Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – Nov. 1, 2026
All Saints' Day

We give thanks for the faithful witness of those who came before us, install the leaders guiding our journey ahead, and gather at the table of our Lord, where all God's people are unified across every age and place.

Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in ***BOLD.*** **Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.*

Worship Volunteers: Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Cathy German – Children's Message: Holly Bouthot – Communion: John Current & Cindy Bowers – Ushers: Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler – Tech: Stacey Monnier & Bill Werling – Counters: Stacey Monnier & Bob Bausser – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *Waters of New Life* by Keil

Welcome —

***Call to Worship**

Come, people of God, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses!
We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
From every nation, every generation, and every walk of life, God gathers a people of grace.
We are rooted in God's love and called to grow together.
Let us worship the God who was, who is, and who is to come!
With gratitude for the past, hope for the future, and faith for today, let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn — #172 "Blest Are They"**

***Call to Confession —**

Friends, we are surrounded by the witness of those who have gone before us, but we know that our own faithfulness is often imperfect. We have not always loved generously. We have sometimes forgotten the gifts entrusted to us. We have neglected opportunities to serve and failed to recognize God's presence in our neighbors. Yet God's mercy is greater than our shortcomings. Trusting in that mercy, let us confess our sins together.

***Prayer of Confession —**

Gracious and faithful God, you have surrounded us with examples of love, courage, generosity, and faith. Yet we confess that we have not always followed their example. We have held tightly to what is familiar rather than trusting where you are leading. We have sometimes forgotten those who came before us and neglected our responsibility to those who will come after us. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves and have allowed fear, pride, and indifference to shape our actions. Forgive us, merciful God. Renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and teach us to live as people rooted in your grace. May our lives bear witness to your love, and may the legacy we leave reflect Christ's goodness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon —**

Hear the good news! God's grace is not limited by our failures, and God's love does not end with our shortcomings. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and called into new life. The One who gathers the saints is the same One who welcomes us today. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen!

Song of Assurance #581 "Gloria Patri"

***Passing the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Children's Message

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, as we hear your Word today, open our hearts to the promises of your kingdom. Remind us that we are surrounded by the witness of those who have gone before us and strengthened by your Spirit for the journey ahead. May your Word comfort those who mourn, encourage those who serve, and inspire us to live faithfully. Through Jesus Christ, the living Word, we pray. Amen.

New Testament Reading — Revelation 7:9-17 p.1921

9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" 14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore, 'they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

16 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them," nor any scorching heat.

17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water." 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.""

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem — "The Church and the Sacraments"

Gospel Reading — Matthew 5:1-12 p.1501

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside
and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach
them. He said:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they
will be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely
say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in
the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message *Surrounded by Saints*

INSTALLATION OF RULING ELDERS AND DEACONS

Recognition of the Nominating Committee

Friends, on this All Saints' Day, we remember those who have served Christ's Church throughout the generations. Today we also celebrate those who are answering God's call to serve in the years ahead.

Before we begin, I want to recognize our Nominating Committee. Your work has involved prayer, discernment, conversations, and a willingness to recognize the gifts God has placed among us. Thank you for helping this congregation call forth faithful leaders. Let us express our appreciation for their service!

Presentation of Ruling Elders and Deacons

I invite our newly elected ruling elders and deacons to come forward. The Church does not belong to any one generation. It belongs to Jesus Christ. We receive the gift of the Church from those who came before us, and we are entrusted with its care for those who will follow. Today, we celebrate God's continuing call to faithful leadership.

Constitutional Questions and Congregational Promises

[Insert the official PC(USA) constitutional questions for installation of ruling elders and deacons, along with the congregational questions and responses.]

Prayer of Installation

Faithful and gracious God, throughout the generations, you have called ordinary people to extraordinary faithfulness. Today, we give you thanks for those who have answered your call to serve this congregation. Grant these ruling elders wisdom, humility, courage, and compassion as they participate in the spiritual leadership of your Church. Grant these deacons hearts attentive to the needs of others, hands ready to serve, and spirits grounded in your mercy. Remind them that they do not serve alone. Surround them with the prayers, encouragement, and partnership of this congregation. Root them deeply in your grace, that together we may grow in faith, hope, and love. Through Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Installation

[Insert the official PC(USA) declaration of installation.]

Charge to the Congregation

Friends, these leaders have answered God's call, but the ministry of Christ belongs to all of us. Let us support them, pray for them, work alongside them, and remember that together we are called to serve. May God bless the ministry we share. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** *(from A Declaration of Faith)*

We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ, our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ, God's Word of acceptance takes flesh: by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ, God's Word of demand is lived out: to love God and neighbor as Jesus did is what God requires of us. The Spirit

adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.

***Hymn of Response — #326 "For All the Saints"**

ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Introduction

Friends, today is All Saints' Day. Today, the Church remembers those who have gone before us in faith. Some were teachers. Some were parents, grandparents, spouses, children, and friends. Some helped shape this congregation. Others shaped our lives in ways that words can scarcely express.

They were not perfect people. They were people held by the grace of God, just as we are. And though we no longer see them, their love, their witness, and their faithfulness continue to shape our lives. Today, we remember with gratitude, with tenderness, and with hope.

Lighting of Candles for Those Who Have Died During the Past Year

We now remember those connected to our congregation who have died during this past year. As each name is spoken, a candle will be lit in thanksgiving for their life and in witness to the hope of resurrection.

[Read names slowly, lighting a candle for each person.]

Remembering All Our Loved Ones

We also carry others in our hearts today. Some died many years ago. Some very recently. Some were part of this congregation, and others were part of our lives beyond these walls. Their names may not be

spoken aloud this morning, but they are no less precious.

I invite you now, as you feel comfortable, to come forward and light a candle in memory of someone you love. You may also remain seated and remember them silently.

(Soft instrumental music during candle lighting.)

Prayer of Remembrance

Eternal God, we give you thanks for the great cloud of witnesses who surround us. For those who taught us to love, for those who showed us kindness, for those whose faithfulness helped shape our own, and for those whose absence we still feel so deeply, we give you thanks.

Comfort those who grieve. Strengthen those who carry heavy hearts. And remind us that neither death nor life can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. May the lives we remember today inspire us to live faithfully, love generously, and leave a legacy of grace for generations yet to come. Until that day when we are gathered together in your eternal presence, hold us in your peace. Through Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our life. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

God of every generation, we come before you today with grateful hearts. We thank you for the saints who have gone before us, for the faith they shared, the love they offered, and the ways they helped shape our lives.

We pray for those who grieve today. For those whose losses are recent and for those who carry grief that has become a familiar companion, surround them with your tenderness and peace.

We pray for those who are ill, those who are lonely, those facing uncertainty, and those who feel forgotten. Remind them that they are

never beyond the reach of your love.

We pray for the newly installed ruling elders and deacons of Grace Presbyterian Church. Give them wisdom, patience, courage, and joy as they prepare to serve.

We pray for our congregation. May we be faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, not merely preserving what we have received but nurturing it for generations yet to come.

We pray for our neighbors, our community, and a world longing for peace. Teach us to bring compassion where there is suffering, welcome where there is exclusion, and hope where there is despair.

Time for spoken or silent prayers.

Faithful God, receive these prayers and those we carry silently. Root us deeply in your grace and teach us to love one another as Christ has loved us.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Friends, on this All Saints' Day, we come to a table that is larger than any one congregation, any one generation, or any one moment in history. We come to the table of Jesus Christ.

Here we remember that we are joined with the faithful of every time

and place. Here we receive grace that we did not earn. Here we are nourished for lives of love and service.

This is not our table. It is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites all who trust in him, and all who seek him, to come and share in this feast of grace.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God, Creator of heaven and earth. You created us for relationship—with you, with one another, and with all creation.

When we wandered, you called us home. When relationships were broken, you worked toward reconciliation. When we forgot who we were, you reminded us that we belong to you. Through prophets and teachers, saints and ordinary people, you continued calling your people to justice, mercy, faithfulness, and love. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the saints of every time and place and with all creation, singing:

#556 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ our Lord. In him, your love came among us in flesh and blood. Jesus welcomed the

stranger, ate with those others rejected, touched those others avoided, forgave sinners, challenged divisions, and gathered unlikely people around the same table. He showed us that love is more than a feeling. And when we failed to love, Christ loved us still.

Therefore, we remember his life, his death, his resurrection, and his promise to be with us always.

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup, saying:

"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

For every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes again. And we proclaim the mystery of faith:

#557 "Christ Has Died, Christ is Risen"

Gracious Holy Spirit, come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make us one with Christ, one with one another, and one in ministry to all the world.

Where relationships are strained, give us patience. Where wounds remain, bring healing. Where misunderstanding divides us, teach us to listen. Where loneliness takes root, make us a community of belonging.

At this table, remind us again that we do not belong to Christ alone—we belong to one another. Root us deeply in grace, that together we may grow into the people you are calling us to become.

Until that day when people from every nation, every language, every

place and every generation are gathered at your heavenly table, through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

#558 "Amen."

Family in Christ, this is the Lord's Table. Here we are reminded that Christ has made room for us, and Christ calls us to make room for one another. Come, not because you have earned a place, but because Christ has made a place for you.

Reminder: We are distributing communion by intinction.

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, we thank you for welcoming us to your table. Here we have tasted your goodness, remembered your promises, and been nourished by your grace.

On this All Saints' Day, we give thanks that we are part of your Church across every time and place. Send us now to live as faithful witnesses to your love.

May we honor those who came before us by loving those who are among us, and by preparing a place for those who will come after us. Root us in grace. Grow us together. And let our lives bear fruit for your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call to Offering

Today we remember those whose faithfulness helped bring us to this moment. We have received so much: faith, love, generosity, and a

church nurtured by generations before us. Now it is our turn. The gifts we offer today are not only for ourselves. They are seeds of faithfulness planted for people we may never meet. Let us give with gratitude for what we have received and with hope for what God is still growing among us.

Offertory — *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* by Converse

***Doxology — #606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

***Prayer of Dedication —**

Let us pray: **Generous God, all that we have and all that we are come from you. We thank you for the faithfulness of those who have gone before us and for the gifts they entrusted to our care. Receive these offerings as an expression of our gratitude and our hope. Use them to strengthen your Church, serve our neighbors, and plant seeds of faith for generations we may never meet. May our generosity reflect your grace, and may our lives bear witness to your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Announcements

***Closing Hymn — #366 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude — *For All the Saints* by Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Evening Bible Study: Ladies, we'd love for you to join us for Grace's very first evening women's Bible study this Sunday, November 1, at 7:00 PM at the Germans' home. All women are warmly welcome — whether you worship with us at Grace or not, you belong here, so please come and bring a friend!

Cindy Bowers will lead our time together, and Cathy will have snacks and beverages ready for us to enjoy. We'll gather at 502 Timberlake Trail, Fort Wayne, IN 46804.

If you think you can make it, please give Cathy a quick heads-up — and don't forget to bring your Bible. Need a ride? Just let Cathy know, and we'll happily help get you there.

Cathy would love to hear from you: 260-705-1843 - cathy@mccrackencamps.com

We can't wait to see you there!

Thanks to Everyone - Halloween at Grace: A report from our recent Halloween event will be shared shortly. Thanks again for all the donations and volunteers.

Deacons to Meet Following the Service this Sunday:

Pledge Sunday is Next Week, November 8:

Thanksgiving Mission Project: MOE is now collecting donations of food and cash for East Wayne Street Center Thanksgiving dinners for their food bank clients. This ministry has been serving the central city since 1965; they focus on strengthening families and individuals in order to help them become self-sufficient. The center has gratefully received our help for many years. The items needed are instant potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy, canned fruits and vegetables, cranberry sauce, Jell-o,and muffin mixes.

Cash donations are accepted to help purchase turkeys. Please make checks out to Grace Presbyterian Church and place in offering plate. Please place all food donations in the Narthex by November 22nd.

United Faith Food Bank in Need of Empty Egg Cartons and Grocery Bags:

Per Capita: Just a friendly reminder, if you haven't paid your $46.06 for 2026, you still can.

Prayer Requests

- Recovery and patience for Judy Bellis
- Peace and strength for Bruce Barnet during his cancer treatment.
- Your continued presence and healing for Sue.
- Healing for Jenny, JoAnn's niece, in her cancer treatment.
- Prayers for discernment and guidance as we vote.

Birthdays

Brian White – November 4

Carl Geist – November 7

Anniversaries
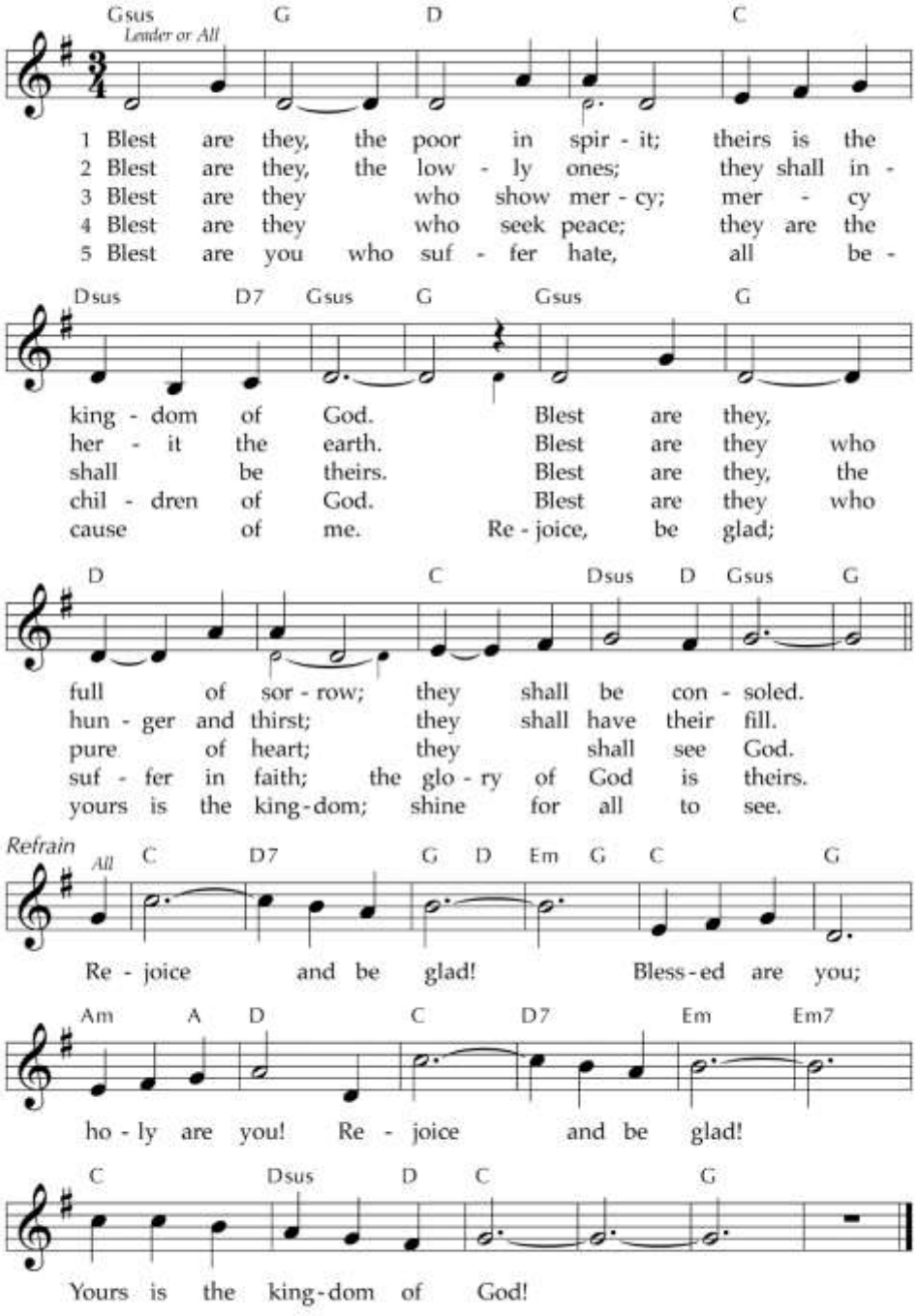
John & Nancy Current
November 1, 1975

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Worship Volunteers for November 8, 2026

Lay Leader – Jill Werling
Children's Message – Rachel Lilly
Ushers – Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler
Technology – Stacey Monnier & Bill Werling
Counters – Stacey Monnier & Bob Bausser

Blest Are They 172
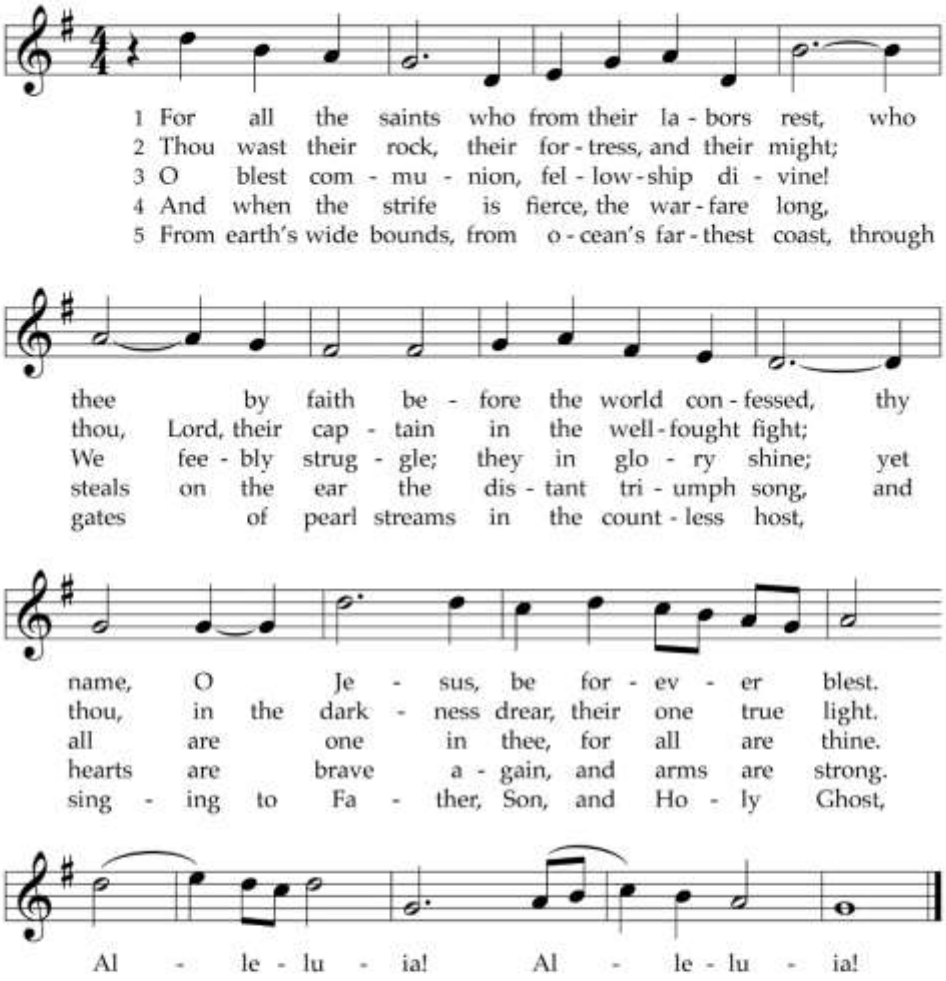


This hymn paraphrases the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12), the opening portion of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Similar words of blessing also occur in the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20–23). Both sets of sayings reverse worldly values and offer a new understanding of God's ways.

TEXT: David Haas, 1985
MUSIC: David Haas, 1985; arr. David Haas and Michael Joncas, 1985
Text and Music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

BLEST ARE THEY
Irregular

THE CHURCH

326 For All the Saints
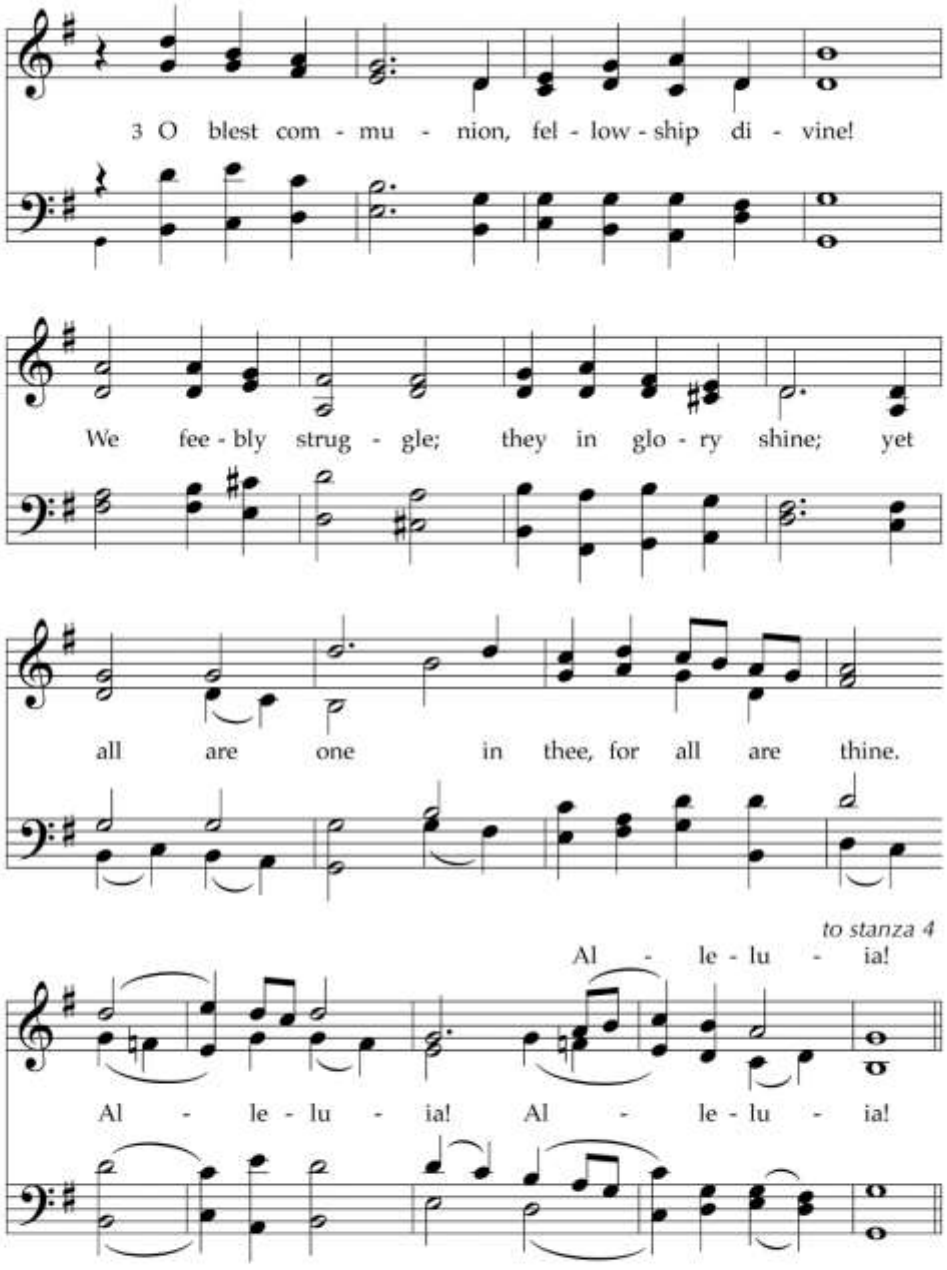


The broad and sweeping tune with which this hymn is so closely identified was created to be sung during a reverent but dramatic procession at the beginning of an All Saints' Day service, an enacted representation of the enduring "fellowship divine" celebrated by this text.
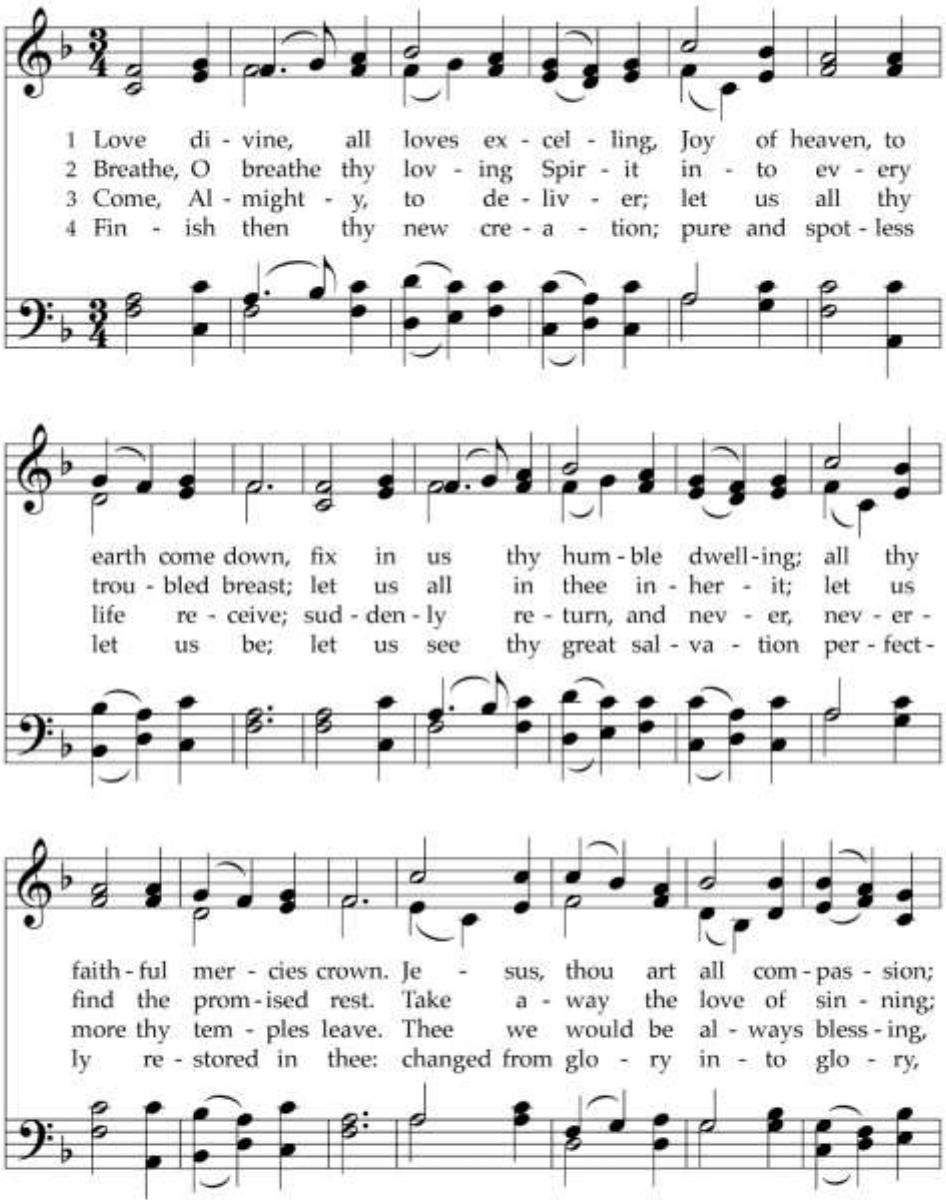
TEXT: William Walsham How, 1864
MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

SINE NOMINE
10.10.10 with alleluias

Harmony, stanza 3
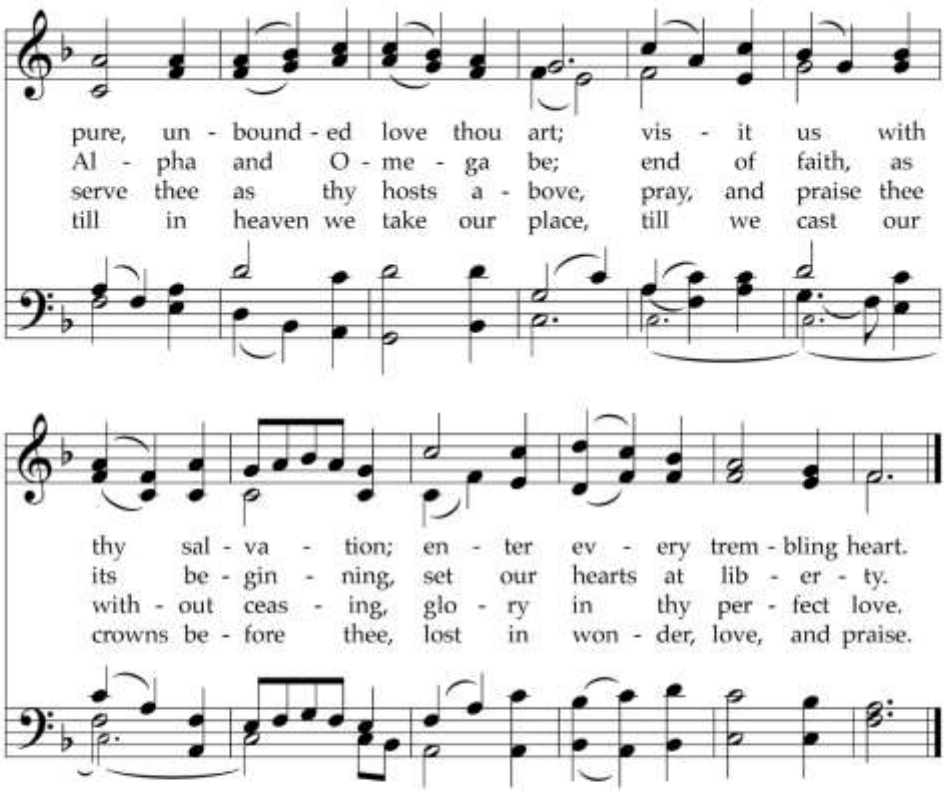


366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D



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