

Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
All Saints' Sunday

November 1, 2020-10:00 a.m.

## **GREETING**

We come to be God's people, strong in faith and eager with questions; We come filled with saintly determination, yet mindful of our human limitations. We come to adore children of God, made strong in God's endless and extravagant love for us all. So, welcome to worship this day at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*We are offering worship services both in-person and via social media this Sunday. We will gather in the FRONT parking lot of the church, using the sanctuary porch as our chancel area. You are asked, as we did on World Communion Sunday to bring your own lawn chair if you have one and to wear your masks. Seating will be marked for social distancing. Cars will enter and exit the south parking lot entry, closest to Symphony. Temperatures will be checked and masks and hand sanitizer will be available if needed. In the case of an emergency the building will be opened.**

**Since this Sunday is also our Stated Congregational Meeting, we are inviting and encouraging as many as can to attend the in-person service. IMAGINE YOURSELF AT YOUR KIDS OR GRANDKIDS SPORTING EVENT, BRING YOUR BLANKET, HAT AND GLOVES, A THERMOS OF HOT CHOCOLATE AND ENJOY THE COMPANY.**

**If you do attend in person and feel the air is just too cold, we are providing yet a third method for participating in the service...RADIO TRANSMISSION. Once you arrive, you will be directed to a particular radio channel that will give access to the service and enjoy from the warmth of your vehicle and still be able to participate in the Stated Congregational Meeting,**

\*Today is All Saints' Sunday, a day of remembrance for the saints, with its New Testament meaning of all Christian people of every time and place. Today as you hear the names read aloud, they are our way of celebrating the communion of saints as we remember the dead, both of the Church universal and of our local congregations.

**\*It is also the day for our Stated Congregational Meeting following worship** where we will vote on and welcome our new officers, elders and trustees, as well as congregational members for the 2021 Nominating Committee. The following names are presented for elders, trustees and congregational members-at-large: Elders: Betty Crabtree, Blair Garrett, Jim Lee and Charlotte Turner; Trustees: Christine Blair and Vicki Cook; Congregational Members-at-Large: Tony Bennett, Jo Byrd and Fred Watkins.

\*Our stewardship theme for 2021 is “Grace of Giving” with its scriptural foundation from 1 Corinthians 8: 1-7. Information about this year’s stewardship season can be accessed on our website and will also be available through email. For those without access to these means of communication, this information has been sent via postal mail. November 15 is Dedication Sunday, and so much this year, it will be a little different. We are, at this point, planning another outdoor worship service, also well as a recorded one. If weather is an issue, we still invite you to join us in the parking lot, remain in your cars and listen to the service via radio transmission.

If you are attending in person, there will be a time to offer your Time and Talent Information, as well as your pledge card. These two documents are also available on our website, and we encourage all who can, to complete and submit them online. These can also be mailed to the office. Through prayer, the Word read and proclaimed, and through a holy difference in our hearts, may we excel in the generosity of giving as we give thanksgiving to our God who gave us the most generous gift of salvation in Jesus, our Lord.

\*We will continue our tradition of the Eastminster Christmas Village, as a Drive Through Celebration, and other modifications for the health and safety of all who give and receive. We will be sending more information about this in the two weeks.

## **PRAYERS**

We keep Janice Bell in our prayers as she continues to recover from surgery.

Our prayers for Judy Fincher, a friend of Kathy Kreger’s, diagnosed with Stage 4 Thyroid Cancer.

We continue to keep Jenelle in our prayers.

As we enter this winter season, and as this virus persists, our prayers are for all persons, **NO MATTER** age, color, race, economic status, educational level, religion or any other measures used to label us. May the Lord of healing, hear our cries and heal our bodies from illness and disease and our world from hatred and division.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come from all walks of life. We have different pasts, and we have walked different paths. We come seeking forgiveness and new hope. We journey forward knowing we are not alone.

**Our God is with us yesterday, today, and forever as we journey together, brothers and sisters, with Christ. Amen.**

## **PRAYER**

Most generous God, no human words or costly gifts can ever express our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us through Christ your Son. May we gladly give you the one precious gift that we have to bring, the offering of our loyalty and love. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

## **VOLUNTARY**

*Melody Davis*

### **SILENT REFLECTION, CONFESSION, & ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to the home of Lazarus and received hospitality like no one had seen before – generous, loving, whole-hearted, and even a little bit undignified. His disciple Judas could only see the inefficiency of the gift, wasted oil, not the spirit of loving-kindness with which it was offered. We, like Judas, often want to expedite our giving without really engaging with those we are called to serve. Let us consider the depth of our relationships with those we encounter and with the One who calls us to faith, as we confess our sin in silence.

We confess, Anointed One, that at times we excuse ourselves from reaching out to those who need your care. We take your words – that there will always be unmet needs – as a reason not to try to meet the needs we can. Forgive us and help us change. Renew our determination to live as faithful followers, faithful disciples, faithful Christians. Help us work with you for the well-being of your creation that the fortunes of all your peoples may be restored. Amen.

We are called, through Christ Jesus, to strive for restoration, but we are not called to do this work alone. The One who has made a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, will surely equip us for all we are asked to do in Christ's name. God will empower us to attain all the potential God has placed within us. Thanks be to God!

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Unstop our ears, O God, that we may hear your Word proclaimed this day. Open our minds and hearts to be changed. Free us from the distractions of the world that we might hear, understand and share your Good News to the world. Amen

### **EPISTLE READING (*Pew Bible*, page198)**

**Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Paul speaks to the Philippians about his desire to lose himself and become more like Christ in order to know Christ better. He points out that his life has had many twists and turns. He was born into privilege. He has gone from a persecutor of Christians to be persecuted for his following of Christ. Yet given a choice, Paul would rather be on the side of Christ than against him. Picking up in verse 7 he says:*

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because

Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 106)**

**John 12: 1-8**

*In our Gospel reading we hear that Mary, having lost her brother to death, then having him raised, makes her all too aware of the cost of death. Her anointing of Jesus is an acknowledgment that they will not have their Lord forever.*

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

**SERMON**

*A Holy Difference*

**Sherry Holloman**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Even though we may be separated by distance, our hearts are one as we affirm what we believe: We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**CALL FOR OFFERING**

We are living, breathing messages of God's love for the world. This is our work of faith and labor of love and our steadfastness of hope in Christ. We are here in this place because of the commitment and faith and generosity of others who shared the good news of the gospel in their time. May we turn in our time, and share our faith, and commit through generous giving to support the ministry of Christ in this church.

**OFFERTORY**

*Come Share the Lord  
Katie Karlen*

**Bryan J. Leech**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Dear God, I am thankful for all you give. For food, for love and for a place to live. I thank you for my family and church family, too. And God, I want you to know, I love you. Amen

## **A MEMORIAL MOMENT**

### **Call to Remembrance**

Throughout the ages men and women who have been commended for their faith...Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Mary and so many more, have died without receiving the promises given them for this world, but received a far greater promise in heaven. They confessed that, upon the earth, they were strangers and that they desired a better country... a heavenly one. God has indeed prepared a place for them. For so great a cloud of witnesses that surround us, thanks be to God!

### **Reading of the Necrology**

Pat Beck, Alice Brooks, Jack Lucas, Will Nixon, Bill Pitts, Mary Rushing, and Duke Wyatt

### **Prayer**

Creator and Redeemer of all souls, we have joy at this time in all who have faithfully lived, and in all who have peacefully died. We are grateful that now they can rest from their labors because, with you, all is well. We thank you for all happy memories and all living hopes; for the sacred ties that bind us to the unseen world; for the dear and holy dead who surround us like a cloud of witnesses. Mindful of those who have gone ahead of us, teach us, and each twenty-first century disciple of every race and place, to follow their example to the best you created us to be. By your saving love, may we be followers of those who already inherit your promise. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

## **THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION**

Jesus was always the guest. In the homes and at the tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. But here, at this table, he is the host. At this table our Lord intends us to be nourished and to make a holy difference in our lives. Here at this table we remember that Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke and gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my body given for you. Every time you eat it, remember me." Taking the cup, giving thanks and pouring, he said to the disciples, "This is a symbol of my blood shed for you; a sign of a new covenant, one in which your sins are forgiven." So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

### **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts to the Lord.

**We lift our hearts to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You called the whirling Spirit to action and laid the foundation of creation. You shaped humanity in your image, calling us to life with you, but we turned away from your invitation, preferring worldly sin. You sent the prophets as your messengers, but we ignored them in our hunger for power and recognition. So you sent Jesus to us, to baptize us in your mercy, to offer us the cup of salvation. So, with reformers and saints who have gone before us, with friends and neighbors sitting around us, we offer our praise to you:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

You alone are holy, and blessed is Jesus Christ, He did not glorify himself here on earth, but became your servant of mercy and grace. He stretched out his hands, not to grasp power, but to lead us to the back of the line, where we can minister to your people. He suffered, learning obedience to you; he became obedient, so death might be mastered; dying, he discovered the wonder of your resurrection; rising, we finally grasp the truth of your love and sacrifice for us. As we remember his life, his death, his resurrection, as we would comprehend your promises to us, we would proclaim that mystery we call faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

It is here at this Table, your Spirit poured out upon the gifts of the bread and the cup, and your children gathered in this place, that our lives can be made different as your servants. As we taste the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation, may we be filled with your peace and hope and become your gifts of giving to the world. When we gather around your feast in glory, we will join our hearts and hands joyfully celebrating your great love. In this time and place, though, Lord, hear the prayers of our hearts. And hear now the prayer our Lord 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**SILENT BREAKING, POURING AND SHARING OF BREAD**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord of all, make giving a blessing and not a burden. As we reflect more and more on all you have given us, make us eager and willing givers of all the gifts you have poured down on us. Make each one of us grateful. In Christ, Amen.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Go on your way rejoicing; surrounded as you are by such a great cloud of witnesses, take courage as you face each new challenge, and comfort when you pick yourself from a fall. In

whatever good you choose to do, precede it with hope, accompany it with prayer, and follow it with thanksgiving. The blessing of God whom the saints have trusted as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, will be with you now and ever more.

**MUSIC** 606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow”