

Service for All Saints



St Laurence Church, Downton

1 November 2020

Preparation

Call to Worship

Happy are we
when our treasures cannot be quantified.

Happy are we
when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

Happy are we
when our pain is held in the balm of love.

Happy are we
when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

Katherine Hawker inspired Matthew 5:3-12

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: For all the saints

(St Edmundsbury Cathedral Choir)

For all the saints, who from their labours rest;
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness drear their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. 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!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way. 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!

William Walsham How (1823 - 1897)

Prayer of Confession:

Beloved, we are God's children now,
but what we will be in the fullness of our time
has not been revealed.

What we do know is this:
we will be like Jesus the Christ and saints of God.
Let us consider how Jesus was revealed among us
and pray to be more like the Christ in every way.

Silence is kept

Jesus embodied the unconditional love of God...

May we be more like Jesus.

Jesus fed those who were hungry...

May we be more like Jesus.

Jesus drew near to those living on the margins and excluded...

May we be more like Jesus.

Jesus brought healing and wholeness to those in need...

May we be more like Jesus.

Jesus hungered and thirsted for righteousness...

May we be more like Jesus.

Beloved, through the love shown to us by Jesus,
we can be sure that we are God's children now.

The Spirit of Christ is among us
and the nature of Christ is revealed within us.

We are becoming more and more like Christ each day.

Therefore, let us live joyfully as God's people;
saints and instruments of God's way.

Prayer:

In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,
we come to be your people, O God.

Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,
we come to be your people, O God.

Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,
we come to be your people, O God.

Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and
we come to be your people, O God.

May we truly become your people today. Amen.

from All Saints Day (Year A), Seasons Online

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Music: Lo, round the throne a glorious band
(Guildford Cathedral Choir)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Just as I am

I come.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Conclusion

The Collect

God, you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical Almighty body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing:

May God,
who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.
May he give you joy in their fellowship
and a share in their praises.
May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness
and to come to the full radiance of glory.
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Following God's saints in the ways of holiness and truth,
go in the peace of Christ.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.