

God Remembers

An All Saints' Service of Worship



**GOD REMEMBERS
AN ALL SAINTS' SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

WELCOME

Dr. Tim Bruster

A Prayer Meditation for All Saints Day

by Safiyah Fosua

Dr. Tim Bruster

We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you,
whether in arbors or cathedrals,
wooden churches or cement meeting houses.

We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise:
manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil,
strong hands and hands gnarled with age,
holy hands.

We thank you, God, for hardworking saints,
whether hard-hatted or aproned,
blue-collared or three-piece-suited.
They left their mark for you, for us, for our children to come.

Thank you for the sacrifices made by those who have gone before us.
Bless the memories of your saints.
May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

The Meditations of My Heart

Choral Union

Elaine Hagenberg

SILENCE: *I miss.....*

READING

Dr. Mike Marshall

We Miss Them (by Rabbi James Kaufman and Rabbi David Frank (adapted))

We miss them at celebrations,
when there's an empty seat at the table.
We miss them when the community gathers,
and there's an empty place beside us.
We miss them today, and every today,
with every year that passes,
as our life goes on without them.
Their faces, their voices, the feel of our arms around them –
these are with us forever.

For so it is written:

Love is strong as death.

The love that we gave, the love we received—
these endure amid the pain of loss.

SILENCE: *I am grateful for.....*

There Are Stars

Rev. Tom McDermott

(Rabbi Danny Freeland and Cantor Jeff Klepper, based on this Hebrew poem by Hana Senesh)

There are stars up above,
so far away we only see their light
long, long after the star itself is gone.
So it is with people that we loved—
their memories keep shining ever brightly,
though their time with us is done.
But the stars that light up the darkest night,
these are the lights that guide us.
As we live our days, these are the ways we remember.

Ave Maria

Franz Schubert

Dace Sultanov, cello; Peggy Graff, organ

SILENCE: *I remember.....***READING**

Dr. Mike Marshall

Trusting (from Seasons of a Lifetime by Gerhard E. Frost)

Our five birch trees are locked in icy embrace,
their branches bent almost to the ground.

I wonder, will they ever raise
again their weighted arms?

There are such winter moments
in a lifetime of faith
when no bird sings, heavy moments
of menacing despair.

But the birches will rise again
because they are birches.
So faith bends too but doesn't break,
for trusting One who is trustworthy
keeps faith from faltering
when no one can explain.

It Is Well with My Soul

arr. Mark Hayes

Nathan Benavides, tenor

An All Saints' Service of Worship Meditation

Rev. Phyllis Barren

Pie Jesu (from Requiem)

Gabriel Fauré

Jayme Vaughn-Linebarger, mezzo soprano

Pie Jesu,
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona eis requiem.

Pious Jesus,
Who takes away the sins of the world,
Give them rest.

Agnus Dei,
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona eis requiem,
Sempiternam
Requiem.

Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sins of the world,
Give the rest,
Everlasting
Rest.

SILENCE: *I ask forgiveness...*

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

Jake Runestad

Adoramus

SILENCE: *I cherish...*

READING

Ed Landwehr

You Are My Companion

You are my companion —
down the silver road,
still and many-changing,
infinitely changing.
You are my companion.
Something sings in lives —
days of walking on and on,
deep beyond all singing,
wonderful past singing.

Wonderful our road,
long and many-changing,
infinitely changing.
This, more wonderful —
we are here together,
you and I together,
I am your companion;
you are my companion,
my own true companion.

Let the road-side fade:
morning on the mountain-top,
Hours along the valley,
days of walking on and on,
pulse away in silence,
in eternal silence.

Let the world all fade,
break and pass away;
yet will this remain,
deep beyond all singing,
my own true companion,
beautiful past singing:
we were here together —
I was your companion,
you were my companion,
my own true companion.

My Companion

Elaine Hagenberg

SILENCE: / love...

Scripture: John 14:27-31 (NRSV)

Dr. Zhenya Gurina-Rodriguez

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

Peace, I Give to You

Craig Courtney

Choral Union

BENEDICTION

Dr. Tim Bruster

***For Those Who Walked With Us* (from *The Painted Prayerbook* by Jan Richardson)**

For those
who walked with us,
this is a prayer.

For those
who have gone ahead,
this is a blessing.

For those
who touched and tended us,
who lingered with us
while they lived,
this is a thanksgiving.

For those
who journey still with us
in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory,
in the landscape of our dreams,
this is a benediction.

PRAYER

Dr. Tim Bruster

Lord, we have a tendency to wander in wildernesses of our own creating. When opportunities to serve you and to make commitments to your service are given, we consult our calendars to see if there is anything else we have to do. We place our needs and our schedules before our service to you. Help us to reorder our priorities. Help us to look again at the wonderful opportunities you give us to be of service to you by working with others; reaching out to heal and help. Bring us to the light of your love once again. Heal our wounded souls. Let us love you truly with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. Give us courage and persistence as disciples that your great love and glory may shine through our deeds of lovingkindness. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Robert Stovall
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