



All Souls' Day

Sunday, November 2, 2025

A Service of Remembrance

Officiant: The Rev. Sarah Lehman

In the Chapel

Please keep the stillness while the music plays.

The celebrant greets those present with words of Holy Scripture:

"I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this:
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth."
"Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest
from their labours, for their deeds may follow
them!"

Deacon The grace and peace of God our Father,
 who raised Jesus from the dead,
 be with you always.
People And also with you.

Words of Welcome

The Rev. Sarah Lehman

Deacon Holy God,
 meet us here in this place
 as we remember, mourn,
 and give thanks for those who have died.

Silence is kept. A bell invites us to share words of Scripture.

Psalm 121 (*Inclusive Language Psalter*) *said responsively*

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Lord will not let your foot be moved;
**and the One who watches over you
will not fall asleep.**

Behold, the One who keeps watch over all the nations
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD, The LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your side,
so that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
and shall keep you safe.

**The LORD shall watch over your going out and
your coming in from this time on and
forevermore**

*You are invited to name those who you hold in your heart
at a moment that feels appropriate to you, as categories are
read aloud:*

Deacon: Holy God,
meet us here in this place, we pray, as we
name those who have died:

- sons and daughters
- mothers and fathers
- siblings and grandparents
- partners, spouses, and friends

Deacon Christ, pardon all their faults:

People Lord, hear our prayer

Deacon Christ, remember the good they have done:

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon Christ, receive them into eternal life:

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon Christ, comfort all those who mourn:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon Even in our remembering and mourning, we celebrate new life among us and praise You, Holy One, for gladdening our hearts with:

- children and grandchildren
- siblings and friends
- experiences and opportunities

**All Even at the grave we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayer of Gratitude

Deacon We thank you, Lord, for giving these people to us to know and to love as companions in our pilgrimage on earth.

In your boundless compassion, console us as we remember and give thanks.

Grant us, we pray, that we may always see in death the doorway to eternal life
and continue to walk in faith,
though Jesus the Christ,
who showed us the way.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon As Jesus taught us, and in whatever language or wording, ancient or modern,
is closest to our hearts, let us pray together:

All **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.
Save us from the time of
trial, and deliver us from
evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Candle Lighting

Deacon As we remember those who have died and
affirm that they are in God's keeping, I invite
you to light a votive candle, as an act of
remembrance and affirmation, as we make our
way outside to the Memorial Garden.

In the Memorial Garden

Deacon "Blessing the Earth"
(adapted from John O Donahue)

Let us thank God for the Earth:
that offers ground for home
and holds our feet firm
to walk in space open
to infinite galaxies.

Let us appreciate the wonder of a garden
trusting the first warmth of spring
until its black infinity of cells
becomes charged with dreams;
then the silent, slow nurture of the seed's self,
coaxing it to trust the act of death.

Let us accept the humility of the Earth that
transfigures all
that has fallen of outlived growth.

Let us learn from the kindness of the Earth,
opening to receive
our worn forms into the final stillness.

May we awaken, to live to the full
the dream of God's Earth
who chose us to emerge
and incarnate its hidden night
in mind, spirit, and light. **Amen**

Scattering Leaves and Visiting Resting Places

*You are invited to scatter some leaves in the garden as you
visit the place(s) where your loved one(s) were laid to rest,
readying the garden for the winter.*

*A bell invites us to re-gather
for closing prayers and blessings.*

Closing Prayer *"For Those Who Are Still Grieving on All Souls' Day", adapted from Cole Arthur Riley, © BlackLiturgies, 2023*

Deacon God who knows loss,
 we pray to you, missing those we have loved –
 a longing that it is difficult to articulate.
 Protect our mourning from despair, we pray.
 Guide us into the kind of remembrance that
 leads to healing, clarity of self,
 and trust in You.
 Keep watch over those who
 carry the complexity of losing the imperfect –
 those who both loved and hurt us, those with
 whom we were not fully reconciled.
 Keep us from that cheap form of remembrance
 that flattens those we love into faultless,
 polished icons.
 Let us recall them in the fullness of all their
 sacred humanity.

We pray in confidence that all whom we have
loved have passed into Your arms and Your
perfecting love, into the glorious company of
saints and ancestors, and we pray that some
portion of their eternal peace may find its way
to stay with us.

All Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

Deacon Life is short and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the
way with us. So be swift to love,
make haste to be kind in all things. And I invite
the Blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy
Spirit
to be with you and to remain with you always.

All Amen.

Deacon Let us now depart in peace.
People Thanks to be God.

For pastoral care,
please call the church office and
Natasha will direct your call: 604 985 0666
or email Rev. Sarah at
rev.sarah@saint-catherines.ca
