



A SERMON BY THE REVEREND WILLIAM R. FLEMING

MARINERS' CHURCH OF DETROIT

ALL SAINTS' DAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

O ALMIGHTY GOD, WHO HAST KNIT TOGETHER THINE ELECT IN ONE COMMUNION AND FELLOWSHIP, IN THE MYSTICAL BODY OF THY SON CHRIST OUR LORD; GRANT US GRACE SO TO FOLLOW THY BLESSED SAINTS IN ALL VIRTUOUS AND GODLY LIVING, THAT WE MAY COME TO THOSE UNSPEAKABLE JOYS WHICH THOU HAST PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO UNFEIGNEDLY LOVE THEE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. *AMEN.*

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE, SAITH THE LORD: HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE: AND WHOSOEVER LIVETH AND BELIEVETH IN ME, SHALL NEVER DIE.

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH, AND THAT HE SHALL STAND AT THE LATTER DAY UPON THE EARTH: AND THOUGH THIS BODY BE DESTROYED, YET SHALL I SEE GOD: WHOM I SHALL SEE FOR MYSELF, AND MINE EYES SHALL BEHOLD, AND NOT AS A STRANGER.

WE BROUGHT NOTHING INTO THIS WORLD, AND IT IS CERTAIN WE CAN CARRY NOTHING OUT. THE LORD GAVE, AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY; BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD.

BURIALS FROM MARINERS' CHURCH ALL SAINTS 2014 – ALL SAINTS

2015:

Woodruff Crouse, January 15

Dr. Harold Fromhart, January 28

Andrea Gilbert, March 8

Mary Joan Trudeau, March 11

Christine Clay, March 18

Michael Ferriss, March 22

Mattie L. Cunningham, May 5

Edwin Jaquet, June 4

Richard Wright, September 2

Margaret L. Sweetman-Vis, September 5

Edmund Fishwick, September 19

Maria E. Brohman, October 6

ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE COME TO ALL SAINTS' DAY, A DAY ON WHICH WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED INTO ETERNAL LIFE FROM THIS PARISH. SOME WOULD SAY THIS DAY IS FITTING, OTHERS BELIEVE IT IS UNNECESSARY. THE LATTER IS WRONG. MANY OF US HAVE LOST THOSE CLOSE TO US. FAMILY, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES. WE CELEBRATE THE LIVES OF THE DECEASED. WE THANK GOD FOR HIS/HER LIFE AND WHILE WE ARE SOMETIMES SAD (WHICH IS APPROPRIATE) WE ARE CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF OUR LOVED ONES. YOU MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT IN MY EARLY DAYS WHEN PRIESTS WERE ORDAINED, WE USED BLACK STOLES TO SIGNIFY MOURNING. WE GREW TO PURPLE WHICH WAS LESS MOURNING AND SLIGHTLY MORE CELEBRATORY. NOW MOST

CLERGY USE A WHITE STOLE WHICH CELEBRATES A LIFE AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS THE DECEASED HAS LEFT BEHIND. THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF OUR FAITH.

“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.”

ALL SAINTS IS A SPECIAL DAY IN MANY COUNTRIES. IN MANY ANGLICAN CHURCHES, THE DAY COMMEMORATES THE DEPARTED FAITHFUL. CHRISTIANS WHO CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS' DAY DO SO IN THE BELIEF THAT THERE IS A PRAYERFUL SPIRITUAL BOND BETWEEN THOSE IN HEAVEN, AND THE LIVING. OTHER CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS DEFINE, REMEMBER AND RESPOND TO THE SAINTS IN DIFFERENT WAYS; FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE METHODIST CHURCH, THE WORD “SAINTS” REFERS TO VIRTUALLY ALL CHRISTIANS AND THEREFORE, ON ALL SAINTS' DAY, THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL, AS WELL AS THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF A LOCAL CONGREGATION, ARE HONORED AND REMEMBERED.

PROTESTANTS SOMETIMES REGARD ALL TRUE CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS AS SAINTS AND IF THEY OBSERVE ALL SAINTS DAY AT ALL

THEY USE IT TO REMEMBER ALL CHRISTIANS BOTH PAST AND PRESENT. IN SOME CONGREGATIONS, A CANDLE IS LIT BY THE ACOLYTE AS EACH PERSON'S NAME IS CALLED OUT BY THE CLERGY. PRAYERS AND RESPONSIVE READINGS MAY ACCOMPANY THE EVENT. IN OUR PARISH THE EUCHARIST IS OUR REMEMBRANCE.

IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES, THE FESTIVAL IS TRADITIONALLY CELEBRATED WITH THE HYMN "FOR ALL THE SAINTS" BY WILLIAM WALSHAM, WHICH IS IN THIS SERVICE.

THE FOLLOWING LITANY, WRITTEN FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM, IS ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE FOR ALL SAINTS DAY. IT BEAUTIFULLY CONVEYS THE POWER AND THE PRESENCE OF SAINTS IN OUR LIVES.

O CHRIST,

IN YOU

AND THROUGH YOU

AND FOR YOU,

ALL THINGS WERE CREATED;

IN YOU

ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER

AND HAVE THEIR BEING.
YOU IMAGINED A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.
THROUGH TERESA OF AVILA,
CHARISMATIC LEADER,
YOU INSPIRED A CHURCH OF COURAGE AND WISDOM.
THROUGH MAHATMA GANDHI
GREAT SOUL
YOU BECAME NONVIOLENT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE.
THROUGH DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
DRUM MAJOR OF FREEDOM,
YOU SHATTERED RACIAL BARRIERS
AND FREED DREAMERS TO DREAM.
THROUGH ANNE FRANK,
WRITER AND WITNESS,
YOU PRESERVED GOODNESS IN THE MIDST OF GREAT EVIL.
THROUGH MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA,
GUARDIAN OF THE UNWANTED,
YOU STOOD FOR A REVERENCE FOR ALL LIFE.
THROUGH MARY MAGDALENE,

APOSTLE TO THE APOSTLES,
YOU ENCOURAGED WOMEN AND OTHERS TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD
NEWS.

THROUGH WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART,

MUSICIAN OF HOLY MYSTERY,
YOU BATHED THE WORLD IN BEAUTY.

THROUGH JOAN OF ARC,

DEFENDER AND PROTECTOR,
YOU REMAINED TRUE TO PERSONAL CONSCIENCE
OVER INSTITUTIONAL LAW.

YOU ILLUMINATED FRIENDSHIP AS A UNION.

IN YOUR HEART AND OURS

ALL HISTORY FINDS MEANING AND PURPOSE,

IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM.

IN THE CELEBRATION OF JUBILEE
HELP US FIND THAT WHICH WE ALL SEEK;

A COMMUNION OF LOVE

WITH EACH OTHER

AND WITH YOU, THE ALPHA AND OMEGA,

THE FIRST AND LAST,

THE YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW,

THE BEGINNING WITHOUT END. *AMEN.*

REMEMBER THY SERVANT, O LORD, ACCORDING TO THE FAVOUR WHICH THOU BEAREST UNTO THY PEOPLE, AND GRANT THAT, INCREASING IN KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF THEE, WE MAY GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH, IN THE LIFE OF PERFECT SERVICE, IN THY HEAVENLY KINGDOM, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHO LIVETH AND REIGNETH WITH THEE AND THE HOLY GHOST EVER ONE GOD, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

UNTO GOD'S GRACIOUS MERCY AND PROTECTION WE COMMIT YOU. THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU. THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON YOU, AND BE GRACIOUS UNTO YOU. THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON YOU, AND GIVE YOU PEACE, BOTH NOW AND EVERMORE. AMEN.