

Worship at Home for All Saints Day



We believe that wherever we worship God 'in Spirit and in truth', He will be present.

To worship in your household, choose a specific place - perhaps somewhere you can light a candle, and where you and those joining you can sit together undisturbed. Choose a time when you can be unhurried. Then read slowly through the service sheet, praying the prayers as you go. If you are with others, then one of you can take the lead and say the words in normal type, with the other(s) reading the lines in bold, or you could take it in turns to lead. If it is just you, then read it all yourself. Some people find it helps to read the prayers and responses aloud, even on their own.

The Collect, the Bible readings and the Reflection are provided separately. Short intercessions are included, but you may wish to use your own prayers, or some may be provided by your church.

At any point, you could pause to look at the 'pick n mix' activities, or do them later instead – whatever age you are! Hymns and songs are not included in the written version of this service.

Find what works for you and, as you worship, pray and learn at home, may God bless you and those others doing the same.

The Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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 the aged,
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!

Blessed are we
when our treasures cannot be quantified.
Blessed are we
when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

Blessed are we
when our pain is held in the balm of love.
Blessed are we
when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

Confession

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You are loving to all
and your mercy is over all your creation:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Your faithful servants bless your name
and speak of the glory of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse *us* from *our* sins,
and restore *us* in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living,
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Reading – 1 John 3.1-3

Psalm

My mind is fully made up,
I will worship, my mouth full of praises.
I have nothing to boast about except God,
troubled folk shall hear this and cheer up.
Come then, extol this loving God with me,
together we will lift high God's name!

My prayers have been answered
God has delivered me from my fears.
Why don't you look to God and smile?
You will never have to blush with shame.
I am just a very ordinary person,
yet God helped me out of my troubles.
God's angels will encamp around you,
trust and you too will be delivered.

O taste for yourself how good God is!
Happy are all who take refuge in God.
Be in awe, all you saints of God,
for then you will want for nothing.
Even young lions may go hungry,
but you will have all that you need.
The lives of God's servants are redeemed,
none of them will ever be condemned.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 5.1-12

Copyright B D Prewer 2006

Homily

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of remembrance, thanksgiving and intercession

We remember those whom we love but see no more. We give thanks for all that binds them to us and wait in eager expectation for that day when death will be no more.

We remember those saints of old who light our path and illumine our way. We give thanks for their lives and their example.

We remember all those for whom the light seems dim, for whom darkness closes in, and for whom loss feels ever present. May we walk alongside others to bring the light of life to them, even as it is given to us. Amen.

Surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses so we pray...

God, bless those who are in poor spirit,
who feel empty inside and who dread the day.

God, bless those who mourn and grieve,
who ache with loss for someone so much loved.

God, bless the people who are meek,
who do not grasp or shout or demand to be first in the queue.

God, bless the people who are hungry for justice
and who cannot wait for everyone to have their rights.

God, bless all who are merciful,
who have learned to forgive even those who hurt them hard.

God, bless all who are pure in heart,
in whom there is no vengefulness, but only love.

God, bless the peacemakers,
the ones who, by their words and deeds, can change the world.

God, bless the persecuted ones,
and keep them safe from those who would hurt them.

God, so rich in blessings for your children,
we rejoice in your promises and in your boundless and transforming grace.
Amen.

*~ written by Susan Durber, and posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the **Christian Aid** website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>*

As our saviour taught us so we pray

**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.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Closing Prayer

**Lead us, O God, on the journey of justice.
Guide us, O God, on the pathways of peace.
Renew us, O God, by the wellsprings of grace,**



The parishes of Barton, Caldecote with Childerley, Comberton, Coton, Dry Drayton, Great and Little Eversden, Hardwick, Harlton, Haslingfield and Toft

Today and forever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.