



MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

OCTOBER 31, 2021 • ALL SAINTS DAY

We share God's love, hope, and healing and serve our neighbors. No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here!

WELCOME

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

PRELUDE

On Eagle's Wings
Judy Bonnell, piano

Michael Joncas

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted Psalm 71)

Leader: God alone is our refuge and hope,

People: God is our shelter and protection.

Leader: From our very first breath to our last,

People: God's love and compassion never fails

Leader: So, come, lift your voices in praise to God.

People: Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love.

Leader: Proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.

ALL: Let's worship God together

***HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
(verses 1-2)

Tune & words: Martin Luther

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;
With craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth without an equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free!
With mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave
Christ will prevail triumphant.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION** (responsively)

(Based on Hebrews 12:1-2)

Let us pray together welcoming God into this place and into our time of worship.

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

People: And also, with you!

(continued on the next page)

**Please stand as you are able.*

Leader: Let us pray together. Lord God, by your grace we are running a race

People: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses

Leader: Patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets and psalmists, disciples and evangelists, martyrs and saints.

People: We thank you for their example. We praise you for their lives of faith. For all your saints, O Lord, who strove to live in you, who followed, obeyed, adored you.

Leader: Lord God, by your grace we are running a race.

People: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses.

Leader: Loved ones now resting in you, who guided us, nurtured and cared for us; ancestors who worked and traveled, lived and died that we might be who we are, where we are — your precious children in this community of believers.

People: We thank you for their example. We praise you for their lives of faith. For all your saints, O Lord who strove in you to die, who counted You their great reward — accept our thankful cry.

Leader: Lord God, by your grace we are running a race.

People: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses.

Leader: Family members and members of this congregations; fellow believers in every country, every denomination; friends who help, guide and uplift us—children of your family, sheep of your fold, saints of your redeeming.

People: We thank you for their example. We praise you for their lives of faith. For this, your name we bless, and humbly pray anew, that we like them in holiness will live and anticipate life everlasting found in you.

Leader: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely,

People: and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

Leader: looking to Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,

All: Amen

***HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

(Verses 3-4)

3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.
The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them;
Their rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure:
One little word shall fell them.
4. That word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth shall triumph still;
God's reign endures forever.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

**Spirit divine, attend our prayers and make this world thy home;
Descend with all thy gracious power, O come, great Spirit, come!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
Chancel Choir
verse 1 solo - Ed Rozmiarek

Tune: NICAEA;
Words: Reginald Heber

CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Generous, Transforming God, thank you for your many blessings, for life in abundance. It is through you that we have these gifts to offer, for our hands to lift up and share with those in need. We dedicate them now as an expression of your love for the world, through Christ our Lord, Amen

*DOXOLOGY

Lyrics: Thomas Ken, Tune: Red No. 64

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we join in prayer together, gathering our hearts together in prayer we join our voices responsively. When I say the words, "We wait for you Lord, those gathered respond with the words, **"In your love, our hope resides"**

Always, Attentive God, we lift our voice to you. drawn by your steadfast love and confident in your great power to redeem, we pray for the church, those in need, and all your creation. We wait for you Lord, **"in your love, our hope resides"**

Bless your church to extend mercy to the outcast, kindness to the stranger, and love to the community.

We wait for you Lord, **"in your love, our hope resides"**

Redeem your creation from the wilderness of sin and hopelessness, to the flourishing of righteousness and life in you.

We wait for you Lord, **"in your love, our hope resides"**

Restore justice with mercy and truth with trust in our nations and neighborhoods.

We wait for you Lord, **"in your love, our hope resides"**

Help us put away bitterness and wrath, anger and slander, and be kind to one another, living in love as you have loved us.

We wait for you Lord, **"in your love, our hope resides"**

Let your love embrace those we now remember aloud and, in our hearts, those who have passed from this world into the glory of the next. *Names are read aloud.*

We wait for you Lord, **"in your love, our hope resides"**

Thank you for our ancestors, who ate your living bread and live forever.

We wait for you Lord, **"in your love, our hope resides."**

Nourishing God, to you we commit our prayers, through Christ, **The bread of life**, as we join our voices in the prayer he taught all of his disciples throughout the ages, saying:

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us. And, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING — Psalm 146 & Hebrew 12:1-2

Faith Bertrand

SERMON

“Running Our Race”

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

For All the Saints

Tune: Sine Nomine;
words: William Howe

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might:
Thou, Lord, their captain, in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
3. O may thy people, faithful, true and bold,
Live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
5. 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.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Judy Bonnell, piano

Martin Luther; arr. Marilyn Ham

*We extend special thanks to pianist Judy Bonnell, who is substituting for Ji Hye,
and to Ed Rozmiarek, our song-leader and liturgist for worship this morning.*

*The flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of
Arthur V. Johnson, Jr.
Given by the Johnson-Glass Family*