

## **THREE DAYS**

### **GHOSTS, SAINTS AND SOULS**

In ancient times in the Celtic lands of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland the people lit bonfires and wore costumes of animal heads and skins on what they thought of as the first day of winter, the last day of October. They did this to scare away the ghosts so they could finish harvesting their foods and prepare for the winter and dark. In those ancient times winter was feared because that was when many people died because of the cold, disease and lack of food.

When the people became Christians they renamed the day, All Hallows Eve, a time to ‘hallow’ or make holy in preparation for the next day, November 1<sup>st</sup>, All Hallows Day. Later it was renamed All Saints Day. On All Saints Day, we thank God for all the people who died because of their faithfulness to God, by following Jesus, and for those who did extraordinary things with great courage to show how much God loves everyone. There are several hundred Saints in our Episcopal Church calendar that all have a day on which they are honored. Two of the newest one’s are the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., prophet and martyr, and Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. They are all listed in a book called, “A Great Cloud of Witnesses.”

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> we have All Souls Day or all The Faithful Departed. It is a time to remember members of our family and friends who have died and to give thanks to God for their lives. It is an opportunity for us, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to become the best we can be as a way of honoring God and all those we love and see no longer.