



John August Swanson 2000

**October 31, 2021**

CCL license 2710756

**Call to Worship**

We remember, O God...

**The countless saints of history  
who have blazed a trail of courage through time,**

We remember, O God...

**The tender touch of loved ones,  
the example of heroes,  
the healing words of comforters,  
the remarkable acts of fearless ones.**

We remember, O God...

**The gentle strength of grandmothers,  
the loyalty of friends,  
the kindness of strangers,  
the joy of children,  
the sacrifice of parents.**

We remember, O God...

**The supreme love of Jesus,  
the blessing of his Spirit,  
the reminder of his words,  
the sharing of his suffering,  
the glory of his resurrection:  
shown forth in the lives of his disciples,  
young and old,  
dead and living,  
articulate and silent,  
strange and familiar,  
brilliant and ordinary.**

We remember in every time and place the saints of God  
who have shown us the Lord.

***Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...  
let us worship God with joy!***

-www.desparatepreacher.com

**Hymn**

***They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love***

**Call to Confession**

### **Unison Confession**

If we have placed our only hope in the things we can see and touch, and have denied ourselves, or those close to us, that greater hope in the glory of things unseen. Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

If we have chosen to nurse our grief for the loss of dear ones with the bitterness of those who weep without hope or faith in your saving love, Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

If we put the saints on pious pedestals, and restrict ourselves to a diminished respect for our own capacity to grow in the knowledge and love of God, Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

God of love, we thank you for your patience. You have given us many guides and helpers to inspire us, and have given us the word that one day we shall be as Christ Jesus is; yet we have been slow to hear, reluctant to learn and sluggish in our efforts. We repent this our lack of faith and love, and ask that the love of Jesus Christ which so healed and uplifted the saints, may mercifully deal with our sins and empower our renewed good intentions. Through Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

My friends, the victory that overcomes the pessimism and recriminations of the world, is faith. For who is victorious except those who put their trust in Jesus, the only true Son of God? It is in his name that I declare to all repentant people: Your sins are forgiven you. Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Hymn**

### ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

#### **Passing of the Peace**

**The peace of Christ be with you.**

And also with you

#### **Affirmation of Faith: *Brief Statement of Faith*, PCUSA**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.**

**Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

**We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

**In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **Scripture**

*Hebrews 12:1-13*

#### **Sermon**

Pastor Erin

#### **Hymn**

#### ***I've Got Peace Like a River***

#### **Offering Invitation**

#### **Offertory**

#### **Offering Dedication**

#### **Blessing**