



All Saints Day - Sunday November 1st, 2026

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.
(from Psalm 107)

We gather, thirsty and hungry,
full of longings and needs.
From desert journeys
and wilderness wanderings
from contested spaces
within a fragile world,
we come.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging



*Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress*

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this land
and her peoples. From time beyond our
reckoning the *(please name the people on whose
land you gather)* People, the Traditional
Custodians, have blessed this place through their
law and customs, their care and life. We pay
respects to their Elders and leaders past and
present, and pray for the future of their
communities. May we walk gently and
respectfully on this Land.

Singing - Come, O God of all the earth ***TiS 181***

OR: Guide me O thou great Redeemer TiS 569
OR: Praise with joy the world's Creator TiS 179



Prayer

God of our pilgrim journeys,
we give our thanks for
your goodness, your guidance,
your steadfast love
through all our days.

We've known days that are dry
and yet you offer ways to quench us.
The rains come,
the wells spring with living water,
wildflowers bloom,
crops regenerate.

We've also known days of hunger:
hunger for truth,
hunger for justice,
hunger for words of comfort,
and for your life-giving presence.
We've hungered for
needless wants
but also
for our daily needs.

We hear that you let the hungry live:
to sow fields;
to plant vineyards;
to yield fruit.

When we are quick to complain
and slow to remember your love,
we pray: God forgive us. **God forgive us.**

When we ignore the thirst
and hunger of others,
we pray: God forgive us. **God forgive us.**

When we are blind to the signs
that you journey alongside us,
we pray: God forgive us. **God forgive us.**

The psalmist has witnessed
hunger and thirst and
yet praises God
whose steadfast love endures forever.

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*For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills
with good things.*

In God revealed to us through Jesus Christ,
may we be renewed, enlivened
and discover fruitfulness in him.

Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.

Listening

Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 &
Matthew 23:1-12

For these words of faith
and for Jesus the Word

Thanks be to God.

Reflecting - Rev. Sandra Houghton

Today is All Saints Day. On All Saints Day we remember and thank God for all the Christians (saints) who have faithfully served God and the Church down through the ages, including those who have been important to us in our lives and Christian journeys. These may have been family members, Sunday School teachers, Youth leaders, ministers, writers, evangelists, neighbours, friends, and people we looked to for an example of how to live; in fact, anyone who has taught, helped, guided, and encouraged us in our faith.

I think that it's very appropriate that two of our readings for today address issues around what makes a good leader (and conversely what makes a bad leader), and the sort of example leaders should provide. Leaders in the church can be incredibly influential. Their power can be wielded in a way that builds people up and helps them explore and utilise their God-given gifts and abilities, or their power can be used to abuse, exploit, manipulate, or disempower others whilst building themselves up.

Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians, talks about the way in which he, and his companions, embodied leadership when they were ministering to the Thessalonians. He emphasises the selfless way in which they worked, in order that they might not be a burden on the Thessalonians. He also described their behaviour as pure, upright, and blameless; and nurturing, like that of a father encouraging and teaching his children in the right way to live.

Paul loved the Thessalonian church, and was encouraged by their faith and service in the face of persecution. But clearly, as revealed in the verses preceding today's reading, he felt the need to emphasise to them that he and his companions were not at all greedy, self-serving, deceptive, nor in any way corrupt in the way they treated the Thessalonians. Rather all they did and said was nurturing and loving, and motivated by their deep longing to share God's love and Christ Jesus with them.

Perhaps this is Paul's way of saying to the Thessalonians that having been gifted this example by the ones who had brought the Gospel to them, then this is the type of leadership that they should emulate, and the model by which they should judge any would-be leaders.

Jesus, in our reading from Matthew's Gospel, teaches about the problematic Jewish religious leaders of his day who were obsessed with power, perks and privileges. He advises his followers to listen to their teaching, but not to emulate their example. Instead, he teaches, "The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted." Matthew 23:11-12

Clearly, this was the type of leadership that Paul was describing in his letter to the Thessalonians. Leadership that was humble, just, merciful, selfless, caring, hardworking, and loving, just like the example that Jesus gave us. We often call it servant leadership, remembering Jesus' words in Matthew 23.



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This is a very demanding way to lead, especially in a world that is obsessed with power, prestige, money and possessions. It is very countercultural. But then God did not leave us to do this on our own. God gave us God's Holy Spirit to empower and encourage on our journey. And as Galatians 5:22-23a reminds us that, " .. the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." This is God's great gift to us, and to all of God's people.

As I look back on my life, I can recognise those saints who have been important to me, and I can recognise the fruits of the Spirit displayed in their lives. Of course, these mentors and nurturers in the faith were not perfect. They had faults and foibles, but they were genuine and sincere in their faith and service. I know that their generosity, faithfulness, love, kindness, patience, and more, has been an immense blessing to me.

I sincerely hope that you, too, have had the experience of saints that taught you that God loved you without reservation, taught you how to pray, encouraged you to sing praises to God, taught you how to read and love the Scriptures, taught you about Christian service and ethics, and most importantly urged you to trust God with all of your life.

For it is a rich tapestry of saints that have helped us grow in faith, love, and service throughout our lives. They have been our Spiritual role-models, and it is our calling to follow in their footsteps to be Spiritual role-models for those following after. May you be a blessing to your family, your church, and your community.

Singing - For all the saints TiS 455

OR: Rejoice in God's saints TiS 470

OR: I am the church! You are the church! TiS 467

Offering

As the souls who have gone before us offered their living to you, loving God, so we bring ourselves again into your keeping.

Accept our offering; our money, goods and our lives, and take what we offer to bring about hope and peace in our own small corners.
And all the people say: **Amen.**

Notices

November 5, is World Tsunami Awareness day.
<https://tsunamiday.undrr.org>

Prayers for All Saints & Souls

Light candles and/or place photos and speak the names of members, friends and family who have died ... allow plenty of time. You might choose to have some quiet music playing.

We give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith. Those who have lived for justice and spoken the truth to power, sometimes at great cost.

We give thanks for the ones who guided and guarded us as we grew, who walked alongside us in faith and picked up us when we stumbled.

We give thanks for the quiet ones and the noisy ones, for the sainted ones and the forgotten ones, for the public figures and the invisible, persistent pilgrims we have met on our way and encountered throughout history.

As they did, we do also and pray together, as Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.



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Singing - We are your people TiS 468

OR: Community of Christ TiS 473

OR: O for a thousand tongues, TiS 210

Blessing

We go knowing
that the saints who have
been part of our formation in faith
continue to live in and through us.

Their lives continue to bless us
as we go out to offer God's blessing
to a world in need of life and love.

Go to bless and be blessed
in the name of God:
Source, Son and Spirit. Amen.

Reflection: Rev. Sandra Houghton

Liturgy: Rev. Jennie Gordon &
Rev. Arnie Wierenga

Editor: Rev. Arnie Wierenga

