

Sunday
November 1, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



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Pastor Greg Culver
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Plain print indicates the worship leader.

Bold print indicates the people.

*Indicates please stand as able.

Gathering and Preparation for Worship

Please pray the following as you prepare for worship —

God of our salvation, we bless and thank you for calling us to be saints and to share every good gift with other members of your body. We pray that today's worship service will be a lavish sharing of these gifts. We pray for generous and open hearts for all who lead and all who offer worship. We pray for the active and powerful work of your Holy Spirit in this gathering so that everyone here and those who are listening will experience the king of fellowship that is only possible because of what Jesus has done for us. In Jesus's name, amen.

Call to Worship -- based on Hebrews 12:1 (NRSV)

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. In the name of Jesus, our one Lord and Savior, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, neither death nor life can separate us from your love. Grant that we may serve you faithfully here on earth, and in heaven rejoice with all your saints, who ceaselessly proclaim your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, amen.

Video: "For All the Saints," performed by the choir of King's College

Call to Confession

Christ calls us to share in the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

Confession

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up women and men to live and die in faith. Forgive our indifference to your will. You have commanded us to speak, but we have been silent. You have called us to do what is just, but we have been fearful. Have mercy on us, your faithful servants. Keep before us faithful people for us to follow so that, living with courage

and love, we may inherit the kingdom promised in Jesus Christ, and reign with him forever, amen.

Pardon: Ephesians 2:19-22 (*NRSV*)

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Scripture Lesson: John 7 (*Kingdom New Testament*)

Sermon: "God Un-Masked"

Psalter: Psalm 130 ("De Profundis," *NRSV*)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Sharing God's Gifts, and Offertory

Offering Prayer

Thank you for your prayers and support of our finances.

Dear God, receive our offering. Guide those who use it, that it may help to bring fullness of life to those who live in need and long for our care. Amen.

Holy Communion: The Great Thanksgiving for All Saints Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth: God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses, God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David, God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph, God of the apostles and the martyrs, God of our mothers and our fathers, God of our children to all generations. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with all your saints, especially those whom we name before you —

- + Del Forsythe — November 22, 1935 to January 8, 2020
- + Grace Rayman — December 23, 1923 to January 9, 2020
- + Eugene Zang — June 10, 1930 to February 3, 2020
- + Ronald Avis — September 19, 1935 to March 7, 2020
- + Dwight Haines — February 20, 1964 to May 10, 2020
- + Ryan Miller — June 4, 1976 to May 22, 2020
- + Kathryn “Kitty” Starbuck — July 9, 1929 to June 27, 2020
- + Beverly Nimmo — September 28, 1927 to September 8, 2020

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People, and the Lord’s Prayer

Eternal God, we give you thanks for the founders of your church, for those whom

you call and formed in the image of your Son, for those who suffered and died for their faith. We thank you for the cloud of witnesses.

We give you thanks for the reformers of your church: for their discovery of truth, for their eagerness to live simply, for their faithful study of your Word, for their endeavor to serve their neighbors. We thank you for the cloud of witnesses.

God of our forebears, give us the courage and wisdom of the saints who have gone before us; form us in the image of your Son; renew the Holy Spirit’s work in our generation. May we live and serve under the rule of Jesus Christ now and when your kingdom comes.

All this in the name of Jesus Christ we give praise...

Our Father who art in heaven...

Benediction: “May You Be Made Strong,” from Colossians 1:11-12

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***Postlude**

Prayer for Family and Friends

Updates and New Requests This Week


Please pray for Maxine Melvin (Tim’s mother), who is 92 yrs. old and worries so about her family. She has lost so many.

Previous Requests

Glory Bragg is recovering from surgery and has been moved to rehab at:

Heritage Community Rehabilitation
2400 Portage St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Phone: 488-2483

No visitors are allowed because of COVID.
Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

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| VUMC’s Mission Statement | The General Rule of Discipleship |
|  | To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. |

In Service to Our Country

Walker Polsinelli
Tyler Smith

Geoff White



Strife and More Strife Once Inside Our New FLC, etc.

Last week we were so happy to be into our new facility and all of our building issues behind us. It is now Fall 2005. I wish I could write a rosy tale, but for the sake of history, I believe I must give as accurate a report as possible. The old adage is “We can use history so we do not make the same mistakes twice.”

Of course we were enjoying the new building, and had to keep pinching ourselves because a dream had come true. However, our Project Manager, Don Dailey, was continuing to have to deal with the dreaded “punch list” on mostly a daily basis. Our funds had been exhausted, but problems were not. For instance, when we needed to install basketball back boards, we found the original construction had not provided for the necessary support. More re-dos and more dollars. The walkway around the Hvac system on top of the FLC was not adequate to pass inspection. More re-dos and more money, approx. \$16,000. Then, an inspector found the carpet installed around the lower walls of the FLC had not been an approved fire retardant rating. Removal, new carpet installed. More dollars. For the sake of space, I will quit itemizing costly mistakes. However, in Oct. 2020, we were still paying for some inferior work on the FLC. Apparently, the siding company had not installed the cement board properly...so they had to scrape out the old caulking and refill. Cost \$5,860. We will have to do this again, most likely in the future. Don Dailey told me that the later contractor, Keystone, was more than fair in trying to correct the problems we had been left with without overcharging.

One unfailing bonus in all of this was our Project Manager, Don Dailey. Sometime, read

all the history of this project, and ask yourself, “Could I ever have stuck with this project for nine years?” He kept meticulous notes, a patient, calm manner during all the problems that would have exhausted a less “see it through kind of person”. For many years now, we have enjoyed this addition, and we owe Don Dailey and all of the Building Committees a huge THANK YOU. THANK YOU THANK YOU.

STRIFE AND THEN MORE STRIFE....

What more could happen to try and derail this project that was built for primarily our youth groups and youth of our community? Only God knows what is sometimes in our future.

In late 2006, a former member from our church brought some serious concerns to our SPRC. As these things are apt to do, they mushroomed, people got angry, and sides were taken. SPRC spent many months in turmoil with no resolution that would please all parties. Eventually, a lot of our younger families, who were so insistent in promoting the FLC, discontinued their membership with VUMC. It caused a lot of divisions and hurts in our church, and these 25-30 young families would have been energetic volunteers to do the work of promoting youth activities and would have been contributing to the financial health of our church in meeting monthly mortgage payments. So this incident contributed greatly to our use and funds for the FLC.

However, time does pass and people do heal. Lots of wonderful people have used and loved activities in our facilities. We are most grateful for God’s provision to guide us through 11 years of ups and downs.

Thoughts, memories and research by Nancy Fulton

For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz
Barb Griner
Flossie Lang
Nona Mattheis

Robert & Carmen Parsons
Marv Starbuck
Mina Willett
Betty Witcher

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 tomorrow.

Welcome!

The service is also transmitted to the church parking lot via FM signal for those who wish to remain in their vehicle.

- Wear a mask and remain 6 ft. from others.
- Use the ramp into the Family Life Center.
- Your temperature will be checked.
- Restrooms are available.

Donations for Sunshine Bags



Caring Ministries will be making Sunshine Bags for our senior members who are not getting out. We encourage you to donate, if you like, and we would like any items dropped off at church by the welcome center throughout November.

Items can be handmade or purchased, perhaps at the dollar stores. Suggestions include (but are not limited to) bookmark, fish crackers, candy, pads of paper, Bible verse.

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

11/1 Holly Hawkins
Lily Stamm
11/2 Nancy Harper
11/4 Tyler Lynch
11/6 Sue Epley
Larry Kohler
11/7 Ella Luegge

Anniversaries

11/2 Joe & Betty
Gruber
11/4 Chuck & Diana
Girolami
11/7 Paul & Dawn
Jones

Midweek prayer meeting

On Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 8:45, Pastor Greg hosts an online "Midweek Prayer Meeting".

To join the on-line prayer meeting, please click this link: meet.google.com/hii-yaux-qgs.

Otherwise, to join by telephone, dial:
+1 415-604-0783; enter PIN: 815 342 983#.

Can you donate flowers?

Joyce Newton is planting flowers at the church. If you would like to donate mums or spring bulbs, please bring them to the church.

please see more on the other side

We will always remember...



Ronald Avis
9/19/1935 - 3/7/2020



Del Forsythe
11/22/1935 - 1/8/2020



Dwight Haines
2/20/1964 - 5/10/2020



Ryan Miller
6/4/1976 - 5/22/2020



Beverly Nimmo
9/28/1927 - 9/8/2020



Grace Rayman
12/23/1923 - 1/9/2020



"Kitty" Starbuck
7/9/1929 - 6/27/2020



Eugene Zang
6/10/1930 - 2/3/2020

please see more on the other side