

**Astoria First United Methodist Church**

*22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*November 1, 2020*

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**All Saints Day**

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mary Frances**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

*“Shall We Gather at the River”*

**Stephen Morden**

**WELCOME**

**Pastor Michael**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Janet Todd**

As we think and ponder; as we reflect and celebrate, we remember the countless saints, especially those among our friends and family who have gone before us. As we consider their lives, we are aware that each life is for us a promise and a beacon of light in our darkness. Let us celebrate and honor their lives, even as we honor our Lord who gave his life out of love for us, and whose life we celebrate by sharing at this table of welcome, this table of plenty, this sacred meal of holy communion, reserved for all at this open table in which all are welcome, always.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*I Thessalonians 2:9-13*

**Janet Todd**

For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy, and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“Sons of God”*

**Stephen Morden**

## **UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSSION**

**Janet Todd**

Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. And because of this, you have a quarrel with us. Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be, people of justice and love and truth and humility. May we embracing our true identity, even in the face of the world's scorn and derision. **AMEN**

## **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Janet Todd**

God has called us and blesses us when we live God's ways and not the world's. God's love embraces us even when we fall short of what God desires for our lives and actions. Know that the God of blessing loves and forgives us with a fierce tenderness. And in so knowing, may our lives and souls be transformed. In the Name of Christ our Lord, you are forgiven. **AMEN**

### **GOSPEL LESSON**

*“Matthew 23:1-12”*

**Pastor Michael**

### **SERMON**

*“Leading, Serving, and Loving”*

**Pastor Michael**

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Mary Frances**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

*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***

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## **CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION**

**(Please remember to bring the communion elements of the bread and juice with you today)**

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### **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Michael**

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC  
as they join us for worship.**

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.  
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.**

**If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.**

**ASTORIA AND SEASIDE CHARGE CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 1, 2020 @ 2:00 PM**

**We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**

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