

All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Remembrance of Our Loved Ones

Reverend Magloire K. Kaneng
Roselle United Methodist Church
Roselle, Illinois

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

I Sing A Song of the Saints of God

I sing a song of the Saints of God,
Patient and brave and true,
Who toiled and fought and lived and died

For the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen
And one was a shepherdess on the green;
They were all of them Saints of God,
And I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
And His love made them strong;
And they followed the right for Jesus sake
The whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
And one was slain by a fierce wild beast;
And there's not any reason, no not the least
Why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past,
There are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous Saints
Who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, on the street
In the store, in church by the sea,
in the house next door They are the Saints of God,
whether rich or poor,
And I mean to be one too.

United Methodist Hymnal #712
Words: Lesbia Scott 1929 Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr. 1940



Loved Ones We Hold in Our Hearts Today



Todd Laird

b: August 5, 1979 -
d: November 18, 2025
Beloved Family Friend of
John & Cindy Sheely

Mary Lou Szydlowski

b: December 15, 1947 -
d: December 2, 2025
Beloved Wife of
Greg Szydlowski

Gladys Blum

b: April 1, 1926 -
d: Early 2026
Beloved Wife of
the late Wilbert Blum

Jerry Bennett

b: October 1957 -
d: March 9, 2026
Beloved Husband of
Sharon Bennett

Richard Holmes

b: May 21, 1942 -
d: April 23, 2026
Beloved Brother of
Roger Holmes

April Zink

b: August 25, 1966 -
d: April 27, 2026
Beloved friend of
Chris & Marty Wachna

Chris Gaydos

b: April 3, 1999 -
d: June 27, 2026
Beloved Nephew of Vicki Maish
and the Grandson of
the late Matt & Gail Maish

Steve Skridla

b: October 28, 1952 -
d: July 29, 2026
Beloved Brother-in-law of
Mary Ann Petersen

Judy Plock

b: April 10, 1940 -
d: September 13, 2026
Beloved friend of
Dixie Lingler & Karen Mazza

Christine Dawson

b: October 15, 1952 -
d: September 15, 2026
Beloved Mother of Sean Dawson
Grandmother of Nicholas Dawson

Dolores Lambatos

b: October 16, 1931 -
d: October 3, 2026
Beloved Sister & Sister-in-Law of
Claudia & Eugene Bartholomew
and the late Diane & Bill Crist

In an All Saints Day journal entry dated Monday, November 1, 1756, Wesley writes, "How superstitious are they who scruple* giving God solemn thanks for the lives and deaths of His saints!"

(*If your 18th century English is rusty, the word scruple means, "to be unwilling to do something because you think it is improper, morally wrong, etc.")

Those to Glory Gone

All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate our history, what United Methodists call the tradition of the church.

From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. In Paul's letter to the Hebrews 12:1 as Christians, we are encouraged to remember that a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on.

Charles Wesley, John's brother, picks up on this theme in his hymn, "Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above" #709 UM Hymnal. In the first verse, he offers a wonderful image of the Church through the ages:

> Let saints on earth unite to sing, with those to glory gone, for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven, are one.

On All Saints Day we remember all those—famous or obscure—who are part of the "Communion of Saints" we confess whenever we recite The Apostles' Creed. We tell the stories of the Saints "to glory gone."

Charles Wesley Wrote Hymns that Express His Theology

Alongside the likes of Paul from the New Testament, Augustine, Martin Luther, and John and Charles Wesley, we tell stories of the grandmother who took us to church every Sunday. We remember the pastor who prayed with us in the hospital, and the neighbor who changed the oil in the family car. We give thanks for the youth leader who told us Jesus loved us, the kindergarten Sunday school teacher who showered us with that love, and the woman in the church who bought us groceries when we were out of work.

Retelling these stories grounds us in our history. These memories teach us how God has provided for us through the generosity and sacrifice of those who have come before us. The stories of the Saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be.

Saints on Earth

Charles Wesley's hymn tells us those "to glory gone" are joined by the "saints on earth," whom we also celebrate on All Saints Day. We think of the inspirational people with whom we worship on Sunday, and those across the world we will never meet. We celebrate fellow United Methodists who inspire us, and those of other denominations whose lives encourage us. We give thanks for those with whom we agree, as well as those whose views we do not share.

Additionally, we remember and pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who faithfully follow Jesus in places where being labeled a Christian puts them in harm's way.

On All Saints Day, let us give thanks for both the Saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for the lives of His Saints.