**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost/All Saints Sunday November 5, 2023, 9 am

Liturgist: Tom Epps

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 34)

L: On this All Saints Day, we gather to join the multitude of saints across the generations from all tribes, peoples, and languages, to proclaim:
**P: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

L: We come to remember, to grieve, and to celebrate those saints who have come before, yet whose life and witness continues to teach us:
**P: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

L: We gather today as the family of Christ, siblings and saints, diverse yet united by grace to live lives that declare:
**P: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

L: May we be guided today by the Lamb who is our Shepherd, the one who gathers us, comforts us and tends us.
**P: May we join in the work of the Shepherd to bring about a world with no more hunger, no more thirst, no more suffering, and no more pain that all the saints of the past, the present, and the future may share in God’s abundant life. Amen.**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Matthew 5)

L: Living God, our Guide and Guardian, Who sits on the throne and delivers us into eternal life, we give you thanks for the saints of every time, tribe, and tongue who now rest in the shelter of your embrace.
**P: We set aside this moment to remember Those saints who are dear and precious to us. Who have died and entered into glory during the last twelve months.**

*(As each name is called, ring a bell and/or light a candle in honor of each person. Where possible, have family members or close friends of the person named come forward to light a candle or rise where they are sitting.)*

 Karen Jean Dolsey, Vicki Jo Weldon, Elaine Viola Know, Lt. Col James McGillivray …

L: We bless you for the life and love of these dear saints, and rejoice for them that they have entered into the fullness of life in your presence.

**P: We also remember those saints who We hold in our hearts who have not been With us for some time, yet whose life and witness Continue to form and shape us as your disciples. We honor them now by lifting their names aloud or in our hearts.**

L: On this All Saints Sunday, we also remember that we too are living saints, members of the family of God with all the saints of the past, the present, and the future. And so, we remember:

**P: We are God's children. What we shall be has not yet been revealed; but we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. So today and every day, may we put on Christ and live as saints who tend the poor, comfort the mourners, learn from the meek, affirm those who seek righteousness, offer mercy alongside the merciful, and work for peace with the peacemakers until Christ comes in final victory and we feast as the family of God at his heavenly banquet. Amen.**

**\***OPENING HYMN***Change My Heart, O God***  TFWS #2152

TESTIMONY to DYNAMITE PRAYER Tom Epps

JOYS AND CONCERNS &

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Matthew 5)

L: Lord Jesus, you bless the poor in spirit and give them the Kingdom. But we fatten ourselves, as James says, “in the day of slaughter”; we turn away from those whose physical poverty reminds us of our true spiritual state, and we build our own little kingdoms of self. **P: Kyrie Eleison — Lord, have mercy.**

L: You bless those who mourn and you comfort them. But we flee grief that leads to repentance, and we seek comfort in possessions and prestige and power. **P: Kyrie Eleison — Lord, have mercy.**

L: You bless the meek, and promise them the earth, you bless the merciful, and promise them mercy. But we are far from meek —we try to make the world our own through pride and self-promotion; we forget the forgiveness that was won at such cost, and we hold grudges at the slightest offense. **P: Kyrie Eleison — Lord, have mercy.**

L: You bless those who hunger and thirst for righteousness—you promise to satisfy their desires. You bless the pure in heart, and promise that they shall see God. But we hunger and thirst after everything else: the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the pride of life; our hearts are not pure, and so we cannot see you. **P: Kyrie Eleison — Lord, have mercy.**

L: You bless the peacemakers and the persecuted and the reviled—you call them sons of your Father and you give them the kingdom of heaven. But we covet each other’s things and looks and jobs and successes, and we seek friendship with the world, over living as heirs of your Kingdom. **P: Kyrie Eleison — Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Shon

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

**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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Psalm 105)

As recipients of God’s steadfast love and grace, let us offer gifts of gratitude in our tithes and offerings.

**\***DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH #94

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Shon

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**13**Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. **14**For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. **15**According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16**For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17**After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. **18**Therefore encourage one another with these words.

SERMON ***Those To Glory Gone*** Rev. Shon

\*HYMN OF PRAISE  ***For All the Saints***  TFWS #2283

COMMUNION UMH #13-15

\*CLOSING HYMN ***I’ll Fly Away***TFWS #2282

**\***BENEDICTION Rev. Shon

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for people in need in our church, community, nation,

 and the World.

**THANK YOU**: to all for participating in Dynamite Prayer 28 Days Experiments.

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE:** Join us on November 22nd at 6:00 pm.

**CHURCH CONFERENCE:** Dec. 10 at 3 pm. Please submit the necessary documents.

**PATRICIA PROJECT:** Nov. 8, 10 AM to 3 pm. at Evangelical Lutheran. Lunch will be

 provided (please bring your own beverage and sewing machine).

**WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS:** Meal served by Rod/Katrina McGillivray at 5 pm.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH:** Monday, Nov. 6 at 5:30 PM. All women welcome.

**USHER/GREETERS**: Tom and Lois Epps

**FELLOWSHIP:** Stephanie Bantell

**BLACK RIVER FALLS**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



**UMC Mission Statement:**

*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”*

 PASTOR Rev. Inwha Shon

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