

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

NOVEMBER 5, 2023, 9:30 AM

THE REV. RICHARD G. REED



—WE GATHER AS GOD’S FAITHFUL PEOPLE —

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who have gathered to worship God together – those here in person, and those live-streaming with us on ZOOM. Are there any **BRIEF** announcements?*

PRELUDE

“Peace Like A River”

Smith

GREETING

Grace to you and peace from God who is, and was, and is to come; and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, the ruler of kings on earth. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Let us worship God!

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Liturgist: We remember the countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of faith through time.

People: We remember the tender touch of loved ones, the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of courage and strength.

L: We remember the supreme love of Jesus, the sharing of his suffering, the glory of his resurrection shown forth in the lives of his disciples in all times.

P: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us worship God with joy!

L: Together let us pray.

Loving God, we your saints gather to worship and praise you this day. We celebrate the saints who have served you and been an example for us throughout the past. We give you thanks for the joy of being a part of the communion of saints with those who have gone before and those scattered around the globe. Open us to your Spirit to continue being the saints you have called us to be. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

**HYMN

“Rejoice In God’s Saints”

#708

1. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!

A world without saints forgets how to praise.

Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,

Their depth of adoring, Lord, Help us to share.

2. Some march with events to turn them God's way;

Some need to withdraw, the better to pray;

Some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:

Our world is their parish: their purpose is God.

3. Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,

Who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own:

They share our complaining, our comforts, our cares:

What patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!

4. Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!

A world without saint forgets how to praise.

In loving, in living, they prove it is true:

Their way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

PASSING THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

-LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESURRECTION-

FIRST LESSON

The Revelation To John 7:9-17

Liturgist: A reading from the Revelation to John concerning a vision of heaven and of the saints standing before the throne of God and before Christ, the Lamb of God.

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 worshiped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power 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 who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they 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 center 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.”

Here ends the reading.

R **♪O magnify the Lord with me; with me exalt God's name.♪**

Liturgist: I will bless the LORD at all times;
 God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**People: My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
 let the afflicted hear and be glad.**

L: O magnify the LORD with me,
 and let us exalt God's name together!

**P: I sought the LORD, who answered me,
 and delivered me from all my fears.**

L: Look to God, and be radiant;
 so your faces shall never be ashamed.

**P: The poor cried out, and the Lord heard,
 and saved them out of all their troubles.**

L: The angel of the LORD encamps
 around those who fear God, and delivers them.

**P: O taste and see that the LORD is good!
 Happy are those who take refuge in God!**

L: The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in
 God will be condemned. **R**

SECOND LESSON**First John 3:1-3**

Liturgist: John speaks to the Church of Jesus Christ about being called
 children of God.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of
 God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is
 that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will
 be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is
 revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have
 this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Here ends the reading.

****GLORIA PATRI**

#70

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 World without end. Amen. Amen.**

****THE GOSPEL**

+ Matthew 5:1-12 +

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And 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 the sake of righteousness, 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.

Celebrant: This is the Word of God. **People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Sine Nomine”
Kay Crosley Bell Choir

Ralph Vaughan Williams

- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER -

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER (using “Sins”)

Bidding: *The Lord takes pleasure in the faithful;*

Response: *let us exalt in God’s glory!*

Celebrant: *In peace, let us offer our prayers to God. Gracious God, through your Son Jesus you call us to come to you, that we may see you with our eyes and be filled with the vision of your compassionate reign: Hear us as we pray: The Lord takes pleasure in the faithful; **let us exalt in God's glory!***

Liturgist: In every age, Faithful God, you have raised up holy men and women to reflect the light of Christ and to teach us the way of holiness. We thank you for those who have been teachers in the school of Christ: give understanding to those who study the faith that the Church has handed on, and clarity to those who communicate the gospel in a changing world.

*The Lord takes pleasure in the faithful; **let us exalt in God's glory!***

We thank you, Loving God, for those who have been shepherds of your people: give a pastoral heart to leaders of your Church, and the needful gifts to all your people in their ministry.

*The Lord takes pleasure in the faithful; **let us exalt in God's glory!***

We thank you, O Lord, for those who have been Christian rulers in the world, and for those who carried the good news to lands where it had not been before: give wisdom to all who have power and influence among the nations, and establish God's sovereignty among people of every race.

*The Lord takes pleasure in the faithful; **let us exalt in God's glory!***

We thank you, Good Shepherd, for those whom you have called to live in community: establish mutual love among those drawn into fellowship in your service, and bless with Christ's presence all the communities to which we relate.

*The Lord takes pleasure in the faithful; **let us exalt in God's glory!***

We thank you, Compassionate God, for those who have lived out their vocation in family life: give your grace to all who nurture children and all who care for the aged, and enfold in your love all your sons and daughters.

*The Lord takes pleasure in the faithful; **let us exalt in God's glory!***

We thank you, Healer of Souls, for those who have worked to bring wholeness of body, mind and spirit: give skill to all who minister healing and reconciliation in your name. Comfort all who cry out to you from any sort of distress. Hear us as we offer prayer for those whom we have named aloud and those whom we raise to you in silence.

Celebrant: *Hasten, Lord, the day when people will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at table in your kingdom, and together with the saints, we shall see your Son in his glory. These and all our prayers we raise in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying:*

**“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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

LITURGY FOR THE READING OF NAMES AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Celebrant: For all the saints who have gone before us,

People: O God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith.

C: For all the saints who have been beloved to us,

P: O God, we give thanks for our loved ones who have passed to your eternal realm.

C: For all the saints who have exemplified the faithful life,

P: O God, may we learn from their ways and follow you.

C: On this day, we name the saints of God who are in our hearts. As the names are read, the bell will toll. Family and friends are invited to come forward and light a candle. You are also invited to come forward to light a candle in memory of any loved one who has died.

(Please place the candle in the sand beginning in the back and center, working forward and outward. If you are unable to come forward please call upon an usher for assistance.)

THE READING OF NAMES

Insert

RESPONSE

A Prayer Meditation for All Saints Day (Written by Safiyah Fosua)

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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

“The Great Cloud”

Joseph Martin

The Laura Currie Chancel Choir

-WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD-

OFFERTORY INVITATION

*Celebrant: All good things come from God, the giver of life. We are called
as stewards of God's gifts to share in fulfillment of God's purposes for
creation. As stewards of the kingdom of God, let us give from our
abundance with thanksgiving.*

****DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Celebrant: O God, we thank you for your great generosity. All that we are
and all that we have is a gift from you. Help us to serve one another and
so reflect your spirit and goodness. Accept these offerings and grant that
the cause to which they are devoted may prosper under your guidance.
Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.*

-WE COME TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD-

****COMMUNION HYMN**

"I Come With Joy"

Vv. 1-3

#617

- 1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free, in awe and wonder to recall, his life laid down for me.**
- 2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread.**
- 3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

This is neither a Baptist table nor a Methodist table. This is the Lord's table. All of us, no matter our earthly rank or status, all of us approach the table of the Lord as equals; sinners in need of redeeming, hungry in need of bread that satisfies, unworthy yet called children of God and invited to the feast. Come to this table, then, sisters and brothers, siblings together, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

THE LITURGY OF COMMUNION (Responses on page 15, front of the hymnal)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty (almighty God), Creator of heaven and earth:

God of Abraham and Sarah,

God of Miriam and Moses,

God of Joshua and Deborah,

God of Ruth and David,

God of the priests and the prophets,

God of Mary and Joseph,

God of the apostles and the martyrs,

God of our mothers and our fathers,

God of our children to all generations.

*And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

*By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to
your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us
a new covenant by water and the Spirit.*

*On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance
of me."*

*When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it
to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the
new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of
sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

CHORUS

"Do This"

Jim Kerr-Whitt

**Do this in remembrance of me: this broken life, your lives out-pouring.
Do this, do this, my friends! As I now live, so you must live!**

*And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer
ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union
with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

*Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread
and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we
may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.*

*Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Life.

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Come, for all things are ready.

(Please allow the choir to come forward first, then come forward, take the bread and eat it, then move to the cup, drink it, and put the empty in the basket.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.
Amen.

- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -

****CLOSING HYMN**

“For The Ordinary Saints”

Insert

James S. Kerr-Whitt, lyrics, used by permission

BENEDICTION

L: We have praised God, been fed and nourished at the Lord's Table, and are sustained in our faith. As we go from here, let us respond to this holy calling: to be hope, to invite others to the table of grace, to share our resources, and to be a voice for justice, sharing the words and teachings of Jesus Christ as did those who have gone before us.

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord!

P: Amen! Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Amazing Grace”

McDonald

****Indicates to rise if you are able**

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- In what ways is the vision of John a source of encouragement to you?
- The Psalmist writes that the praise of God “shall continually be in my mouth.” In what ways is this true for you?
- Is it easy or difficult to think of yourself as a “saint” of God? What are the qualities that make a person a “saint”? Is it easier to think of yourself as a child of God? What are our responsibilities as saints and as children?
- During the next week, what could you do to be a blessing to someone who usually feels excluded?