

**Centre for Christian Studies Sunday
Worship Elements for All Saints Day
November 1, 2020**



Worship resources for CCS Sunday 2020 were prepared considering readings from the Revised Common Lectionary for All Saints Day: Revelation 7:9-17; Matthew 5:1-12; Psalm 34: 1-10, 22

Gathering Songs (optional)

Choose from:

Allelulia, raise to God MV 59

As long as we follow MV 140

Come all you people/Uyai mose MV 2

Jesu tawa pano MV 189

Mungu ni mwema MV 104

Spirit open my heart MV 79

Where two or three are gathered MV 14

Acknowledgement of the Land

Announcements

Call to Worship (Based on Matthew 5:1-12) (Responsive)

However we are gathered this day, we are blessed, for we are in the company of The Holy.

God's Love embraces us in person, through computer images, recordings, voices, and despite masks and distancing.

We are blessed whether we bring celebrations or concerns, joys or sorrows, affirmations or reservations.

The Holy Presence has room for all that we bring, and much more than we bring.

As we become centered in this worship time, know that The Spirit holds out arms of WELCOME and LOVE for us all.

The grieving, the uncertain, the timid, the frightened, the abused, the shunned, the ostracized, the other, for all of us, wherever we are and however we are, WELCOME. We are blessed!

Written by CCS Graduate Ian McLean

Opening Hymn

Choose from the following:

Common Praise CP

Come fill our hearths/Confetimi Domino 402 CP

Dona Nobis Pacem 562 CP

More than we can ask or imagine CP 86
Not for tongues of heaven's angels CP 494

Voices United VU

For all the saints VU 705
For the faithful who have answered VU 707
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How clear is our vocation VU 504
Faith of our fathers/mothers VU 580
Thou ancient walls VU 691
Come thou fount of every blessing VU 559
God of Bethel by whose hand VU 555
The church of Christ in every age VU 601

More Voices MV

Who is my mother/brother MV 178
Sisters/brothers let us walk together MV 179
When hands reach out MV 169
Christ has no body now VU 171
Hope of Abraham and Sarah VU 148
I am walking the path of peach VU 221
Let us build a house VU 1

Songs for Congregational Singing – Carolyn McDade SFCS

Song of community SFCS 1
Creation of peace SFCS 5
Prayer to friends SFCS 16

Collect

God who opens the doors to learning as you journey with your people through the ages, inspire us with your vision of a people with roots in justice and wings of hope. Let your Spirit move through all who learn at the Centre for Christian Studies, that they may know Jesus as their companion in everyone they meet, building in love and faithfulness until the whole creation is transformed into a community that is a reflection of your wisdom and holy generosity. Amen.

Collect written for CCS Sunday 2018

Opening Prayer

Gathered this day we remember the Saints of long ago, and we are steeped in gratitude for commitment, sacrifice, dedication, vision, tenacity and humility.

Gathered this day we remember the Saints among us: CCS graduates, volunteers, mentors, lay and ministry leaders, and partners. In those lives we remember and celebrate devotion, enthusiasm, determination, humbleness, empathy reciprocity, compassion and kindness.

Above all we remember and celebrate unconditional love of Saints long past, and of Saints in our lives now. And we celebrate the unconditional love of the one source of life, the one who holds us now in this gathered community of Saints. Thanks be to God!
Amen *Written by CCS Graduate Ian McLean*

Introduction of the theme of the day

Today we are celebrating Centre for Christian Studies Sunday or CCS Sunday, for short. Why?

Well, we are here because we are learning how to follow Jesus. So that could be the Christian Studies part—but that's not the only reason. CCS is a school where each student is invited to serve people at the margins of society. This theological tradition is called "diakonia." The church, as lived out in our communities of faith and parishes, needs these committed and skilled leaders. We need people who carry the hope of the world and uplift the gifts of all. Celebrating CCS Sunday supports the student ministers and highlights the valuable work of this school.

OR

Instead of saying all this, you could show the video "What is the Centre for Christian Studies"

Hymn

See choices above

Children's Time

If you can, find a candle lantern similar to the one Beth Walker is holding in the video or take a screen capture of her holding hers and print it out or make a paper lantern (if you decide to include the activity in the "do" section).

Ask: Do you have one of these around your house? What do you use it for?

Say: Sometimes we say that instead of being a building, the church is "people of the light". I wonder how that might be true?

In the video we are going to watch next, Beth Walker says she is standing in the place where her church, Fairfield United, used to be. Now it is just a hole with gravel in it. Where did the church go? Beth says that the church still exists as a group people who are on a journey to meet God in their neighbourhood instead of in a building.

Ask: Where do you think God is in this neighbourhood? How might bringing light help them see or be seen as they look for God?

Do: You might provide a simple pattern or instructions for children to make a paper lantern at home during the next part of the service (just google “making a lantern out of paper”).

A Minute for CCS: Beth Walker - <https://youtu.be/h-INwJlQHmo>

Special Music or Hymn

Scripture Reading: Revelation 7:9 – 17 or Matthew 5:1-12

Psalm: Psalm 34: 1-10, 22

Page 761 Voices United—to “Strong lions suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek God lack no good thing.” Followed by the last verse, “But you, God, redeem the life of your servants; none who take refuge in you are condemned.”

Pages 29, 30 The Inclusive Language Liturgical Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services
<https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/GS2016-Liturgical-Psalter-2016-05-04.pdf>

Reflection:

Do your own based on the Scripture you chose or drawing on Janet Ross' reflections on Psalm 34 - <http://ccsonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Reflections-on-Psalm-34.pdf>

OR show the video of Michelle Owens' reflection – coming soon

OR read the reflection written by Kimiko Karpoff for CCS Sunday in 2019 -

<http://ccsonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Cloud-source-by-Kimiko-Karpoff.pdf>

Offering

Hymn

Minute for CCS: Joshua Ward - <https://youtu.be/Qq6b93M1Pls>

or Hubert Den Draak and Annika Sangster - <https://youtu.be/xS4f08vjU8k>

Prayers of the People:

One: You are blessed and blessing,
God of all creation,
so we come to you with prayers of hope
and words of thanksgiving.

All: (sung – chorus from VU705)
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

One: For our grandmothers and grandfathers,
for the people who have taught us your love,
by their actions and by their words -

All: we give you thanks!

One: For our sisters who have gone before,
 who accepted the mantle of Deaconess,
 who taught in love, who worked in hope,
 who changed your world –

All: we give you thanks!

One: For all our siblings in The United Church of Canada
 who celebrate and live a Call to the ministry of
 Education, Justice and Pastoral Care –
 the Diakonia – Diaconal Ministers,
 commissioned by your powerful love –

All: we give you thanks!

One: For the congregations, communities of faith,
 ministries and missions and more,
 who have shared, and do share,
 in this call of service,
 this call of education,
 this call of justice,
 this call of care –

All: we give you thanks, loving God!
 (sung – chorus from VU705)
 Hallelujah, hallelujah!

One: We give thanks and, in love, we offer to your Love –
 the Center for Christian Studies,
 the learning circles and the [exploration sites],
 those who are exploring their call to ministry,
 those who are living that ministry,
 and those who are taking the time to reflect
 on what they've lived, and your place in it.

All: Hold them in your love, God of All.
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One: We pray that, guided by them,
 learning with them,
 growing in faith and love,
 we would be
 people who serve with all our hearts,
 people who walk with all who have been burdened,
 people who feel broken, in body or spirit.

All: Hold us in your love, God of All.

One: And, as part of this great cloud of witnesses,
 all those who have gone before,
 all those who are,
 all those who are yet to come,
 we share in the words Jesus gave to us –
 for you are Our Mother and you are...

All: Our Father...
power and the glory. Amen.
(sung – chorus from VU705)
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Richard Bott, Moderator, The United Church of Canada July 8, 2019

Hymn:

Benediction:

It has been good to be here, to take some time for renewal. We have been blessed by the company of one another and blessed by the spirit moving among us.

As you go out into this day, into this evening and into this week, know that you are all held tightly in The Creator's (or God's) loving embrace and that you are all saints in this ministry of (name of community of faith).

Go gently, go in peace. May Christ's light shine brightly in your heart. Amen

Written by CCS Graduate Ian McLean