

## GOING OUT AND COMING IN

### FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

NOVEMBER 4, 2018

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If Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, is the “birthday” of the Church,  
All Saints Sunday is its family reunion.

It’s not just the folks alive today who are at the reunion,  
it’s the whole shebang, everyone, everywhere, in every time.

In every parish, mission, cathedral,  
wherever 2 or 3 are gathered in Jesus’ name,  
today is a family reunion of lives connected  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Here today at our reunion

are Father Noyle and his sweetheart, Amy Florence Thompson,  
the first to get married in this sweet little country chapel in December, 1889  
back when the building was about half this size.

All the saints on all the plaques are here, such as Dr. Cummings,  
whose generosity enabled us to enlarge this space in the late 50s,  
and those whose legacy is literally under your feet, such as Barney Chilton,  
the Senior Warden and construction manager who made it all happen.

All the saints we’ve baptized into the household of God are here,  
from the first one, Anna Bender in 1896, to Jay Harvey just this morning.

Also here are all the saints to whom we have bid our final farewells  
and commended to the mercy of God, from Dabney Palmer in 1897  
to Sam Gehring next week.

And it’s not only saints from the past! Some are still on their way.

There are saints who will not be born for months or even decades,  
and others who will walk in our doors for the first time next week,  
maybe drawn by our new website,  
where we promise to welcome them as family.

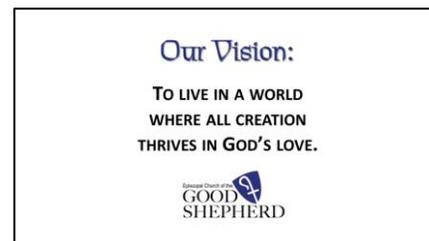
[Show [Welcome Video](#)]

Yes, if you had God’s eyes and could see the whole family  
in all four dimensions of height, width, depth and TIME –  
all time – you’d see this is actually a very, very crowded room  
full of people whose coming in, and going out,  
has always been and always will be under God’s caring, watchful eye.

All Saints Sunday, at our Family Reunion, is a great time  
to reaffirm what THIS family is about, our Vision, our Mission,  
as the beloved people of God.

Our Vision is to live in a world  
where all Creation thrives in God’s love.

That vision undergirds every decision we make  
about who we are and what we do.



Today's Collect and Scripture readings are at the end of the sermon text.

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Our Mission – the steps we take to live into our Vision,  
 Is to become who God created us to be by  
 Worshipping God, who is at the center, always.  
 With this God of Love as the center of our community  
 we can worship joyfully in the assurance  
 that Christ, the beginning and the end, is making all things new.  
 Our Mission next value is “Respecting All.”

This comes straight from our Prayer Book,  
 in the baptismal covenant, where we promise  
 to respect the dignity of every human being.

This parish is a place where we say,  
 COME AS YOU ARE. ALL ARE WELCOME. NO EXCEPTIONS.  
 We really mean it!

Now, there’s the old saying  
 that some people light up the room by coming into it,  
 and some light it up by going out of it.

That brings up another way that Church is like family:  
 you can choose your friends, but you can’t choose your family.

Whether we like someone or not, Church members are in the household of God.  
 Some members have lost their way and do violent, horrific things.

There are too many of those to name – the news is always full of them.  
 Without excusing them, we still to pray for God to heal and redeem them.  
 There is no one beyond God’s saving love.

Some members have changed the church, the culture, and even the world,  
 and not all of us like all of the changes.

Yet the Church, the Culture and the World don’t belong to us,  
 they belong to God, who is healing Creation,  
 who is ALREADY making all things new,  
 so our being grumpy and anxious is just a waste of energy.

Some members are truly saints, whether known to many or only a handful,  
 whose lives are perfect mirrors of the heart of Jesus.

The Church, the “Big C” Church, is a place for all of them, all of us.

We come to be forgiven and healed, we come to learn and grow,  
 we come to be transformed, day by day, into the Body of Christ in the world.

Today, we welcome[d] Jay Francis Harvey  
 into the Big C Church and the household of God through baptism,  
 where he became a new creation.

And we will welcome 15 people into our Parish family as new members,  
 each one a beloved gift from God

Our third value in our Mission is Sharing Generously.

We really know how to do that! Just this week,  
 a child’s tears were dried when they got to choose from  
 the hundreds of hundreds of pairs of socks we brought in last week.  
 A father’s worry over how to feed his family  
 will be eased at Dunedin Cares.

Cindy, on behalf of the Parish family,  
 we present to Dunedin Cares this check for \$1,478  
 that was raised last week at the Spaghetti Dinner.

Immigrant men, women and children who harvest our food will have  
 a blessed Christmas as we support the Farmworker’s Self-Help Ministry.



Our children's children's children  
 will have the chance to know this warm, beautiful,  
 uplifting place as a spiritual home  
 because of the generosity of the members of our Rod & Staff Society,  
 people who ensure the financial health of our parish  
 by leaving a gift from their estate to our Endowment Fund.

We'll be welcoming a new member today.

Our fourth Mission value for thriving here in this place  
 is to nurture every spirit.

That means, first, that we are people who proclaim hope –  
 hope to each other, hope to the world.

To have hope means to know our lives are connected eternally  
 to something, to SomeONE, worthwhile, beautiful, healing, and true.

When the Church, the Big C Church, is at its best, in its time and place,  
 it does on earth what God does beyond time and place:  
 everyone watches out for everyone.

Everyone does their best to save others from harm.

Everyone finds ways to preserve life and wage peace.

Everyone cares when we come and when we go,  
 not to be nosy buttinskis, but to be present to and with each other.

When the Church, the Big C Church, is at its best, in its time and place,  
 it does on earth what God does beyond time and place:

We help to carry each other's terrible burdens,  
 to wipe away each other's tears.

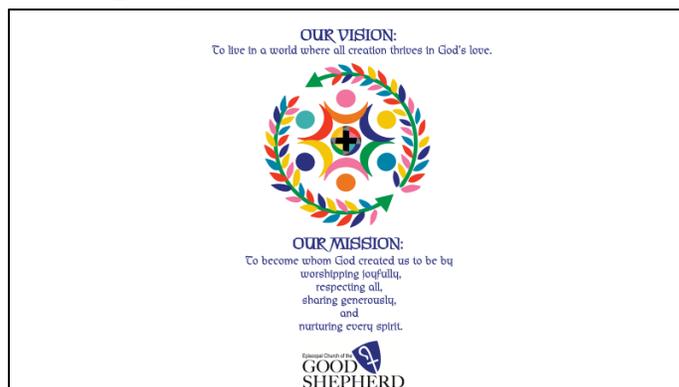
We gather to say those last goodbyes,  
 proclaiming our trust in the Lord of Life  
 who is coming into the world  
 and who will raise us on the last day.

We celebrate – we gather  
 for a foretaste of Isaiah's fabulous feast,  
 to be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

Which brings us back to the beginning:  
 no matter what is going on around us,  
 in the Big C Church we gather as a the household of God  
 and worship joyfully, respect everyone,  
 share generously, and nurture every spirit.

Most of all, in all of our coming in and going out,  
 we live in hope, in a Vision of how things should be,  
 can be, will be in this family of all the saints.  
 at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Welcome home. We're glad you're here!



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### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### ISAIAH 25:6–9 • PSALM 121 • •

On this mountain, the Lord of heavenly forces will prepare for all peoples a rich feast, a feast of choice wines, of select foods rich in flavor, of choice wines well refined.

He will swallow up on this mountain the veil that is veiling all peoples, the shroud enshrouding all nations. He will swallow up death forever. The Lord God will wipe tears from every face; he will remove his people's disgrace from off the whole earth, for the Lord has spoken.

They will say on that day, "Look! This is our God, for whom we have waited—and he has saved us! This is the Lord, for whom we have waited; let's be glad and rejoice in his salvation!"

### PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

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;**

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.**

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 for evermore**

### REVELATION 21:1–6A

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

### JOHN 11:17–27

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you."

Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, the one who is coming into the world."

### SERMON HYMN: *Sing with All the Saints in Glory*