

**Congregational Church of Westminster West**  
**A United Church of Christ**  
**November 5, 2023**  
**All Saints Day**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**                      *Communion*                      by Charles Gounod

**\*Responsive Call to Worship** (based on Hebrews 12: 1)

One: *We remember, O God...*

**All: The countless saints of history  
who have blazed a trail of courage through time,**

One: *We remember, O God...*

**All: The tender touch of loved ones,  
the example of heroes,  
the healing words of comforters,  
the remarkable acts of fearless ones.**

One: *We remember, O God...*

**All: The gentle strength of grandmothers,  
the loyalty of friends,  
the kindness of strangers,  
the joy of children,  
the sacrifice of parents.**

One: *We remember, O God...*

**All: The supreme love of Jesus,  
the blessing of His Spirit,  
the reminder of His words,  
the sharing of His suffering,  
the glory of His resurrection:  
    shown forth in the lives of His disciples,  
    young and old, dead and living,  
    articulate and silent, strange and familiar,  
    brilliant and ordinary.**

One: We remember in every time and place the saints of God,  
who have shown us the Lord.

**All: *Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses  
... let us worship God with joy!***

(From the **Desperate Preacher's** website: [www.desperatepreacher.com](http://www.desperatepreacher.com))

**\*Opening Hymn #277**      *Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!  
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly.  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim bow before you only,  
From the beginning, God eternally.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,  
Through the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,  
You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!  
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Left:** Disturb us, Lord, when  
    We are too well pleased with ourselves,  
    When our dreams have come true  
    Because we have dreamed too little,  
    When we arrived safely  
    Because we sailed too close to the shore.

**Right:**      Disturb us, Lord, when,  
    With the abundance of things we possess,  
    We have lost our thirst  
    For the waters of life;  
    Having fallen in love with life,  
    We have ceased to dream of eternity  
    And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
    We have allowed our vision  
    Of the new Heaven to dim.

**Left:** Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
    To venture on wider seas  
    Where storms will show your mastery;  
    Where losing sight of land,  
    We shall find the stars.

## **Silent Prayers of Confession**

**All: We ask You to push back  
The horizons of our hopes;  
And to push into the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Gloria #756** (sung in a round)

**Story**                      *David Vanderlinde-Abernathy*

## **Cloud of Witnesses Litany & Candle Lighting**

*One: In honor of the Saints ... Let us pray together. Lord God, by Your grace we are running a race.*

**All: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses—**

*One: Patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets and psalmists, disciples and evangelists, martyrs and saints.*

**All: We thank You for their example. We praise You for their lives of faith. For all Your saints, O Lord, who strove in You to live, who followed, obeyed, adored You - our grateful hymn we sing.**

*One: Lord God, by Your grace we are running a race.*

**All: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses--**

*One: Loved ones now resting in You, who guided us, nurtured and cared for us; ancestors who worked and traveled, lived and died that we might be who we are, where we are - Your precious children in this community of believers.*

**All: We thank You for their example. We praise You for their lives of faith. For all Your saints, O Lord, who counted You their great reward - accept our thankful cry.**

*One: Lord God, by Your grace we are running a race.*

**All: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses,**

*One: Family members and members of this congregation; fellow believers in every country, every denomination; friends who help, guide and uplift us; all of them children of Your family, sheep of Your fold, saints of Your redeeming.*

**All: We thank You for their example. We praise You for their lives of faith. For this, Your name we bless, and humbly pray anew, that we, like them in holiness may live and die in You.**

*One: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely...*

**All: ...and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...**

*One: ...looking to Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.*

**All: Amen.**

**Hymn # 299** (seated) *For All the Saints* (verses 1-3)

*Vs. 1: For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,  
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Vs. 2: You were their rock, their refuge, and their might:  
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;  
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Vs. 3: Still may your people, faithful, true and bold,  
live as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and share with them a glorious crown of gold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Naming of the Honored Dead & Lighting Candles**

**Hymn # 299** (seated) *For All the Saints* (verses 4-5)

*Vs. #4: Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Vs. #5: And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
Then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Naming of the Earthly Saints & Lighting Candles**

## **Joys and Concerns**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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 and ever. Amen.*

**Stewardship Moment**      Jenny Holan

**Offertory**      *Goldberg Subject*      by J.S. Bach

### **\*Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.*

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **Communion**

**Communion Music**      *Bourbon*      by Freeman Lewis

**\*Closing Hymn: #394**      *In Christ There is No East or West*

In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;  
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;  
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;  
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.

**\*Benediction and Commissioning**      *David Vanderlinde-Abernathy*

**A Blessing**      by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

**Postlude**      *No Hard Feelings*      by The Avett Brothers

### *Church and Community Notes*

\*Our pastor, Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, will be on sabbatical from September 4 through November 28. She will be back in the saddle in time for Advent. During her absence, the Deacons will be your go-tos for pastoral needs. They have backup available in emergencies, but they will do the triage work to discern whose pastoral gifts need to be accessed when. Deacons are Charlotte Gifford (802-380-0494), Karen Blanchard (802-380-4540), Sue Venman (802-869-2600), Adrienne Major (802-380-9050), and David Mulholland (802-579-5166).