

A Service of Hope and Remembrance



**All Saints' Sunday, November 7, 2021
11:00 a.m.**

LaPorte United Methodist Church

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laportechurch.org

A Service of Hope and Remembrance

November 7, 2021

Loving people transformed by a loving God.

** (please stand if you are able)*

Announcements

Prelude
Smith

For All the Saints

Lani

Enter to Worship

On this wonderful day which is designated All Saints' Sunday, we have come to invoke the presence of God. We welcome with joy all worshippers. Remember with gratitude all who have been faithful to God throughout the centuries and specifically those LaPorte saints who have entered into eternal life during the past year. On All Saints' Day let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth who have led us to Jesus.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: We celebrate today the one who has released us from a life of darkness, who shares our burdens, and provides the way to light and life.

Leader: Please join me in prayer.

People: God of mercy, hear our prayer for ourselves and for our families who live with painful thoughts and memories. We ask strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.

*** Hymn**
UMH

We Gather Together

#131

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now ceases from distressing.
Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!
3. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

TIME OF CONFESSION

Communal Prayer

Leader: We have not believed you or trusted in your power.

People: *Lord, help our unbelief.*

Leader: We have stained our souls by our action and inaction.

People: *Cleanse us, Lord.*

Leader: We are broken by disease, bruised by the sins of others,
weakened and unable to repair ourselves.

People: Heal us, Lord.

Leader: We ignore your call to center our lives in you, and so are
deaf to the hopes and cries of the poor, the sick, the needy,
and the earth.

People: Ground us, Lord!

Leader: We fail when given opportunities to witness for the Lord,
but remain silent.

People: Strengthen us, Lord.

** Assurance of Pardon*

Leader: In the midst of our darkness and ignorance, the bright
light of God's love shines through, healing our anguished
souls. Rejoice, beloved of God, for God's love and
forgiveness are given to you this day. In the name of Jesus
Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven. Glory to God!

** The Peace of Christ*

Leader: Rejoicing in the love of the One who gives us life, may the
peace of Christ be with you today and always.

People: May the peace of Christ be with you today and always.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Romans 8: 18-27 NIV

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing
with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in
eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the

creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

*** Hymn** *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* #2051
TFWS

1. "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
2. I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light, you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

3. "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
4. If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun."
5. "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
6. When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."
7. "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old,
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold."

Isaiah 40:1, 25-31 NIV

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²⁵ "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 121

Leader: I lift my eyes up to the hills, from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

People: *He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep. Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

Leader: The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

People: *The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forever more.*

All: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

A LITURGY OF REMEMBRANCE

Lighting of Four Candles

First Candle:

Leader: The first candle we light to remember those persons whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their voices, their faces, the memories that bind them to us in this season. We hold them before God, giving thanks for their lives in ours.

Please take a moment to remember those who have died.

I invite you to name them, aloud or in the silence of your hearts...

People: *Lord, each of us takes our loved one by the hand and leads them to you, the God of love. Here we present them to you. Accept our love and thanksgiving as we entrust them to your loving care. We want our loved ones to be free at home with you. We ask that you save a place for us beside them. We ask that you fill us with motivation and energy in the days ahead*

when we feel like giving up; remind us often of our true homeland when we are caught up in the desolation of the journey. Help us to find joy in the people, events and the beauty of nature which surrounds us.

Thank you for the gift each of these people has been in our lives. We want to believe that we will celebrate the treasure of love with them again when we are all in your presence forever. May this truth sustain us in the days to come. Take our sad and aching hearts and comfort us. Comfort us, for we only feel hollowness and emptiness. God of sorrowing, draw near! Amen.

Hymn
UMH

It is Well with My Soul

#377

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Second Candle:

Leader: The second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs with the security they bring, the loss of health in ourselves or in family members, the loss of joy and peace in our lives from the stresses which surround us, the loss and loneliness we

experience when our loved ones do not share our faith. As we gather up the pain of the past we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands you will place the gift of peace.

Please take a moment to remember the losses.

I invite you to name them, aloud or in the silence of your hearts...

People: *God of mystery, we turn our hearts to you. We come before you in need of peace, grateful for the mystery of life and ever keenly aware of your promises of guidance and protection. We want to place our trust in you, but our hearts grow fearful and anxious. We forget so easily that you will be with us in all that we experience. Teach us to be patient with the transformation of our lives and to be open to the changes which we are now going through. Amen.*

Hymn
UMH

It is Well with My Soul

#377

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Third Candle:

Leader: The third candle we light for those who experience a loss of direction in their lives.

God of the Exodus, you led Moses and your people through the wilderness to a new land. Hear our prayer. We want so much to have a sense of direction, to know where we are and where we ought to be headed. But the darkness and the questions stay. You ask us to be full of faith, to believe deep within that you are our signpost, that you are our wisdom and our guide, and to trust in your presence. Your words to us are clear: "Do not fear, I go before you."

People: God of our depths, we cry out to you to be our guide. Help us to have a strong sense of inner direction and grant that we may have the reassurance of knowing that we are on the right path. Take our lives and use them according to your will. Take all that is lost in us and bring it home with you. Amen.

Hymn

It is Well with My Soul

#377

UMH

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Fourth Candle:

Leader: The fourth candle we light as a sign of hope, the hope that Jesus Christ offers to us. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

People: *O God, whose Spirit is known by those whose hearts are thankful, and who makes cheerfulness a companion of strength, lift up our hearts, we pray, to a joyous confidence in your care. Guide us when we cannot see the way.*

Teach us to know that a shadow is only a shadow, because the light of eternal goodness shines behind the object of our fears. Where there is love in life, teach us to find it; help us to trust it and enable us to grow in the power of love. So, may our lives bring comfort and encouragement to others. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ whose life is our light. Amen.

Hymn
UMH

It is Well with My Soul

#377

4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Homily
Smith

Carl

Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us now confidently ask our God for all the good things we need: For ourselves as we participate as special people coping with our many different losses. God, hear our prayer.

People: *For our families and friends, that they may continue to help and support us. God, hear our prayer.*

Leader: For any person we have loved who has died, for all the losses we know in our lives, that all may be redeemed by your promise of eternal life. God, hear our prayer.

People: *For our family and friends, that you may bless them with love, peace, and joy. God, hear our prayer.*

Leader: For peace throughout the world. God, hear our prayer.

People: *For a greater understanding of the lessons of love and acceptance as taught by Jesus our Christ. God, hear our prayer. And in your mercy, answer.*

All: *God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these your people. Grant to all, especially the bereaved and troubled ones, the blessing we ask in the name of Jesus, who taught us to 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,
And the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.*

*** Hymn**

Spirit Song

#347 UMH

1. O let the Son of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love.
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let Him have the things that hold you,
And His Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Refrain:

Jesus, O Jesus,
Come and fill Your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus,
Come and fill Your lambs.

2. O come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.
O give Him all your tears and sadness;
Give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Refrain

At this time, we acknowledge the LaPorte saints

who have died during the last year.

Jerry Vermilye

Linda Truxall

Ken Bodnar

We also acknowledge all those we hold dear in our hearts.

Lighting of Individual Candles

Leader: Each of us comes bearing our own hurts, sorrows, broken places. I want to invite each of you to offer your personal wound to the God who loves each of us deeply and wants to carry our pain. God waits patiently, gently calling out: "Give me your pain, come to me... all who labor and are heavy laden, I will refresh you!"

I invite each of you to come forward and light a candle. As you light the candle, remember that it is God who lights a candle in our darkness and holds us close until we are able to shine.

Leader: These lights in their brightness are only symbols, but as they burn and finally go out, we remember that suffering passes, though memory remains forever.

Sending Forth

We are familiar with darkness. We also know that we are illumined by the light of Christ. So, People of God, stand tall!

The Lord conquered death for all generations!

He is resurrected and is sitting at the right hand of God Almighty!

Stand tall, People of God, remembering that death is defeated.

When any saint departs, he or she is resurrected into a new life with
God.

Go in peace to experience God's daily resurrection in your life.
Amen!

*** Hymn**

Precious Name

#536

UMH

1. Take the name of Jesus with you,
Child of sorrow and of woe;
It will joy and comfort give you;
Take it then, where'er you go.

Chorus:

Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.

2. Take the name of Jesus ever,
As a shield from every snare;
If temptations round you gather,
Breathe that holy name in prayer.

Chorus

3. O the precious name of Jesus!
How it thrills our souls with joy,
When His loving arms receive us,
And His songs our tongues employ!

Chorus

4. At the name of Jesus bowing,
Falling prostrate at His feet,
King of kings in heaven we'll crown Him,

When our journey is complete.

Chorus

Benediction

* **Leader:** May the hope of our Savior Jesus Christ sustain us
through the shadows of life.

* **People:** *That together we may shine again. Amen.*

* **Hymn** *Let There Be Peace On Earth* #431

UMH

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Postlude *Trumpet Tune* Henry
Purcell

If you wish, you are welcome to take home the candle you lit.

(This service was adapted from one developed by Heather Hill.
She has given permission for others to use it.)

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The care you will receive is confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn how you – or a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative – can receive care, talk to Rev. William Baker, or our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Rev. Mark Vale and Sue Van Arsdale.

Staff

Pastor: Rev. William Baker

Organist: Marilyn Irwin

Youth Director: Stacy Goetz

Secretary: Beth Feliciano

Custodian: Donna Smith

This Week *Sunday, November 7 – Sunday, November 14, 2021*

Today

8:00am *Men's Study* (also offered via video conferencing – see online bulletin for link)

8:30am *Coffee Hour*

9:30am *Adult Sunday School* (also offered via video conferencing; contact Dave Van Arsdale information)

9:30am *Youth Discipleship*

11:00am *Hope & Remembrance Service* (also offered livestream & online)

3:00pm *MYF*

Monday, November 8

6:18pm *Prayer Group*

Wednesday, November 10

9:30am *Ladies' Bible Study*

Sunday, November 14

8:00am *Men's Study* (also offered via video conferencing – see online bulletin for link)

8:30am *Coffee Hour*

9:30am *Adult Sunday School* (also offered via video conferencing; contact Dave Van Arsdale information)

9:30am *Youth Discipleship*

11:00am *Worship Service* (also offered livestream & online)

Lay Readers: *Stephen Ministers*

Ushers: *Jon & Rachel Kisilewicz*

Announcements...

Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes are due this week. If you choose to fill your own and need a box, or would like to help put together multiple boxes, please see Cheryl Smith. We would love to send at least 25 shoeboxes this year.

Communion Sunday / Caring Cupboard Outreach

Next Sunday, November 14, will be our collection day for Thanksgiving food baskets. Needed items are boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, corn, green beans, gravy (mixes or jars), canned pumpkin, apple pie filling, cookie/brownie mixes, corn muffin/biscuit/roll mixes. If you would like to donate a turkey, please see Cheryl Smith, Barb Bodnar or call the church office and let Beth know. Thank you for sharing your blessings with the community!

Veterans' Day Recognition

If you would like to have a living person recognized for their military service in next Sunday's bulletin (November 14), please call the church office and let Beth know by Thursday, November 11. Thank you!

Ladies' Advent Bible Study

Starting December 1, the Wednesday morning Ladies' Bible Study will begin an Advent study entitled, "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem", by Adam Hamilton. If you are interested, please see Sue Van Arsdale with any questions or to order a book.

Socks Plus Drive

This year's "Christmas Caring Tree" will assist Neighborhood Alliance with their Socks Plus Drive. We will be collecting **NEW** socks, gloves, hats, and winter boots of various adult sizes for the homeless men **and** women of Lorain County. Boxes will be placed outside the church office for donated items. Monetary donations will also be accepted. The collection of items will continue through December 19. If you have any questions, please see Cheryl Smith.

Altar Flowers

Don't miss your opportunity to provide flowers for any of the remaining Sundays in 2021. Please use the sign-up chart on the bulletin board in the entryway. The flowers may be in honor of a birthday, anniversary, in memory of someone or just because.

Prayer List

Cheryl Smith (missions trip), Jim Baker, Stacy Goetz, Hagen (Stacy Goetz), Robert Dempsey, Neal Gimben, Adam Greenly, Norm Irwin, Art Smith, Beth Weil

The flowers today are in honor of Barb Shuster's granddaughter, Claire Anderson's 18th birthday.

From Pastor William:

Dear Friends and Members,

I would like to thank you all for the many gifts, cards, and kind words during Pastor Appreciation Month. Since my arrival in January of this year, I have found you all to be kind and caring people. It is an honor to serve God amongst such wonderful people. I am motivated and inspired by your kindness, thoughtfulness, and consideration.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor William Baker

LaPorte United Methodist Church

*Growing God's family through loving
community, passionate worship,
and life-changing discipleship.*