Worship at Home

Sunday 1st November 2026

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Welcome to our service for All Saints Day.

'Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me, sing it with his saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.'

Let's continue with this beautiful imagery, with the reading for today.

Reading: Revelation 7: 9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no-one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing "Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen"

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are the ones who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, they are before the throne of God, and worship Him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them nor any scorching heat; for the lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

STF 323: I will sing the wondrous story…

I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me, how he left the realms of glory for the cross of Calvary:

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me, sing it with his saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost; but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray, raised me up, and gently led me back into the narrow way: *Yes, I'll sing…*

Faint was I, and fears possessed me, bruised was I from many a fall; hope was gone, and shame distressed me; but his love has pardoned all: *Yes,…*

Days of darkness still come o'er me; sorrow's path I often tread; but the Saviour still is with me, by his hand I'm safely led: *Yes, I'll sing…*

He will keep me till the river rolls its waters at my feet; then he'll bear me safely over, where the loved ones I shall meet: *Yes, I'll sing…*

Francis Harold Rowley (1854-1952)

We pray together

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 for ever. **Amen**

Almighty God, we know that you are the creator and sustainer of everything. From the smallest atom to the ends of eternity, your hand is upon it all. We are humbled and filled with gratitude to know that within your majesty and great power you care for us.

As individuals, each one known by name and counted; and as your church, where together as brothers and sisters we share your loving care; firstly, with each other and then with all mankind and all creation.

Forgive us for our disregard of things that you love. Forgive us for our selfish ambitions, that overtake the care of things you care for. Forgive us, and through your Holy Spirit's guidance, enable us to be the people we are meant to be.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

STF 345: And can it be…

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood? Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies! Who can explore his strange design? In vain the first - born seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, let angel minds enquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above - so free, so infinite his grace - emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound by sin and nature's night; thine eye diffused a quickening ray – I woke the dungeon flamed with light, my chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine! Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Reading: Matthew 5: 1 - 9

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

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Reflection

These wonderful, and well-loved words are so easy to read; and so much part of our Christian daily lives. Reading them on a day when our focus is on 'all saints' however, really emphasises that what Jesus is teaching is not only the way to live, but the way to Sainthood. I wonder if you would call yourself a saint? Always remembering that the above list is not a sort of pick and mix, but a picture of, firstly Jesus himself, and then of his faithful disciples.

In recent times we have witnessed good and Christlike people, persecuted and heavily criticised, for speaking Christian truths in a world that wants to hear anything but; whilst the very name of Christ is blasphemed by some, who chant it whilst doing hateful things and holding evil thoughts. Christ will not own their cruel and superficial allegiance.

Saints are merciful peacemakers amongst the other blessings. And that's a guide for us all as we choose our leaders. Are they peacemakers? And it's a rule for us all to follow.

It really is obligatory, along with mercy and, oh dear, meekness! That quiet strength that puts another first and bears anything - to achieve everything.

In our reading from Revelation, we hear that those gathered around the throne are clothed in white robes. Robes that were washed in the blood of the Lamb. Clothed as Wesley puts it, 'in righteousness divine'. The Beatitudes are indeed the rules that we must follow, but the first one says, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit.' We know we aspire to be 'the blessed ones,' but don't always succeed. Our fears and cold hearts catch us out. Fortunately, we have a God who loves us to the uttermost; and his courage in Christ to deliver us from evil is beyond our comprehension. His desire for us to be with him, around his throne can never be changed. Thank you Jesus for making that possible. Worthy is the Lamb indeed. **Amen**.

Prayers of intercession

Lord God, we pray for a world of war. Forgive our complacency and sometimes indifference to such suffering and need. May we all be peacemakers.
In the power of Christ, we pray.

Lord God, we pray for those who mourn, for those who mourn their sins and cannot forgive themselves, for those who mourn things past, for those who mourn loved ones. May we have compassion and empathy.
In the power of Christ, we pray.

Lord God, we pray for those who are bravely facing the hostility of rich and powerful people. Strengthen their resolve to speak the truth, and enable them to rest and be at peace. May they be assured of our prayers and help us to stand up for what is right.
In the power of Christ, we pray.

Lord God, we pray for those who put the good of others first, and who, through quiet sacrifice improve the lot of others. Help us not to be self-serving, and give us that love that puts another's preference and wellbeing before our own.
In the power of Christ, we pray and say Amen.

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who need our help today, and ask that we have opportunity and grace to be the people you want us to be.

We pray for a world broken by war and injustice, help us to bravely speak up for those who have no voice. Those who have no homes. For those who have no hope.

We pray, Dear God, for all the charities and people working to help others in need. Please bless each one of them with strength and peace, may they know your encouragement and see the light of Christ in what they do.

And we pray, Dear God, for ourselves, for each other, for those we love and for those who love us. We place ourselves into your hands with trust and peace, for we do so in the name of Jesus, our Lord and our Saviour. **Amen**.

STF 673: Will you come and follow me…

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me.

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me.

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoner free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me.

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me.

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

John L. Bell (b.1949) & Graham Maule (b. 1958)

Blessing: The Blessings of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you all, forevermore. Amen.

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