

# The Eve of All Hallows

*A Candlelight Service Celebrating  
God's Victory Over Outer and Inner Darkness*



*Federated Church  
October 26, 2008  
4:00 p.m.*

## **An All Hallows Eve Primer**

*Join with others in following my example, brothers and sisters, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.*

*Philippians 3:17*

Long before it became associated with ghosts and ghouls, Halloween was connected to Paul's instructions to "take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you." As this passage indicates from the very beginning, Christians have recognized the value of finding and emulating faith heroes. As the church moved from one generation to the next this appreciation of spiritual mentors manifested itself in the setting aside of feast days to remember the lives of the saints. The linkage between the church calendar and the desire to focus on faith heroes also may be seen in the Eve (or the night before) of All Hallows, or All Saints Day.

Appearing in most church calendars, this day was given over to celebrating not only canonized saints, but also the sanctified status of all Christian people, known and unknown. Originally, the feast was closely associated with the resurrection and, in Eastern Orthodoxy, with the season of Pentecost. In the West it was moved to November 1 in A.D. 835. Much of the form and content of tonight's service is derived from a Celtic Eve of All Hallows liturgy that scholars believe was developed approximately fifteen hundred years ago.

Liturgy (laos = people + ergon =work) is by definition the work of the people. Federated Church's worship planners and leaders are especially grateful to the many people who, in their prayerful consideration of the lives of our Federated saints, took a hand in the work of developing tonight's service.

**The Eve Of All Hallows**  
**A Candlelit Service Celebrating**  
**God's Victory Over Outer and Inner Darkness**

Prelude

Gary Tyner

**Call & Confession**

Leader We call on the Father of lights.  
We call on the Champion of fights.  
We call on the Strength of Heaven.  
Sin has weakened our resolve:

**All Invade us once again.**

Leader Sin has blunted our stewardship:

**All Invade us once again.**

Leader Sin has soured our relationships:

**All Invade us once again.**

Leader Sin has fragmented your beauteous body:

**All Invade us once again.**

Leader Sin has set us in frozen isolation:

**All Invade us once again.**

Leader Sin has blighted our cities, soil and souls:

**All Invade us once again.**

Hymn Sequence: O God, Our Help In Ages Past (v 1, 2, 5, 6) 686  
Lord, I'm Coming Home (v 1, 4) 490

**Prayer & Proclamation**

Leader Light-creator, evil and sin cannot forever make their home where you are welcomed in.

**All Forgive us for the places where your light has been shut out.**

Leader Light-giver, fear and fault-finding have no place  
where your love is invited in.  
All **Forgive us for the places where your love has  
been shut out.**

Leader Light-conductor, loneliness and self-sufficiency have  
no place where your saints are welcomed in.  
All **Forgive us for the places where we have shut  
them out.**

Leader Compassionate God of heaven's powers:  
All **Screen us from people with evil intentions.**

Leader Compassionate God of freedom:  
All **Screen us from curses and spells.**

Leader Compassionate God of the saints:  
All **Screen us from bad deeds, bad words, bad  
thoughts.**

Leader Compassionate God of eternity:  
All **Screen us from bad influences rooted in past  
wrongs**

Leader You were here before all these evils,  
You are here now,  
You will be here at journey's end.  
All **Amen.**

Leader Lord, hear our prayer.  
All **Your Cross be between me and all things greedy.  
Your Cross be between me and all things mean.  
Your Cross be between me and all things  
gruesome.  
Your Cross be between me and all things coming  
darkly towards me.**

Leader            God be in your thinking.  
                      God be in your sleeping.  
                      God be in your dying.  
                      God bring you into the company of the saints.

                      God of strength, God of peace;  
                      God of time, God of eternity;  
                      God of the saints;  
                      In you is all strength;

                      You are:

**All                Stronger than the elements,  
                      Stronger than the shadows,  
                      Stronger than the fears,  
                      Stronger than human wills,  
                      Stronger than the spirits,  
                      Stronger than the magic, spells and fantasies  
                      that assail us.**

Hymn: For all the Saints (v 1, 2, 5, 6)

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Celebration & Consecration

Leader            With the saints who have been with us,

**All                We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader            With Earl Butz, who now walks from “fencepost to  
                      fencepost” in the fields of the Lord,

**All                We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader            With Tressa Eiler, who, as she took her leave, bid us  
                      let her go and who, at her burial, asked us to bury our  
                      sorrow,

**All                We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader            With Ethel Jean “EJ” Breeding, who on Tuesdays

taught Milo how to cook and every day showed everyone how to live for others,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Dottie Scott, Edith's sister-in-law and sister of the heart,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Morrie Erickson, who with his voice served the church, with his hands served Home Hospital, with his heart served Nina and now with his soul serves God,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Dan Immel, an ordained minister, who followed God's call into Mary's life, into loving relationships with all God's children, into the great outdoors and into eternity,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Gladys Taylor, who after a life of loving others, heard God, through Christ, say "me too",

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Margaret Trimmer, made partly of southern charm and partly of heavenly grace, who though short in stature, has been ushered into the enormous love of God,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Edith Remley, who made a home for students and now makes her home with God,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Ann Warren, who without fuss sought to quietly

“take it all in” and who at the last was taken in by God,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Betty Neathery, who took care to know her family, her friends and her Bible and is known completely by God,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Vivian Wert, who loved God by loving her family,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Bev Morrison, whose voice was heard by many when they called the church and who heard God’s voice when He at last called her home,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Charlene Fulton, whose graduation gift still graces the wrist of her brother, and who was herself a gift of God,

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Teddy Andrews, who, whether cataloging books or knitting a shawl, looked for God in the details and found that God was looking lovingly back at her

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Vivian Larson who, with her positive attitude and bright smile, made “sweet music” for her family and friends.

**All**                    **We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader                With Earl Schmidt, who the Army taught to serve “chow” and who God taught to serve his customers,

neighbors, church family, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Betty Sams, who always savored saying the Lord's Prayer and now will savor the Lord always,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Mary Louise Krichbaum, a home economics teacher who turned her life into a home for her students

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Iva Blgrave, a quiet soul who was always listening so that she might know more, and who is, no doubt, pleased to know and be known completely by God,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Ilia Shalaev, who despaired that he would never find God's "city of light" and who, at last found that "the One who is the Light" had found him,

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

Leader With Gail Kirkpatrick, the "coat lady" for the International Center who is now bedecked in the glory of God.

**All We claim the victory of the Lord.**

### **Scripture Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-2, 32 - 12:3**

*1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the*

*fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. 37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. 39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. 40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*

*1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

## **Consecration by Candlelight:**

Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

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*Following the conclusion of the hymn you are invited to share in a celebration and consecration. If you are able, make your way to the front of the sanctuary when your row is dismissed. There light a small votive candle from the larger Christ candle and place it on the table. As you do this, give thankful consideration for the faith-heroes God has blessed you with and the ways in which God has, is and will use you to make his presence felt in the lives of others.*

## **Benediction**

Leader We bind to ourselves this day  
the strong Name of the Trinity,  
by invocation of the same,  
the Three in One and One in Three.

All **We bind to ourselves this day  
the power of faith, Christ's Incarnation;  
His baptism in the Jordan river;  
His death on the Cross for my salvation;  
His bursting from the spiced tomb;  
His riding up the heavenly way;  
His coming at the day of doom;  
I bind unto myself today.  
Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

Leader Yes,  
the shielding of God be with us;  
the love of God to enfold us;  
the peace of God to still us;  
the Spirit of God to fill us;  
the saints of God to inspire us;  
this hour, this night and forever.

All **Amen.**

Postlude