

## Welcome

Welcome to our service today, I am the Rev'd Malcolm Peacock today is All Saints Day and we shall be focussing on the special people we have known in our lives, and reflecting on the role and place God has for all his people – God calls all of us Saints, even if we don't think we deserve such a title.

We shall also be sharing in an online love feast. I sent out a recipe for a Love Feast Bread earlier in the week and invited everyone to have a try at making it, and when we come to share in the love feast, when we eat and when we drink we shall be eating if not the same thing, at least something from the same recipe. Equally in a busy week we may not have had a chance to make anything, it doesn't matter what we eat or drink, it is simply something we can do together.

It will be helpful if something could be prepared ready to share – maybe it is something we can do while listening to our hymns.

An essential part of any love feast is the chance to listen to each other as we tell the story of our faith and today is no exception, but we shall also listen to stories told about people who have been special to us who may no longer be with us.

We will turn to God in worship now as we listen to our

Opening hymn, 'See what a morning Gloriously Bright' – feel free to sing along.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xM-fpXayUg>

Prayer of Praise

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

Let the redeemed confess their love of God  
**for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

Let those gathered from the whole world praise God  
**for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

When we are tried, burdened by a sense of guilt  
**his steadfast love endures for ever.**

When we feel hungry and thirsty for the presence of God  
**his steadfast love endures for ever.**

When we are forgiven and renewed  
**his steadfast love endures for ever.**

The Living God turns deserts into pools of water

**for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

The living God brings food to the hungry  
**for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

New life to the struggling  
**for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

He brings a fruitful field for those who have faith  
**for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

### **Bible reading**

#### **Revelation 7: 9-17**

#### **The Multitude from Every Nation**

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,

‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honour

and power and might

be to our God for ever 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 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 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.’

### **Pause for Thought.**

Today is All Saints day, when we traditionally remember those who have been called by God, and we give thanks for their lives and the impact they have had on us. I have always been a little uncertain about saints, but the pages of the NT remind us that the saints are those who called by God, we are all saints. It isn't something I would ever dream of claiming for myself because I still think of saints as being special people who have shown themselves as belonging to God by the quality of their lifestyle. I wouldn't hesitate to claim others were

saints because they have made their faith and their holiness apparent in the way they have lived and in the impact they have had upon us.

Today we are going to listen to testimonies, some are about people who we loved and respect, some are people telling their own story, I wouldn't want to embarrass them by naming them as saints, but we are reminded that the telling of our own story is the best way of sharing our faith – not because we are perfect and ideal, but because we aren't and in our being ordinary and normal other people can find the love of God for themselves.

We shall share now in our second hymn

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_CHF4gRyfl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_CHF4gRyfl)

I have asked some people to either share their testimony or share their memories of someone very special to them.

I will ask Ruth first to share

I will now ask Richard to share

In a short while we will be coming to prayers of intercession and during the prayers we will remember those who have died who are precious to us. If you use the Chat function you can share the names of people you would like us to remember during the prayers.

Meanwhile we shall share in another hymn

Love Divine all Loves Excelling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGGcqhKShQ8>

I will ask Jonathan to share

I will ask Jennifer to share

Prayers of Intercession

V. Lord in your Mercy...

**Hear our Prayer**

### **Love Feast**

Holy God, we thank you that wherever we are you are with us. We praise you that in Christ we have new life. Unite us as we share together through your Holy Spirit that we may each know your blessing. Amen.

### **Matthew 22:34-40**

#### **The Greatest Commandment**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

We share together as we eat our bread.  
We share together as we drink.

We thank you Lord that we know ourselves to be your people and called by you to be your saints on earth. AMEN

We share in our Closing Hymn

For All the Saints.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OaBgaMcOvM>

Go in Peace

The Blessing