

**Sunday 1 November 2020 (All Saints Day)**

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

**Call to worship**

Rejoice people of God. Praise the Lord.

Let us keep the feast in honour of all God's saints, in whose victory the angels rejoice and glorify the Son of God.

**Hymn: For All the Saints (StF745)**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OaBgaMcOvM>

For all the saints who from their labours rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;  
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
thou in the darkness still their one true light:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold!  
Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;  
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
the King of Glory passes on his way!  
Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

*William Walsham How (1823-1867)*

### **Prayer**

Let us pray together

With all your people, on earth and in heaven, we praise your name, O God,  
for you alone are worthy of adoration. And you reign supreme beyond space  
and time.

In you is the fullness of perfection;  
in you is our hope of salvation;  
in you is the promise of life eternal.

With all your people, we praise your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us make our confession to God.

God of mercy, forgive us our limited vision and our reluctance to trust in what  
we cannot see.

Forgive our preoccupation with the here and now and our failure to seek the  
things above.

Forgive our earthbound thinking and our feeble sense of the communion of saints.

Rekindle in us, by your Holy Spirit, the fire of your love that with clean hands and pure hearts we may serve you faithfully on earth and come at last, with all your saints, to the peace and joy of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In Christ we are set free.

Through Christ we are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### **Collect of the Day**

Holy God, you have called witnesses from every nation and revealed your glory in their lives. Grant to us the same faith and love that, following their example, we may be sustained by their fellowship and rejoice in their triumph; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *(from MWB, page 558)*

### **Today's Gospel Reading:**

Matthew 5.1-12

### **Time to Reflect**

Methodists tend not to do Saints Days. But remember that in the New Testament all the faithful are saints. Saints are real people not those figures portrayed in stained glass windows. We have all known many saints - those who brought us to faith, those who encouraged us on our way, those who provided the care and concern we all need from time to time. Saints are also those who challenge and question, who invite us to rethink our cherished attitudes and favourite ways of doing things and ask us to test them against the call of God in this age. All of them are the saints we commemorate at All Saints' tide. All of them are our partners in prayer and in service.

Later you might find time to read Luke's more challenging version of the Beatitudes (Luke 6,20-31). In either version, how do these words speak to us, the saints of this generation? By world standards even the poorest in Britain are incredibly rich - that is one reason why so many migrants want to come here. Yet I, like many who have experienced hospitality in the world's poorer places, can attest to the fact that the hospitality offered by many of the world's

poorest people is way in excess of what they can expect to receive in the rich world.

Frequently, the saints, famous or unsung, have not really known where God was leading them, why God wanted something done, or how to go about doing it. Often they doubted whether they would have much impact - for humility is frequently the mark of a true saint. But they got on with it. And we are called to follow their example, to follow the great heritage of all God's faithful people down the ages. Let us pray that we may live up to whatever he is calling us to do in this age.

### **Take a time to sit quietly**

#### **A time of prayer**

United in the company of all the faithful, let us pray for the church throughout the world and for all who seek to follow Christ in this generation. Through them and through us,

Your kingdom come **Your will be done.**

Let us pray for the world and all its peoples. Let us pray that those in authority in this and all nations may seek justice and peace for all.

Your kingdom come **Your will be done.**

Let us pray for those in need, especially . . . ,

and for all who minister to those in need. Draw near to all with your healing love.

Your kingdom come **Your will be done.**

Remember in your mercy all who have gone before us especially those who were significant in each of our faith journeys. Join our prayers with those of the whole company saints.

Your kingdom come **Your will be done.**

Lord of the church, **hear our prayer and make us one in heart and mind to serve you now and always. Amen.**

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

*Our Father .....*

**Hymn: Listen to For All the Saints Who've Shown Your Love StF 746 or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ECJANNFPO](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ECJANNFPO)

For all the saints who showed your love  
in how they lived and where they moved,  
for mindful women, caring men,  
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name,  
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,  
who sang your songs and shared your word,  
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

For all the saints who named your will,  
and saw your kingdom coming still  
through selfless protest, prayer and praise,  
accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love  
reflects the grace of heaven above.  
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,  
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

*John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

God give us grace to follow his saints  
in faith and hope and love;  
and the blessing of the most Holy Trinity,  
Spirit, Son and Father,  
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.** *(partly from MWB page 59)*

Original Materials by **Dudley Coates**

All

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## Matthew 5.1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness 'sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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