Kindred Spirits Worship
Sunday, November 1, 2026
All Saints' Sunday

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES

One:
Called to live with respect in Creation
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler and Newcomer people,
We acknowledge that the land on which we worship, work, learn and serve,
and the water which sustains life on this land,
is of God, Creator,
and in the farthest reaches of memory
was entrusted to the original peoples who walked this land,
and to their descendants.

One:
With the coming of colonizers,
treaties were made,
but again, and again the colonizers disregarded and broke the treaties,
causing grave and lasting harm to the historic caregivers of the land,
to the generations that followed them,
and to the land itself.

All:
Called to action for Truth and Reconciliation,
we who gather here on Treaty One territory
and the homeland of the Red River Metis
commit ourselves to finding faithful ways
of honoring the treaties, the land and one another
in a spirit of openhearted respect.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light this candle to remind us that Christ is present among us. Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world."** May Christ's light comfort us, guide us, and give us hope.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to remember those who have walked the journey of faith before us.
All: We give thanks for their lives and witness.

One: We gather to celebrate God's love that holds us through life and death.
All: Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

One: Let us worship the God of all generations.
All: We worship in gratitude, hope, and love.

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, thank you for the saints who have shown us the way of faith. Comfort those who grieve, strengthen those who are weary, and fill us with hope in your everlasting love. May our worship honor you and renew our faith. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN VU#705 For All the Saints

MOMENT TO PONDER

There was a young woman in New Brunswick, Canada, named Rebecca Schofield, lovingly known as Becca. In 2016, when Becca was just 16 years old, she was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Faced with a future she had not expected, she could have chosen to focus only on her own pain. Instead, she decided to encourage others to make the world a kinder place.

She started a campaign called #BeccaToldMeTo. Her request was simple: whenever people saw an opportunity to do something kind for another person, they should do it.

People responded in remarkable ways. Some helped strangers, others bought groceries for people in need, and many shared stories of kindness. Her message travelled far beyond her community.

Becca died in February 2018, at the age of 18. But her message did not die with her. People continued to perform acts of kindness in her memory, and many turned on their porch lights to honor her life.

A young woman whose own life was painfully short had encouraged thousands of people to make life better for others. Her story reminds us that the influence of a life is not measured only by how long someone lives, but also by the love that person leaves behind.

Today is All Saints' Sunday. We remember those who have gone before us: our parents, grandparents, spouses, friends, church members, teachers, and others who helped shape our lives.

Some of them may never have preached a sermon, written a book, or received an award. Yet they showed us what faith looks like through ordinary acts of love.

The question for us today is this: What kind of memory are we creating in the lives of others? Perhaps, years from now, someone will remember us not because of our position or possessions, but because we showed them kindness when they needed it most.

Let us take a moment of silence to remember someone whose life has blessed ours, and to ask ourselves: Whose life can I bless with kindness this week?

May we honor the saints we remember today by becoming a blessing to the people who are still with us.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:
Matthew 5:1–12, Revelation 7:9–17

CHOIR ANTHEM Amazing Grace

REFLECTION

HYMN VU#707 For the Faithful Who Have Answered

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS- A minutes silence

Prayer of Remembrance

Creator God, we thank you for those who have gone before us. We remember their love, their faith, their kindness, and the memories they have left with us. Hold all who grieve in your comfort and help us trust in your promise of life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has blessed us through the lives and generosity of many people. Let us share our gifts with thankful hearts so that others may experience God's love through us.

DOXOLOGY VU#541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God, receive these gifts and use them to share your love, bring hope, and serve our neighbors. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN#460 All Who Hunger

<u>INVITATION</u>

Friends, this is the table of Christ's grace, and all are welcome. No matter who you are, where you come from, or what you carry today, you are invited to come and receive God's love. Here we are gathered as one community different in our journeys, yet united in grace. At this table we are reminded to live with kindness, to seek understanding, and to work for peace with one another.

GREETING

One: God be with you.
All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, O God, for your gift of love that brings us together. At this table, we are reminded of your wide welcome and your steadfast love for all people. You meet us with grace and invite us into deeper communion with you and with one another. With grateful hearts, we join in praising you, saying:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of life and for the faithful people who have gone before us. On this All-Saints' Sunday, we remember those whose lives have touched ours, those who taught us to love, those who encouraged our faith, and those whose kindness made our world a better place. We thank you for their memories, their examples, and the love they planted in our hearts. May their witness continue to inspire us to live faithfully and serve others with compassion.

We pray for your church throughout the world, especially the United Church of Canada, Immanuel United Church and John Black Memorial United Church. Help us remain faithful to our calling. Give our congregations the courage to welcome others, care for those in need, and serve our communities with love and justice. Strengthen ministers, church leaders, volunteers, and all who give their time and gifts to your work. May our churches become places of hope, healing, friendship, and belonging.

Loving God, we pray for the sick, the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, and all who feel forgotten and hopeless. Provide for their needs and help us become instruments of your love through practical acts of kindness and generosity.

God of peace, we bring before you our troubled world. We pray for people living through war, violence, persecution, and injustice, especially those affected by the war in Ukraine and the continuing violence and suffering in the Middle East. We remember families who have lost loved ones, children growing up in fear, and communities struggling to rebuild their lives. We pray for those who face oppression, unfair treatment, and the abuse of power. Turn the hearts of leaders away from hatred and violence, and guide the nations toward peace, justice, and reconciliation.

We pray for our community here in Winnipeg, for families facing financial difficulties, for newcomers adjusting to a new country, for children and young people seeking direction, and for everyone carrying burdens they find difficult to share. Help us to notice those who need encouragement and to offer support without judgement. Teach us to care for one another and to recognize the dignity of every person.

Let us take a moment of silence to remember those on our hearts and to bring our personal prayers before God.

Silence

Loving God, receive these prayers, spoken and unspoken. Hold us in your love, strengthen us for the days ahead, and keep us united with all your people in the hope of your everlasting kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night before he gave himself for us, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: **"Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

In the same way, he took the cup, gave thanks, and said:
"**This cup is the new covenant. Whenever you drink it, remember me."**

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Creator God, send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and cup. May they strengthen us in faith, unite us in love, and inspire us to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung VU#959)

THE SHARING

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all is now ready.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Creator God, thank you for meeting us at your table. May the nourishment we have received strengthen us to live faithfully, love generously, and serve joyfully. Keep us united with all your saints in the hope of your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN VU#710 Shall We Gather at the River

BENEDICTION

Go in peace, remembering with gratitude those who have gone before you in faith. May the love of God comfort you, the light of Christ guide you, and the Holy Spirit strengthen you to live with hope and compassion. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION Go Now in Peace (VU 964)

POSTLUDE