God....Now, as your saints in this time and place, we have the opportunity to feed others from the abundance of all we have, to swallow up the pain and suffering of others, to wipe away the tears of those who are lonely and fearful. May the gifts we offer, and the lives we lead, be a testimony to your presence in our lives. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**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 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.**

## **Closing Hymn: "Oh When the Saints Go Marching In"**

Oh when the saints go marching in, oh when the saints go marching in,  
Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.

Oh when the stars begin to shine....

Oh when I hear the trumpet sound....

## **Benediction**

Postlude: **Toccata in D Minor** (piano and organ) J. S. Bach

*"God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever."~ Martin Luther*

## **Today's Worship Participants:**

Rev. Gene Kendall, Jr., Parish Associate, Jane Kerr, organist,  
Judy Viccellio, guitar, David Maley, piano, Heidi Christensen, liturgist and  
Gene Kendall, technology team