Order of Service – 01/11/26, All Saints Day

GATHERING

Here, we cross a threshold – we move into a sacred space, and a sacred time, a space and time 'set apart' for the purpose of communal prayer.
During the service the congregation is invited to stand and sit for different parts of the service, however you are welcome to stay seated if you wish.
A sensory friendly space is available for those who need it.
The worship area is wheelchair accessible.
There is a children's corner with books and activities.

Opening verse – Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Greeting — Saide

The leader greets the people in God's name and calls us into a worshipful space and state. The bible is carried in and Christ Candle lit – we usually stand (if we are able and comfortable to do so) while this happens.

Good morning and welcome to worship. Today we celebrate All Saints Day. Please come and find a place among the pews, be comfortable at home. Let's stand, pause, hold silence for a moment. … And now we welcome the Word and Light, symbols of the presence of Christ and of Jesus' divine light dispelling spiritual darkness.

Call to worship — Saide

Come let us worship God together surrounded as we are every Sunday
by the cloud of witnesses, the saints who have come before us
and gathered here in the company of saints, each one of us called to follow Jesus.
Let's do this, let's worship God with our hearts, bodies, minds and souls.

Song of Praise – O for a thousand tongues, VT 78 (Tune TiS 210)

Let's sing of the saints below and above in a version of Charle's Wesley's 'O for a thousand tongues to sing' which includes the original first verse.

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1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace,
the triumphs of his grace,
the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name,
the honors of thy name,
the honors of thy name.

3 Glory to God, and praise, and love
be ever, ever giv'n,
be ever, ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n,
the church in earth and heav'n,
the church in earth and heav'n.

SONG: O for a thousand a tongues, by Charles Wesley, from Voices Together; PUBLIC DOMAIN

Acknowledgement of Country — Saide

We acknowledge the people of the land on which we worship

We acknowledge and respect
the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin nation,
the traditional custodians of this land
since time immemorial.
We are learning that the land
is not ours to own, but to look after;
and that if we listen,
we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.
Responding to this call, we commit ourselves
to work for justice, reconciliation,
and care of the earth.

Welcome and Introduction — Saide

People are welcomed, those present and those online. Those contributing are acknowledged and / or introduced and an invitation is issued to morning tea after the service.
The themes of the service are laid out.

Welcome to worship. I'm Saide, your liturgist today, leading worship with Cath as our preacher and lots of others leading and supporting our worship and gathering here and online. Today we will celebrate the saints in our lives, people who have shaped our faith, informed the decisions and choices that we make in ways both big and small, people who have gone before us and people who are with us now, family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, leaders, teachers and preachers, carers, paramedics, doctors and nurses, so many wonderful ways of being in relationship with each other.

We hope you can be comfortable here today. You are welcome to use the Gathering Space if you need to move, the couch is currently over in the chapel space if you need to rest, activities for younger people are over on the east side and a basket of fidget toys is available in the Gathering Space. There will be times when you are invited to stand but please remain seated if that is better for you. We will celebrate Holy Communion.

During worship we will hold moments of silence. Let's settle into one now as we prepare to pray. Close your eyes for a moment or two, listen, listen to the not quite silence of gathering together, many bodies in this space with Sydney Rd just outside our doors and to the not quite silence of wherever you joining us for worship online.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession — Saide

We pray in adoration, praising and adoring God for being God; and in confession, bringing before God the incompleteness and brokenness of the world and our lives. In response we hear God's word of healing grace.

Let's pray.

God all Holy,
you who are the ground of our being,
you who dwell with us in Jesus,
you who reach out to us in Spirit
we adore you.

Gentle One with love you shape us
calling us your children, gifting us with life,
commanding us to love, serve and nurture all of creation,
the human and more than human world.
We are humbled by this responsibility
and seek to learn from the wisdom
of those who know this way of peace and harmony.
We adore you our God, O Gentle One.

Blessed One with compassion you guide us
calling us to follow, gifting us with stories.
commanding us to love our neighbours
to show mercy, to seek justice.
We are inspired by your teaching
and long to be free of the burdens
that keep us from this calling
and seek to follow those who will lead us on the way.
We adore you our God, O Blessed One.

Passionate One with breath you sustain us
lifting us up when we fall, gifting us with grace
commanding us to live in the freedom of your love
unbound from the darkness of despair.
We are made new in your image
blessed to be peacemakers
to thirst for your kingdom revealed
and seek to be the voice of love, rejoicing always in You.
We adore you our God, O Passionate One.

God all Holy forgive us
forgive us when our loving is not shaped by your wisdom
forgive us when our living is not guided by your teaching
forgive us when our voices fall silent from despair.
Amen

Word of Grace — Saide

Jesus walked among us, revealing the kingdom, teaching, healing, preaching, forgiving. Let's hear his words of grace to each of us now echoing down through the centuries 'Your sins are forgiven'. **Thanks be to God**

HEARING AND RESPONDING

We hear the story of Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate (in the gospels); the story of God's dealings with Israel (in the Old/First Testament); and the story of God's people through history (in Acts and the New Testament letters). As we hear this story, we are reshaped and formed by an alternative perspective on life – the perspective of the gospel, the good news. The story is told through proclamation, which may include reading the Scriptures, reflection on Scripture, symbolic action, art, music, multimedia resources and silence.
Hearing the story requires a response. We respond by making an offering (of ourselves, our gifts, our money, and our prayers for others).

Gospel Reading – Matthew 5:1-12, p 784 — Peter

The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples
came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against
you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be to God

Early Word — Cath, Kirsty

In the Uniting Church we don't recognise saints in quite the same way as the Catholic church does. All believers by virtue of their baptism can be saints. Today we recognise those who have died, but who have been influential in our lives.

Hopefully we have been blessed by many saints throughout our lives. Blessed in this sense means 'good news' such as healing, liberation, hope.

These might be people who accompany us on our faith journey, or who model for us Christ like characteristics, or who reveal something of God to us.

I've invited Kirsty to come and share about someone who was important to her in her faith, Rev Dr Wes Campbell a Uniting Church minister who died this year.

1. Can you tell us briefly a bit about Wes?
2. How did you see Wes living out his faith?
3. How did he help shape your faith?

Conclude with a time of silence for people to write the names of the saints in their lives on provided cards. Bring them forward to place on the plinths and light a tealight candle.

Song – Hamba Nathi, MV 45

Hamba Nathi is a traditional Xhosa anti-apartheid freedom song from South Africa which roughly translates as 'Come, walk with us, the journey is long. We have placed cards and lit tea light candles. Now let's sing remembering all those who have travelled with us and inspired our faith journeys.

Hamba nathi mkhululi wethu
Hamba nathi mkhululi wethu
Hamba nathi mkhululi wethu
Hamba nathi mkhululi wethu

Mkhululi mkhululi mkhululi wethu
Mkhululi mkhululi mkhululi wethu
Mkhululi mkhululi mkhululi wethu
Mkhululi mkhululi mkhululi wethu

You are holy, you show us the way (4x)
You show us, you show us you show us the way (4x)

Come walk with us, the journey is long (4x)
The journey, the journey, the journey is long (4z

SONG: Hamba Nathi, from More Voices, United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc.
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Epistle – 1 John 3:1-3, p990 — Gwen

3 1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be, has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. **3** And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be to God

Preaching of the Word — Cath

Sacred Pause

Offering Song – How blest are those, Carolyn Winfrey Gillette — Saide

We usually remain seated for the singing of the offering song, standing together when the offering is carried forward. Note – the welcomers will come forward to collect the bowls; 'I give by Direct Debit' cards will be on the pews

We offer our gifts in gratitude for God's gifts to us. You are welcome to place a gift of money in the bowls or an 'I give directly card' in the bowls as they come around or by using the account details on the screen. The money we give is used in the work of this congregation and the wider church to be a blessing to many. This is also a time to dedicate again the gifts of our hands and hearts, bodies and minds.

We'll remain seated as the offering is collected singing 'How blest are those'. This song was written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, as a reflection on Jesus' Beatitudes (Blessings) and a prayer that we will live into them in our lives, communities, and nation. Carolyn has written over 550 songs and, as a pastor in the United States, has served in many places and settings. We add our voices to the many others who have been blessed by her ministry. I'll invite you to stand when the offering is ready to be brought forward.

How blest are those who humbly see how much they need their God.
How blest are those who deeply grieve the suffering in this world.
How blest are those who find God's strength in gentleness and grace.
How blest are those who long for truth and seek God's loving ways.

What joy! When mercy fills our lives — when kindness is our style.
What joy! When — pure in heart — we strive to do what is worthwhile.

What joy! When people work for peace — for justice in this land.
What joy! When whole communities seek goodness, hand in hand.

When thousands join in peaceful song; when hundreds kneel and pray;
When one, alone, stands up to wrong; when love becomes our way;
When neighbours, by the things they do, reach out to those in pain;
Christ Jesus, may we learn anew the blessings of your reign.

Tune: Traditional English melody; *English Hymnal*, 1906 ("All Beautiful the March of Days") **(MIDI)**
Text: Copyright © 2026 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
Email: **carolynshymns@gmail.com** New Hymns: **www.carolynshymns.com/**
Permission is given for free use of this hymn in worship, including streaming online.

Offering Prayer — Saide

Let's pray
God we bring these gifts today
money, prayer, action, love, commitment, joy.
Bless all that we offer to your glory
that they may indeed be a blessing to many.
Amen

Prayers of the People — Lyn

We offer prayers for the world, for Christ's people in the world, and for those in need. After the prayer the Christ Candle is taken to the chapel space where people are invited to light a taper for their own prayers at the end of the service.

I am Lyn and I have the privilege of sharing Prayers of the People with you today. This is a time when we remember the people in our community, the world and ourselves. After the prayers I will take the Christ candle to the chapel space where you can light a taper for your own prayers after the service.

Let us now take a moment to centre our elves as we come together in prayer.

Let us pray.

This morning, on All Saints Day we come to you
having remembered the people in our lives
who have shown us your way with love, humility and compassion.
Lord please help us to show others your love in the same way.

Loving God, our always present friend and confidante
we come now acknowledging that our hearts and minds are full of all sorts of things.
Our world seems to be filled with turmoil and chaos.
We try to think of positive things however we are confronted
with so much dissension that it just doesn't seem possible.
Help us Lord to be better at communicating
with each other and respecting other points of view.
We get frustrated and struggle to understand.
We know you got frustrated too with the words and actions of others.

We particularly think of all who are grieving for loved ones who have died,
lost their identity and suffering from injuries suffered due to accidents.
So many have been displaced due to wars, political instability, natural disasters.
Be with them, o God, and give them comfort in their times of need.

We ask that you will be with those who are dealing
with broken relationships and the resulting turmoil.

Be with not only the individuals involved
but also their extended families and friends.

As we approach the State election we pray that everyone,
no exceptions, will be respectful and not antagonise others.
We all have the right to express our opinions safely.

With all the negativity going on we can easily
ignore or forget the beauty around us.
With spring here we see flowers, trees reawakened after winter,
birds and animals with babies.
Lord please help us to focus more on the good things you have given us.
Help us to show your love to those around us
by giving a smile to somebody we don't know remembering a little goes a long way.

Thank you for loving us regardless of our shortcomings.
Amen.

BEING FED

We are invited to Christ's table to reunite ourselves with him and one another in the sharing of bread and wine. We honour God for all that God is and give thanks for all that God has done in the work of creation and salvation. We serve gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice. The congregation is reminded about the live-stream.

Song – Invitation, Tune In — Cath

1. God has laid a feasting table
All her guests are gathered 'round
From the highways and the byways
All the lost have now been found.
When we hear the invitation
Will we lay our burdens down?
When we hear the invitation
Will we lay our burdens down?

2. At this table all are welcome
No-one need be left behind
God is greater than our difference
Christ can see where we are blind.
When we hear the invitation
Will we love all humankind? (repeat)

3. God is crying out for justice
Christ is weeping in the street
When will be the time for laughter?
When will all have food to eat?
When we hear the invitation
Will we make God's will complete? (repeat)

SONG: Invitation, by Shawn Whelan, from Tune In,
Brunswick Uniting Church Songbook, Reproduced with permission

Holy Communion — Cath

Servers: Cath, Saide, Liz, Mick; Glasses: TBC

Invitation
This is an open table to which all are invited.
Bread is gluten free, non alcoholic

Please join the circle even if you don't wish to receive communion and receive a blessing instead.

As we celebrate communion today we have a different chalice that reflects the light a little better- a reminder of our God whose light shines in and beyond our lives - past present and future.

After we have shared in the meal today we will leave the elements uncovered a sign that the meal is ongoing for all to share.

Thanksgiving
We are the body of Christ
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God who is Wisdom and Love.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and life-giving God,
we give you thanks for the blessings of saints
that you call us to live out our faith
draw hope from their example
strengthened by their witness

Therefore,
with the whole creation
we sing in thanks and praise:

Holy, holy, holy **(TIS764)**

Holy (Holy), holy, (holy)
holy Lord of power and might.
Heaven (Heaven), earth (earth)
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
All glory to your name.
(All glory to your name.)
All glory to your name.
(All glory to your name.)

Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
(Hosanna in the highest.)
Hosanna in the highest.
(Hosanna in the highest.)

As we gather at this table,
we remember that on the night before he died
Jesus had supper with his friends.
He took a loaf of bread, gave thanks as we are doing now
broke the bread and gave it to them saying:

Take, eat
This is my body given for you.
Whenever you eat it, remember me.

Then he took a cup and after giving thanks,
passed it to his friends saying:

Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood.
Each time you drink from this cup, remember me.

Come now, Holy Spirit of our God,

Enliven this bread

Awaken this body

Pour us out for each other

Transfigure our minds,

Ignite your church

Nourish the life of the earth

Make us while many, united

Make us though broken, whole

Make us, despite death, alive.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ
all glory be to you,
Source of all Being,
Eternal Wisdom and Holy Spirit,
one God and Mother of all creation.

Amen.

<u>Lord's Prayer – in your own language</u>

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

<u>Breaking of the Bread</u>

The body of Christ
Thanks be to God for the bread of life.

The blood of Christ
Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Let us receive what we are.
Let us become what we receive:
The body of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God, come for all is prepared.

Distribution

Passing the Peace — Cath

Passing the peace is a tradition rooted in Scripture that embodies our identity as peacemakers (Matt. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:20) and trains our hearts, hands, and tongues in the ways of peace. Passing the Peace is part of the Communion liturgy (first Sunday of the month). On other Sundays we may choose to share the peace in response to the Word of Grace or Prayers of the People

May the peace of Christ be always with you
And also with you

BEING SENT

Having heard the word and shared the meal together, we are sent forth on God's mission of love. We are again on a threshold, encouraged to go into the world to continue the worship of God in our daily living.

Notices — Saide

We share the life and work of our community with each other as we prepare to be sent out.
As we prepare to go out into the week to come we offer a time to share the news of our community. Please tell us your name, keep your notices short and let us know where we can find more information. We'll hear from Church Council first, then committees and groups from the congregation and then any other personal notices.

Cath will be our preacher next week.

Sending Song – For all the saints, David MacGregor

Our sending song 'For all the saints' was written very recently by David MacGregor, a Uniting Church minister and song writer. This is a contemporary version inspired by William Walsham How's hymn written in 1864.

For all the saints who walked the road of grace,
showed Jesus' love in every time and place,
whose lives shine on with hope upon each face:
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah

You were their rock, their shelter and their stay,
You walked beside them on the hardest way,
Your faithful love still turned their night to day:
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah
In homes and streets, your saints live lives of care,
In schools, and factories they meet us there
In life, in prayers, your grounded love they share
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah

Spurred on by saints of God through all the years

Their faithful witness echoes in our ears
One people, joined in love through joys and tears
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah

Give us the grace to live your love today,
To walk with Christ, disciples on the way,
And may our hearts be welcoming, we pray:
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah

SONG: For all the saints, David MacGregor, © 2026 Willow Publishing
Inspired by "For All The Saints": William Walsham How. Used with permission.

Sending / Words of Mission — Saide

The leader sends people out into the world to live out our faith.

Let's go out from this time of worship
grounded in love, joined in love, sharing love
with all the saints we have known
and all the saints we are yet to meet.

Blessing — Cath

The leader gives a blessing to the people for the next stage of the journey.

May the blessing of the Holy Trinity of love be upon you
The peace of God surround you
The grace of Christ go with you
And the holy spirit dwell in you
This day and forever more
Amen

Thank yous

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to…

Liturgist:
Saide Cameron

Bible readers:
Gwen Arnold
Peter Williams

Early Word:
Kirsty Bennett
Cath James

Preacher:
Cath James
(Minister of the Word)

Prayers of the People:
Lyn Anderson

Musicians:
Natalie Sims
(co-ordinator)
Joel Hallinan
Alistair Hunter
Rosie O'Reilly
Mick Pope
Kate Scull

Postlude Song: Invitation, Tune In
Musicians: Shawn Whelan, Natalie Sims

Images:
BUC Library

Editing / Production:
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
James Clough
Alistair Hunter
Lauren Reader

Closing verse Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.