

Pastor's Point

For all the saints, who from their labors rest

Who thee by faith before the world confessed,

Thy name O Jesus be forever blest.

Alleluia, Alleluia

For all the Saints

Chalice Hymnal #637

This Sunday, November 1st, marks the yearly observance of All Saint's Day — a time the church sets aside to remember those members of the Body of Christ who have gone home to be with Christ. Although rituals and hymns differ among denominations and from congregation to congregation, we all seek to honor the past as we move into the future. We will list the names of our brothers and sisters who have died since last November, celebrating their faithfulness and commitment to Centennial Christian Church and the Body of Christ at large. We will light candles and say a prayer, affirming their role as lights along our own paths. We will lift up the many memorial gifts made in their honor and give thanks for the legacy gifts they set aside for future ministry in this congregation.

Over the course of this congregation's 110 year life span, there have been a multitude of saints; Sunday school teachers who taught us Bible stories, Youth leaders who led us in prayer, Deacons who have prepared and served the Lord's supper, Elders who have provided leadership through troubling times. This Sunday, we honor and give thanks for all of those folks without whom the Church would be less than it is. If you are worshipping at home with us, I invite you to gather a candle or two for lighting and make a list of the people who were saints in your faith life, who led you in the journey of faith. And then consider how you would like to be remembered as a saint in this place. What gifts have you shared and whom have you disciplined? What has been your role in the Body of Christ here in this time and place? Pray for the saints of the past, but also for the wisdom and humility to be a saint of the future.

Blessings,

Pastor Heather