



November 6, 2022, 10 a.m.  
22nd Sunday after Pentecost  
All Saints Sunday

Union Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203

[www.elkriverucc.org /](http://www.elkriverucc.org/)

[churchoffice@elkriverucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@elkriverucc.org)



## Welcome Rev. Sheri Nelson

Rev. Sheri Nelson is a Minnesota native, growing up on a dairy farm near Wadena. After high school, she went to college in Portland, ME, lived in the D.C. area, and worked for Petco in Southern California before returning to Minnesota. Sheri felt a call to ministry after working 18 years as a Pharmacy Technician. She is a 2017 graduate of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She served as Lay Pastor and Youth Leader at First Congregational UCC in Wadena and as Solo Pastor at First Congregational UCC in New York Mills. She currently serves as the Director of Outdoor Ministry of the MN Conference UCC. Sheri and her husband live in St. Paul with their 2 dogs and 2 cats. They have two children, Nick, 26, and Kristen, 22, both of whom live in St. Paul. Sheri and Derek are grandparents to 6 cats.

## Liturgical Arts Panels

We are blessed to have the wonderful panels created by Paula Benfer. She has graciously written interpretations which we will be sharing in the bulletin as the panels are put on display. Thank you, Paula, for sharing your insight with us.

The Liturgical season is green. Green is the color of life and growth.

Symbols of communion are the sheaf of wheat, the bowl of grapes, the bread of life, and the cup of forgiveness. IHS on the goblet is written in Greek. It stands for the first three letters of Jesus' name. It is often used in place of the cross. The cross form used here is a Celtic Cross. The letters Alpha and Omega are also from the Greek alphabet. They are symbols for the "beginning" and the "end."

# Welcome!

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.

We offer worship via Facebook Live broadcasts every Sunday at 10am. You can be here in person or participate virtually during, or any time after the service. Every Sunday, the service is recorded and broadcast on Facebook. You can contact the church at any time. See office hours below.

Please SILENCE cell phones during the service.

The wi-fi password is: stillspeaking1203



## VISION

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

*(Micah 6:8, (NIV))*

## ***Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Mission Statement***



*God calls us to minister to each other. This ministry goes beyond our congregation into the community, wider world, and to the earth itself. We seek to reach those in the margins of society, to empower the powerless, and to leave this earth a better place than when we each arrived*

## LIGHTING THE CANDLES


## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

*If you are in-person, we invite you to fill out the friendship pad to let us know you are here.*

*If you are worshipping virtually, we invite you to click a reaction button on Facebook to let us know you are with us.*



The  is located in the Vestry. (the room off of the sanctuary) Also, in the back of the sanctuary, is a table with items and bags for activities appropriate for the kids to work on and play with during the service. Children are welcome to sit at the table or bring the bag back to sit with parents.

## CENTERING PRAYER

God of every age and time, inspire us today with memories of saints whose energy still lingers, hovering around and within as encouragement and strength. Wrap us anew with a felt sense of your persistent presence, granting a new energy to offer You everything of our hearts, minds and souls. Yes, Love of Life, root us and ground us in this. And let it be more than enough for today, as we gather in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**\* We invite you to stand as your spirit or body is willing.**

\* CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP SPP 5 "Here in This Place"

A E/G#

Ho - ly one\_\_\_ may your pre - sence here\_ o - pen our\_ minds.

Dadd9(omit3) Dadd9 Bm7

— May your\_\_\_ Spir - it a - mong us help us to find

F#m C#aug B7

— you are\_\_\_ ris - ing up\_\_\_ now\_\_\_ like a foun - tain of\_\_\_ grace

Dadd9

— from the ho - ly ground. Here in\_\_\_ this\_

A Aadd9(omit3) Dadd9(omit3)

place.\_\_\_\_\_ Here in\_\_\_ this\_

A Aadd9(omit3) Dadd9(omit3) Dadd9(omit3)

place.\_\_\_\_\_ Repeat as desired Last time

Ho - ly one

A

Here in\_\_\_ this\_ place.\_\_\_\_\_

## \* RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from United Church of Christ: Book of Worship.

One: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Friends, we gather here in the protective shelter of God's healing love. We are free to pour out our grief, release our anger, face our emptiness,

All: **And know that God cares.**

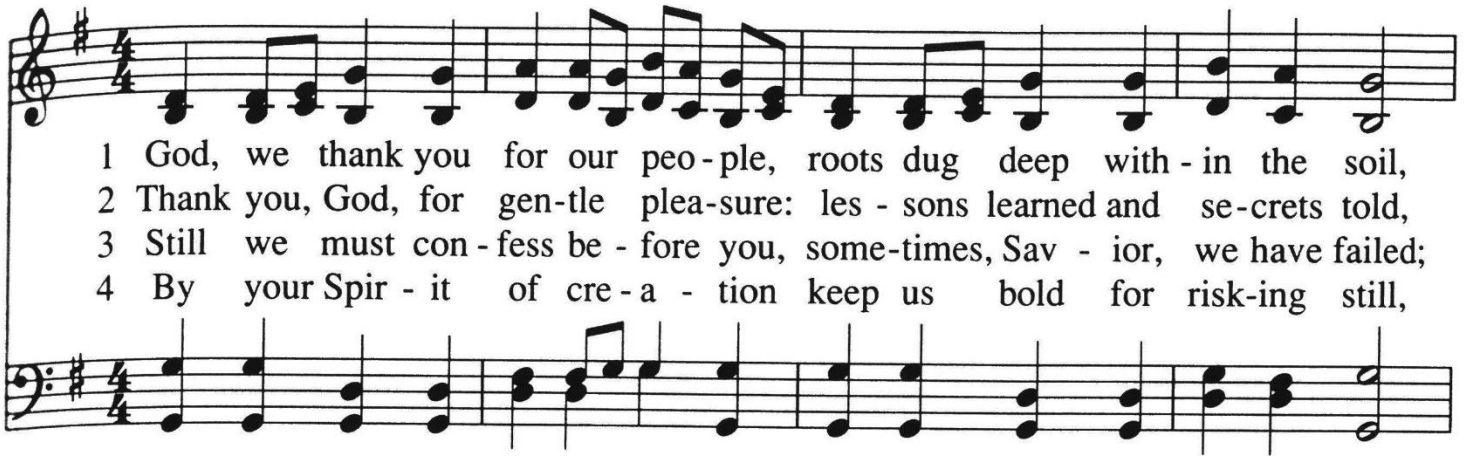
One: We gather here as God's people, to celebrate beginnings and endings and to be aware of how deeply life-giving and fragile our existence on earth truly is.

All: **We come to comfort and to support one another in our joys and in our sorrows.**

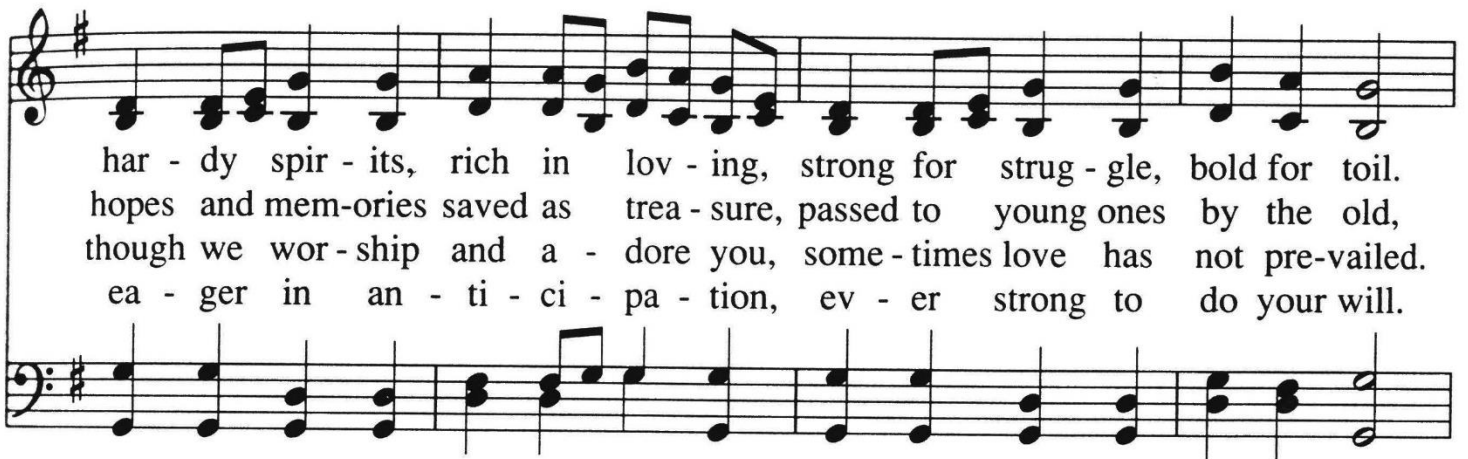
One: We gather to hear God's word of hope that can drive away our despair and move us to offer God our praise. We gather to rejoice in the stories made with our loved ones and to remember those who have gone before us as we celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection.

All: **For whether we live or whether we die, we belong to Christ whose presence is made known to us in this life and in the life eternal.**

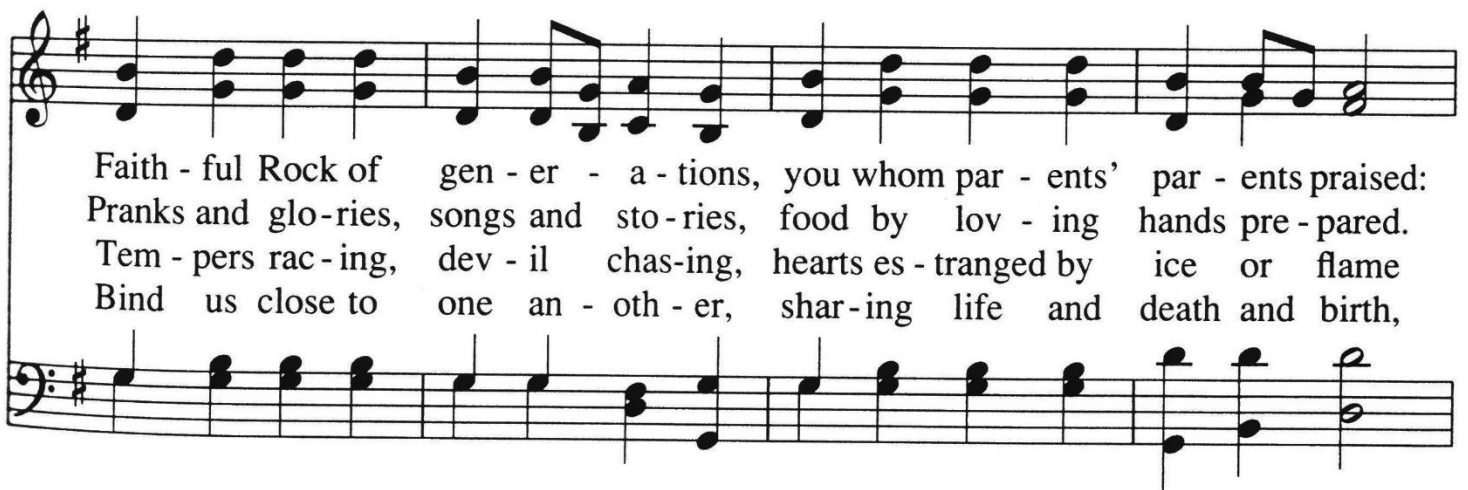
\* HYMN 376 "God, We Thank You for Our People"



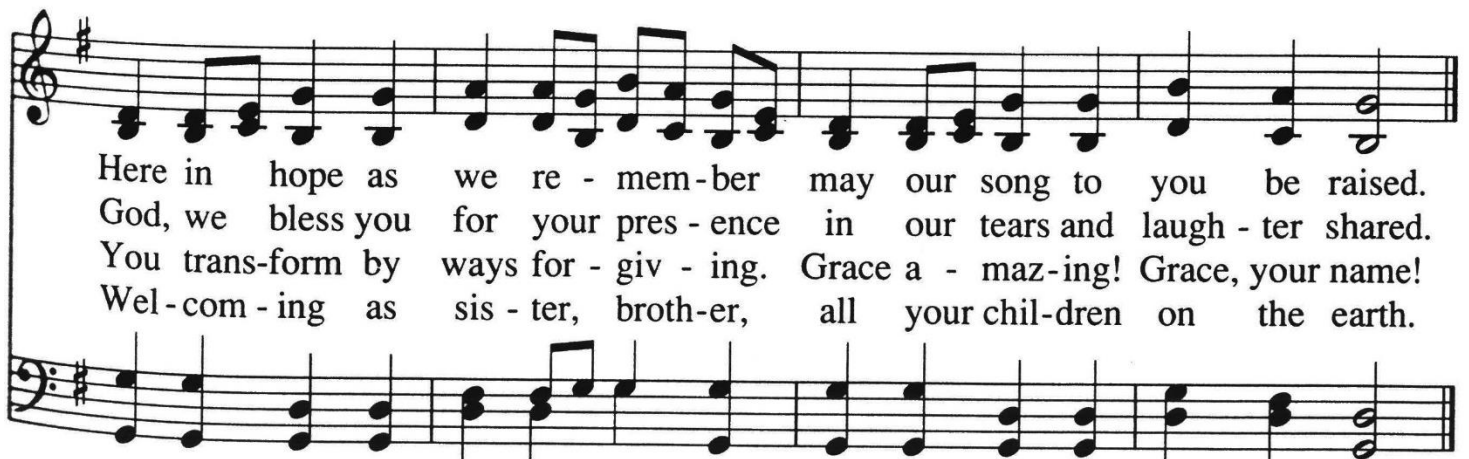
1 God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,  
 2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les - sons learned and se-crets told,  
 3 Still we must con-fess be - fore you, some-times, Sav - ior, we have failed;  
 4 By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,



har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.  
 hopes and mem-ories saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,  
 though we wor - ship and a - dore you, some-times love has not pre-vailed.  
 ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.



Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:  
 Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov - ing hands pre - pared.  
 Tem - pers rac - ing, dev - il chas - ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame  
 Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar - ing life and death and birth,



Here in hope as we re - mem - ber may our song to you be raised.  
 God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.  
 You trans - form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz - ing! Grace, your name!  
 Wel - com - ing as sis - ter, broth - er, all your chil - dren on the earth.



# LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PEACE PRAYER

## GREETING OF PEACE

In the same spirit in which we receive the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ, let us offer to one another our own sign of peace.

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also, with you.**

## ANTHEM

"We Are Called"

Senior Choir

by David Haas and Mark Hayes

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Pastor Sheri

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 6: 20-31

NRSV

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

"But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

\* HYMN 295 "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"



1 I sing a song of the saints of God, . . . . faith-ful their whole lives  
 2 They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov - ing that made them  
 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou - sands



through, who brave - ly la - bored, lived, and died for the God they  
 strong. They did what was right, for Je - sus' sake, lived just - ly their  
 still. The world is filled with liv - ing saints who choose to



loved and knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and an -  
 whole lives long. And one was a proph - et, and one was a priest, and an -  
 do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a



oth - er a shep-herd in pas - tures green: they were saints of God, if you  
 oth - er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is no earth-ly rea - son,  
 church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like



know what I mean. God, help me to be one, too.  
 none in the least, why I should-n't be one, too.  
 you and like me, and I mean to be one, too.



## READING THE NAMES/TOLLING THE BELL

### OUR TIME OF SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Notes:

### THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT (let us pray together)

Our Creator in Heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth  
as it is in Heaven.

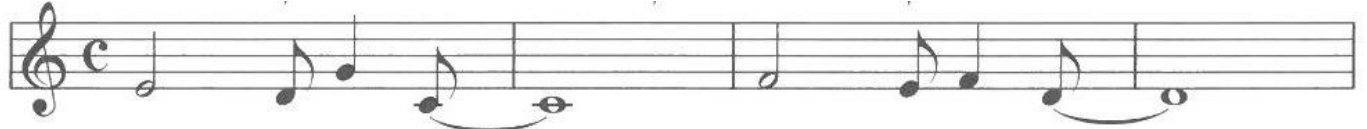
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory  
forever. Amen.

# INVITATION TO GIVE/RECEIVING OUR GIFTS

## \* **DOXOLOGY SPP 178** "Here Are Our Hearts"



Here are our hearts. \_\_\_\_\_ Here are our hands. \_\_\_\_\_



Here are our lives. \_\_\_\_\_ Use them as You can. \_\_\_\_\_ Show us those who hurt.



\_\_\_\_\_ Show us those in need. \_\_\_\_\_ Show us how to serve.



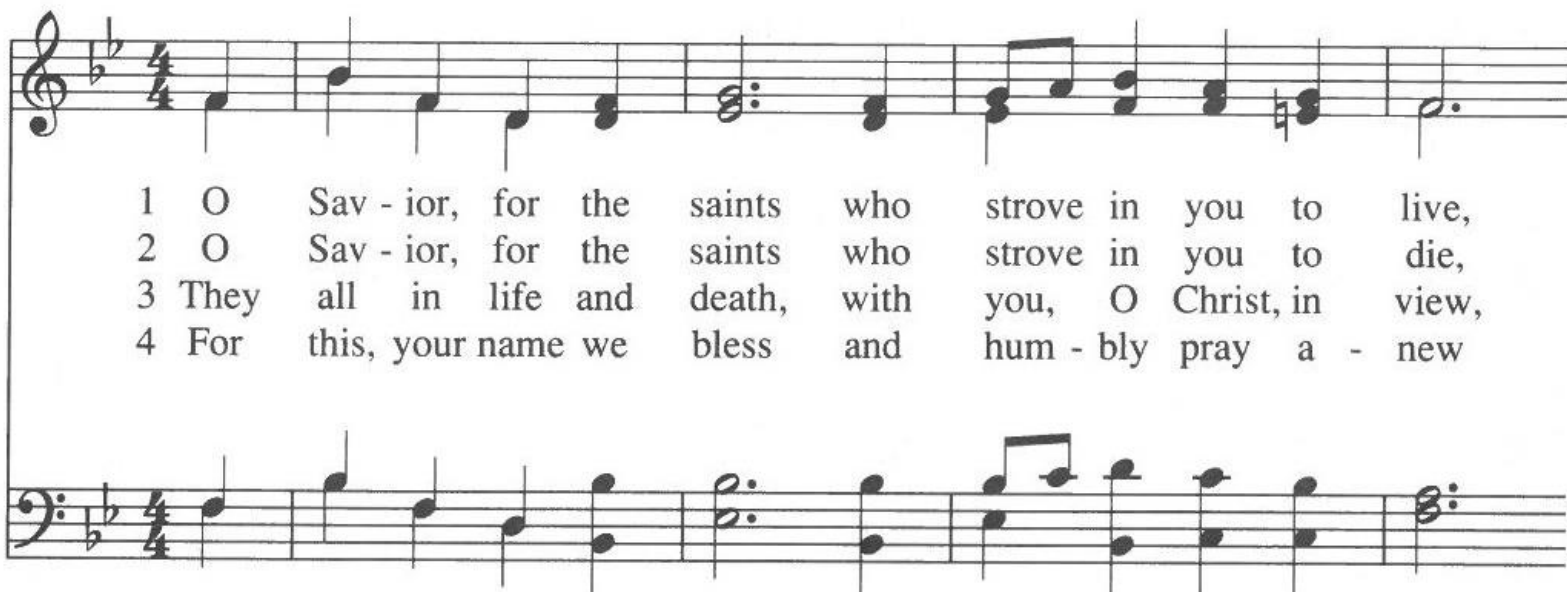
\_\_\_\_\_ Teach us how to see. \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS (responsive)

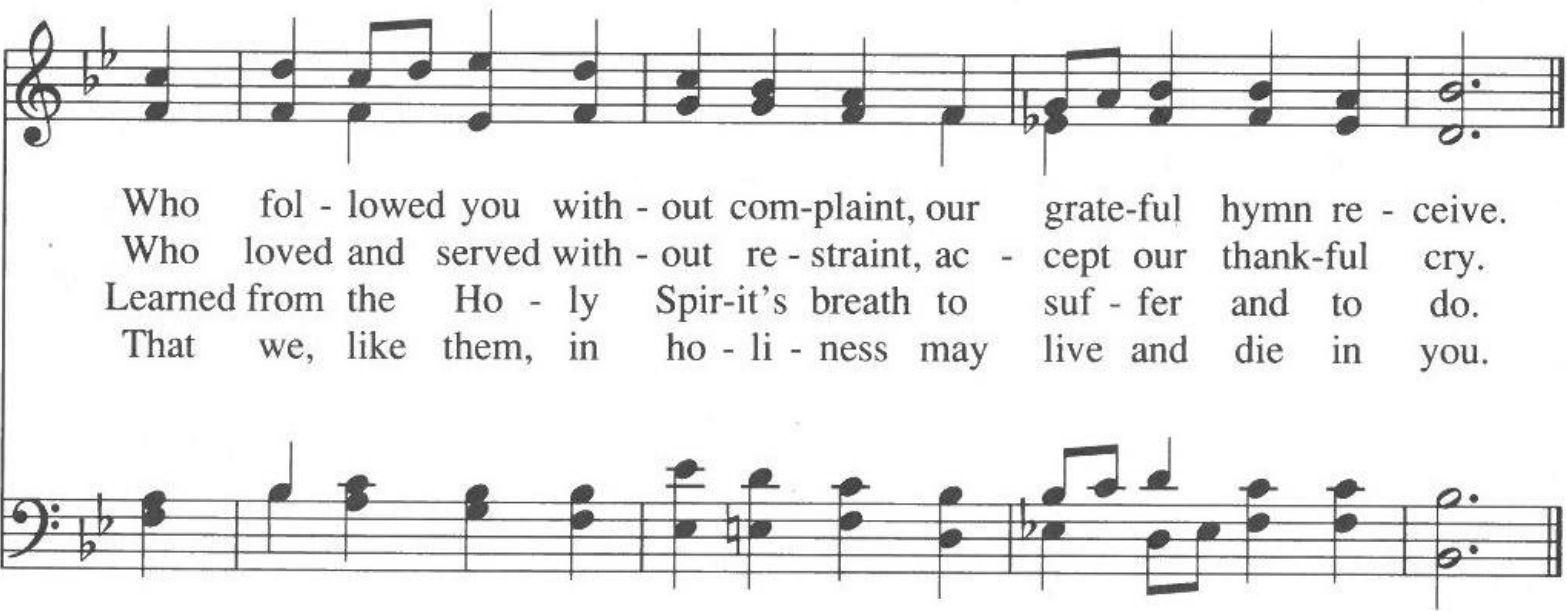
**One:** Luke tells us that Jesus introduced a strange kind of arithmetic. He said, when you give things away, you actually have more. Maybe it's that we get more of what we really need - freedom from the stuff that so often can hold us hostage, keeping us from a life that is truly free. The saints of old seemed to know this. So, we are invited to give not only because it helps others, but because by giving we are opened up to a fullness we could not otherwise have imagined. It is God's gift to us. May the joy of the saints be our joy today as we offer our gifts to God for the good of the world.

All: O Giver of Life, continue to form in us a transparent spirit that by our giving and our living others may discover You. Reshape our priorities and grant us a willing vision to see and respond to those hidden saints who reveal something of you in the least likely ways and in the most surprising places. Thank you for calling us into a life such as this and bless these gifts that they may bless others. Amen.

\* HYMN 298 "O Savior, for the Saints"



1 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to live,  
2 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to die,  
3 They all in life and death, with you, O Christ, in view,  
4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new



Who fol - lowed you with - out com - plaint, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.  
Who loved and served with - out re - straint, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.  
Learned from the Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.  
That we, like them, in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.

## COMMUNING WITH THE SAINTS

Come to the table as all saints have come, as God's people always do, with love, hope and grace.

Come to the table with your mourning - old or new or delayed - your celebration of memories, and your imagination of possibilities for times yet to come, because here you are welcome, in a weeping, laughing communion of saints, in a weeping, laughing communion...of us.

### Words of Remembering

There is a sacred story that goes way back, older than ancestors, older than anything here, to wind blowing over waters. God's love was in a garden, and a flood-drenched rainbow.

God's love was in a desert tent, barley fields for gleaning, a slingshot, a mythically big fish, and a new way of being in the wilderness. There is a sacred story that goes back to a mother in a barn, a foster father and sky full of angels foreshadowing new heaven and earth. We love stories, especially this one of the baby named Jesus, loved by a cow, the magi, and many shepherds, who grew up, healed people, told awkward parables, and made people angry.

At Passover, he broke unleavened bread. And poured wine for those who are still saints, although they slept when he needed friends. But the Shelter-in-every-place of Love gave that time full of death a hope of waking to Resurrection and an Emmaus of self- understanding. And so now we come, clothed in our own sad times, and our cloud of witnesses to hope - all the saints we have known, the saints we will know, and the saints we are. On this day, in particular, we celebrate and we remember:

This is the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## Prayer of Consecration (responsive)

One: Bless us and bless these gifts.

All: May the Spirit rest upon this time and this table, surrounded tenderly by our memories of saints as on sacred times and tables long ago, so that this loaf may be broken love, and this cup a well of blessing, for we pray in the words of our ancestors that we claim as our own.

Remembering the Last Supper

Sharing the Bread and Cup

## Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Spirit of Christ, stay with us where we stay, as familiar as our daily bread. Go with us where we go, full of love as the cup that has touched our lips. May we, your eager and sometimes awkward saints, carry in us a communion from which all can share - comfort for loss, courage for speaking, compassion for healing. We give you thanks for both the shelter and the road. Amen.

# HYMN 299 "For All the Saints"

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who to the  
 2 You were their rock, their ref - uge, and their might: you, Christ, the  
 3 Still may your peo - ple, faith - ful, true, and bold, live as the  
 4 Ringed by this cloud of wit - ness - es di - vine, we fee - bly  
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, steals on the

world their stead-fast faith con - fessed, your name, O Je - sus,  
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you  
 saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a  
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet in your love our  
 ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.  
 were their one true light.  
 glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 faith - ful lives en - twine.  
 gain, and faith grows strong.



BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

*Bridge Pastor: Rev. Sheri Nelson*

*Deacon: Lisa Cawthra*

*Office Administrator: Giuliana Beckwith* *Liturgists: Madelynn Rohs, Su Arnold,  
Joyce Riess*

*Piano: Carson Schneider*

*Greeter/Usher: Nancy & Bob Hassett*

*Interim Senior Choir and*

*Children's Time: Pastor Sheri*

*Handbell Director: Carson Schneider*

### Acknowledgements

All Saints Day Service Prayers were written by Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ. Worship Ways: Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/all-saints-day-november-1-2022/>

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### Church Materials

Copies of the Sunday sermon and bulletin are available in person or via Facebook, our website, and the UCC Squared Newsletter (email).

### Office Hours

Office hours for the church are Sunday 9:00am to 1:00pm before and after worship, Monday/Wednesday 8:00am-2:00pm, and Thurs. 8:00am-3:00pm. Call the church at (763) 441-1203 if you have general questions. If you need immediate assistance outside of office hours, please email - [churchoffice@elkriverucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@elkriverucc.org).

### Pastoral Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, an accident, or a death, please contact Patti Kubicka via text or call at 763-498-1196. You may also contact the church office though the response may take longer.

# HOLDING IN PRAYER

(Cards and calls are appreciated)

Please keep in your prayers our congregation members: Nancy Hassett, Musz Bailey, Jim Babcock, Bobbie Berg, Susan Olsen, Joanne Burdick, Ruby Cawthra, Jane Houlton, Marion Marcott, Cheryl Wold, Judy Halgren, Bailey Rosdahl, Jimmy Stevens, Dee & Jim Stevens (Jimmy's parents), Linda Fenton, Dave Halgren, Joan Axen, Marv and Nancy Andersen, Laurie Lazaretti, and Jim Kopperud, Tony Rohs.

**Reminder:** Cards are available in the church office.

## **Member Directory:**

The current online member directory is available on our website at <https://servantkeeper.com/directory/elkriverucc/login>.

The password is case sensitive: BeTheChurch

# SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEKS

## Sunday, November 6, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service In-person and live via Facebook with Rev. Sheri Nelson

All Saints Sunday  
Communion

Hospitality hosted by Diaconate

11:30 a.m. Group session with Sarah Lehman - All are welcome!

## Monday, November 7

6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting

## Wednesday, November 9, 2022

1:00 p.m. Centennial  
3:30 p.m. SARI Vigil Sherburne County Gov't center  
5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir  
7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

## Thursday, November 10, 2022

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Encore Ensembles  
1:00 p.m. Outreach & Justice  
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts  
6:30 p.m. Council Meeting

## Sunday, November 13, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship Service In-person and live via Facebook with Rev. Sheri Nelson

Hospitality hosted by  
Personnel & Stewardship

## Monday, November 14, 2022

9:00 a.m. Lefse-making

## Wednesday, November 16, 2022

3:30 p.m. SARI Vigil Sherburne County Gov't center  
5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir  
7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

## Thursday, November 17, 2022

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Encore Ensembles  
1:00 p.m. Outreach & Justice  
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts  
7:00 p.m. Diaconate

## Friday, November 18, 2022

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts



UNITED  
CHURCH OF  
CHRIST