

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 1st, 2026

All Saints Day

Laity Sunday

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Carol: On this All Saints Sunday, we gather to remember teachers and storytellers who made God's stories come alive for us.

Many Voices: We give thanks!

Carol: We remember choir members, praise bands, organists, and all the musicians who sang and played your praises.

Many Voices: We give thanks!

Carol: We remember preachers and lay leaders who led our worship through the years.

Many Voices: We give thanks!

Carol: We remember parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and siblings who showed us how to hold fast to the faith.

Many Voices: We give thanks!

Carol: We remember our church families – this one and others we have loved. We remember all those who have been a part of this faith family with whom we grew our faith and our love for God and neighbor.

Many Voices: We give thanks!

Carol: We remember our ancestors in the faith whose courage enables us to be here today.

Many Voices: We give thanks for the saints who came before us, are present here with us, and will continue after us. Thanks be to God!

***Opening Hymn**

"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

UMH#712

***Passing the Peace**

Opening Prayer

Carol: God of Creation, all that we have comes from you. We gather in your presence, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, people from every tribe and nation, every kindred and tongue, to lift our voices in praise, to be transformed into your saints, and to be sent out to gather others to share your eternal banquet. Hear our praise, work in us and through us. Glory to you, O God, and to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and to the Spirit that unites us all, today and ever more.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

"Is He Worthy?"

Carrie & Reid

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Gracious God of every growing gift, you call forth saints not with perfection, but with purpose — to grow in faith, abound in love, and serve with steadfastness. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude, given by those you are shaping for good works in Christ. Use them to build up your church, to bless the world, and to honor those who have taught us to love more deeply. May our generosity today reflect your glory and strengthen us to walk ever more faithfully in your way. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Scripture Readings

First Lesson

Hebrews 12:1 (NRSV)

Second Lesson

1 John 3: 1-2 (NRSV)

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

Carol: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Cry of My Heart"

TFWS#2165

Reflection

"Living Saints"

Troy

Litany of Remembrance: The Cloud of Witnesses

Troy: Living God, we gather today surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We give you thanks for the saints of every time, tribe, and tongue who have finished their course in faith and who now rest in the shelter of your embrace.

Many Voices: We praise you, O God, for your saints who rest from their labors.

Troy: We remember the saints who showed us the way of the Kingdom. We thank you for the poor in spirit, the peacemakers, the meek, and those who hungered and thirsted for righteousness. Through their lives, we caught a glimpse of your heaven.

Many Voices: We praise you, O God, for their quiet courage and enduring witness.

Troy: We remember those from our faith family here at Woodridge United Methodist Church who have transitioned from this life into your eternal care over the past year. We name them now, trusting that they are clothed in light and led to springs of living water.

(At this time, the names of the deceased are read aloud. A candle is lit.)

Troy: We also remember those saints who we hold in our hearts and who have not been with us for some time, yet whose life and witness continue to form and shape us as your disciples. We honor them now. If you would like to light a votive candle, you may do so at the table here, or you may lift their names aloud or in your heart.

(Light votive candles at the table or remember your Saints at your seat.)

Troy: On this All Saints Sunday, we also remember that we too are living saints, members of the family of God with all the saints of the past, the present, and the future. And so, together we declare:

Many Voices: We are God's children. What we shall be has not yet been revealed; but we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. So today and every day, may we put on Christ and live as saints who tend the poor, comfort the mourners, learn from the meek, affirm those who seek righteousness, offer mercy alongside the merciful, and work for peace with the peacemakers. Amen.

Praying

Joys & Concerns

Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

"Amazing Grace"

UMH#378

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World