

All Saints Sunday – November 2, 2025

Call to Worship

We gather, with the company of the faithful:
**those who know the way to the kingdom
and those who are just beginning their pilgrimage.**

We gather, remembering the ones we call saints:
**those who made compassion their day job,
and those who have no day named after them.**

We gather, praising God for all who have shaped our faith:
**those who showed us the dance steps of heaven,
and those who taught us to play the instruments of joy.**

©2025 Thom M. Shuman. <http://lectionarylitanies.blogspot.com> November 2.

*Hymn

God we praise you for the morning

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Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Ancient of days, God of our everyday lives,
we praise you for your guidance and care in every generation,
and for the example of those who have gone before us,
who taught us your name and brought us to faith.
In the great mystery of your love, we know these saints gather
to praise and adore you for your wisdom that instructs,
your grace that redeems, your Spirit who guides us, and for
the comfort and hope we claim in the knowledge that neither death nor life
can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord

**Gracious God,
you have been faithful to us in every generation.
Yet we confess that we are not so faithful to you.
We shrink from costly discipleship and we seek cheap grace.
Forgive our fleeting enthusiasms and our shallow commitments.
And guide us always with the love and mercy
we witness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. 21st Sunday after Pentecost. November 2, 2025. Year C. All Saints Sunday.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Dear friends, while it is true that we have all sinned,
it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.
Be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another.

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Prayer for Understanding

God of the prophets and poets, the seers and storytellers of scripture, thank you for the ancient visions of your truth that still guide us. Send us your Spirit this day to open our minds and hearts to the word you have for us in our times, in the name of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

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Scripture Readings

❖ Psalm 32:1-7

- ¹ Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- ² **Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- ³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all the day long.
- ⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**
- ⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
- ⁷ **You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

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❖ Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus

¹⁻⁴ Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

⁵⁻⁷ When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home." Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?"

⁸ Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, "Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages."

⁹⁻¹⁰ Jesus said, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost."

[The Message](#) (MSG) Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by [Eugene H. Peterson](#)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Message Finding and Restoring

What are your preconceived notions about certain people? Are there people you know about that you have judged just through what you have heard about them in the news or through gossip? Maybe there are people who you have met or encountered that you think you have figured out.

It is pretty normal for us to settle on opinions about people known and unknown to us with very little information about who they are. Today's society, through all kinds of sharing platforms, seems to have given everyone the ability and even the right to say whatever they think and have it stick. However, this is not really something new, it is just more readily available and at our finger tips.

Zacchaeus was a man who surprises us as he does the crowd. Luke sets up the story wonderfully giving us and the crowd at the time all we need to judge Zacchaeus. If you look at the scripture you see all the descriptors needed to form an opinion based solely on looks and his position in the community. He is described as the head tax man and quite rich. Now in that time to be a head tax man and rich meant a few things not the least of which is that you worked with and for the Roman government. The government was not known to be kind or good, but rather using the people for their gain, ruling over them with power and authority. They expected to be respected and obeyed regardless because of that power.

And Zach is rich. It was common knowledge that tax collectors extorted more money than was expected by the Roman Empire. Tax collectors could get rich just by taxing people over and above, lining their own pockets. On top of this Zach is a head tax man which meant that others worked for him and he could rake off the top of many collectors. This made him despicable in the eyes of the people.

Lastly, Zacchaeus was short. In that time, it would have been a reason to laugh and ridicule him on top of everything else. Think about it, even now there are those who ridicule little people, just like society is apt to do to any one who doesn't fit into the molds that we have been groomed to think make people more acceptable than others. Zacchaeus is so short that he has to climb a tree to see Jesus.

So, this is the set up to the story...that along with the part about Zacchaeus wanting, for whatever reason, to see Jesus. We have no idea what has spurred on this desire to catch a glimpse of Jesus. We are not given any background on that. Nor do we have any idea how Jesus knew his name. Whatever back story there is there, those details are lost to us.

That means whatever is there is more important. What we do know is that Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus and Jesus did see him, called him by name and then Jesus invited himself to dinner at Zach's home. Now to sit at the same table with someone at that time meant that you accepted them, you say them as at par with oneself. Which is why the crowd that witnessed this exchange is indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?" They had all come to see Jesus and they were not impressed that of anyone Jesus could have chosen to have dinner with that day it was Zacchaeus who won the lottery.

In their eyes he was the most underserving. They had judged him by the way he looked, the work he did, and how they perceived him without knowing him. How surprised they must have been when Zacchaeus, upon hearing the crowd's disdain stammered out, not in anger or in power but apologetically, "Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages."¹

I have to say, he only admits to paying four times the damages if he gets caught, but the point is, Zacchaeus is not quite the cheat and scum of the earth that the people thought he was. He is actually pretty generous for a tax man. It makes me think of one of the news stories of the past week. The headline was, "Grammy-winning pop artist Billie Eilish called billionaires out on Wednesday, seemingly to their faces."² Quoting a CBC article, Eilish had said,

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from [The Message \(MSG\)](#) Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by [Eugene H. Peterson](#)

² [Billie Eilish calls out billionaires with Mark Zuckerberg in the audience | CBC News](#). Accessed Nov. 2, 25

If you're a billionaire, why are you a billionaire? No hate, but, yeah, give your money away, shorties," the 23-year-old said during a speech.

Eilish was speaking at the WSJ. Magazine Innovator Awards where she accepted the music innovator award. Shortly before walking on stage at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, comedian Stephen Colbert introduced her by announcing that Eilish will be donating \$11.5 million of the proceeds from her *Hit Me Hard and Soft* tour. The money will go toward programs for food equity, climate justice, reducing carbon pollution and combatting the climate crisis, Colbert said.

Eilish then took the opportunity while on stage to encourage others to do the same.

"We're in a time right now where the world is really, really bad and really dark and people need empathy and help more than kind of ever, especially in our country," Eilish said. "I'd say if you have money, it would be great to use it for good things and maybe give it to some people that need it."

"Love you all, but there's a few people in here that have a lot more money than me."³

Sitting in the audience were people like Mark Zuckerbuerg who is worth much more than Eilish. It would be interesting to consider how Jesus may have responded to those in the building that night, because, depending on which story you read in Luke, Jesus responds differently each time money is part of the story. Sometimes he tells the main character to give their money away, like in the story of the rich official who asked Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to deserve eternal life?" and Jesus responds, "...there's only one thing left to do: Sell everything you own and give it away to the poor. You will have riches in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Luke 18: 18, 20)

In this particular story Zacchaeus is not told that he has to quit his job or give away more money. There is no demand whatsoever on Zacchaeus other than to host Jesus for dinner. And the crowd notices big time. This is not what they expected. They had judge Zacchaeus and they expected Jesus to do the same, probably so that they would feel justified in their vindication of the man.

So, if this is not about money, what is the point of the story? Maybe it is about Jesus seeing people and people responding. Could it also be a story about how we judge and have preconceived notions about who is in and who is out, who is worthy and who is unworthy? The thing about the stories that Jesus tells, and the stories that are witnessed

³ Ibid.

and shared with the reader is that they are never just about one thing or another. There are always layers. There are the surface readings and then there is digging deeper.

This story is told for numerous reasons one of which is that people were seeking. The crowd was seeking Jesus, Zacchaeus was seeking Jesus, wanting to see Jesus, and Jesus sought out Zacchaeus. Jesus called him by name. I find this so hopeful. There is both the opportunity to look to and for Jesus in our lives and the promise that at the same time and maybe even before we realize it, Jesus is looking for us. Jesus wants to invite himself into our lives and is just waiting for you to see him too, regardless of our stature in life.

It is also the realization that who we think is acceptable or not is not the way Jesus looks at people. It is not about us. This story is about Jesus and that Jesus sees people, responds to them, restores them to themselves, the community, and to God. This is what happens in the most poignant verses of the whole story when Jesus says, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost."

To be named the son of Abraham was to say that Zacchaeus was a child of God. Jesus, knowing who Zacchaeus was perceived to be in the community, knowing that Zacchaeus was imperfect but wanting to be in relationship with Jesus, meant that first he would be restored as a child of God.

We know from reading the fullness of the Gospel of Luke, when Jesus comes there is always a response that turns people from what they were doing and becoming, responding with changing the way they live so that it is congruent with the relationship with God and their faith.

This story doesn't give us all that, but it is part of the whole story. This story is one that makes all of us stop and think about who we deem worthy of love and acceptance. Allows us to believe that all people, including ourselves, are worthy of God's love and grace. And helps us to see that inside of us we bear the image of God and that is recognized by Jesus. This is a story of redemption, acceptance, and hope. It is a story of rejoicing and celebrating. If there is a place for someone like Zacchaeus then all people have a place in the family of God as son or daughter, as a beloved child.

Thanks be to God for divine extravagance in love, forgiveness, and grace, in Christ, with Christ and through Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People

God who calls throughout the ages,
we give thanks that you have spoken to your people in every generation,
calling them into the light, showing them the paths of justice,
guiding them out of bondage into freedom.
In every age, you have called leaders to guide your people with courage and insight,
speaking through them to offer comfort and challenge.
We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit, who offers the gift of faith to us,
and for the ways that those who came before us have handed that faith on to us.
As we give thanks for all that we have received,
remind us that we are but a small part of your creation, its history, life and love.
May such a reminder keep us humble in our mission,
even as you call us to take up our place
in the ongoing story of your love with courage and creativity.

Hear our prayers, O God, for your church in this place and around the world.
Sustain and support the work of the Gospel.
Where the church is in physical danger, protect it with your Spirit.
Where the church is facing division, unify it through your love.
Where the church lacks courage to stand up for justice,
embolden it with examples of those saints who have gone before us.
Where the church lacks energy or vision,
renew its hope in the presence of Christ who is with us always.

God of the past, the present, and what is still to come
We thank you today for all those saints who have shown us how to love each other,
and for those who still touch people in trouble with tenderness,
caring for the sick, cheering the lonely, helping the poor.
In this quiet moment, we remember those around us who need a saint
to reach out to them in their need this day:

We consider and lift up those who have experienced tragedy and upheaval in these
last days due to the power of creation. Flooding, an earthquake, and Hurricane
Melissa have left behind a trail of destruction, infrastructure damage, and now
needed humanitarian aid. Make a way for help to come to those in crisis and may
governments, business, and individuals do what they can to help those in distress.

Give each of us the courage and compassion to be your saints alive today,
touching the world in Jesus' name, as we pray in the words that he taught us ...

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Invitation to the offering

When we gather as God's Church, we celebrate the gifts of so many others, for so many centuries, offered in Jesus' name. Now is our opportunity to join our gifts to theirs, so that God will be praised and Jesus' love will be spread in this generation and in those to come.

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There are various ways that people give to this congregation for our work as God's people, through signing up for a monthly donation, or sending an etransfer.

Check out the opportunities to support St. Andrew's ministry at our website, [St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay, ON – Part of the PCCWeb network of churches](#)

*Hymn

Help us accept each other

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Benediction

God has fed us on grace,
so let us go to share the kingdom with everyone around us.

Jesus has filled us with compassion and grace,
so let us go to be with others in the days to come.

The Spirit has poured hope into our lives,
so let us go to be a blessing to those in our world.