

REFLECTION NOVEMBER 2ND 2025 “ALL SAINTS DAY”

What a great day today is. We've come from far and wide to sit together, reflect together and remember loved ones together. On this special day we know as All Saints Day it's an opportunity to reflect deeply on the nature of our faith, the legacy of the saints, and those who we've shared part of our lives with who are now physically gone from us. The intertwining themes found in our reading from the Psalms and Ephesians create the pathway for remembrance and celebration today.

David's psalm begins with an invitation, a call to worship to sing to the Lord a new song. This calls us to meet in a place together where we can express our joy and gratitude. As we gather together, we echo the voices of the saints who have come before us, those who have lived lives of faith, love, and service. In this moment, we recognise that our coming together is a continuation of their legacy. Their songs, hopes, and prayers echo through time, urging us to lift our voices in unity. Today we also recognise that we are the living saints mentioned in Paul's letters to those who lived in Philippi and Corinth, as well as being mentioned in in 1Thessalonians and in the book of Revelations.

Psalm 149 also speaks of the beauty of God's gathered community rejoicing in our Creator God and our delight in the very essence of who God is notwithstanding God's characteristics and purpose for our lives. During our time of remembrance, we honour not only the lives of those we love and miss, we also remember the joyful sounds of laughter, the cups of tea, coffee or beers shared together and the many other activities a shared life brings together.

Each saint we reflect on has contributed to our understanding of faith, embodying courage, compassion, and perseverance. As we

celebrate their memories, let our hearts be filled with joy as we recognise how God worked through them, crafting a beautiful tapestry of faithfulness and love that inspires us to continue in their footsteps.

As we turn to Paul we hear the richness of our identity in Christ; the one on whom we model ourselves and how we interact with those we love and those who we share our communities with. Paul's words remind us that we have been chosen, all of us have been chosen, and marked by God's purpose, and granted an inheritance in God. We're not just isolated individuals; we are part of a larger body – Christ's church, dispersed across time and space. Paul places an emphasis on our Christian identity which is inseparable from the community of saints – those present and those who have passed from this world and taken breaths of new beginnings in God's heavenly kingdom. We who are left behind until our time comes are imbued with the hope and power that comes from knowing that the same God who raised Christ from the dead is now actively at work in us.

As we remember all the saints today, we also reflect on the implications of our shared calling. We are reminded that we are called not only to remember, but also to act. The saints in our lives have shown us what it means to love selflessly, to serve diligently, and to lead faithfully. Today, let's recommit ourselves to living out the fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We are summoned to be active participants in God's work in the world, utilising our gifts and talents to serve others and proclaim Christ's love for the world.

Paul places a great deal of importance on the greatness of God's power in Christ, declaring that He has been exalted above all things. This serves as a reminder that our hope lies not in our achievement or performance but in Christ's eternal reign. He holds the ultimate authority and provides us with strength and guidance as we navigate our own journeys of faith.

As we continue to celebrate All Saints Day today, may we be united in prayer and celebration, giving thanks for the legacy of the saints while reaffirming our commitment to follow in their footsteps. May we sing to the Lord a new song reflecting the love we have for those who have guided us and inspired us. In doing so, we not only honour their memories but also affirm the beautiful, ongoing story of faith that connects each of us. May the joy of God's presence fill our hearts as we live out our calling, together as one body in Christ.

Amen