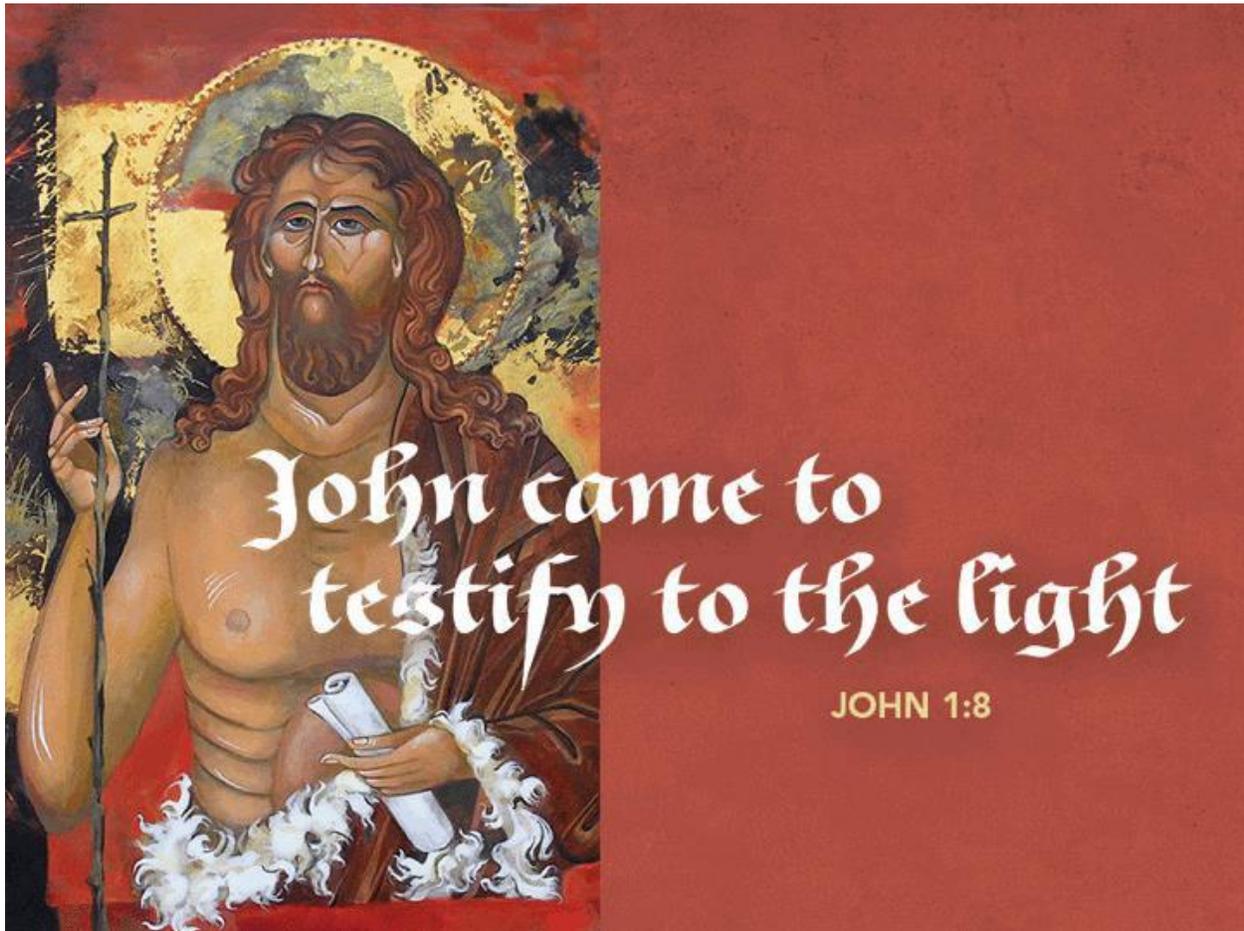


Third Sunday of Advent
ELW Holy Communion Setting One
Sunday, December 13, 2020



All Saints Lutheran Church, ELCA

722 Rockbridge Road SW

Lilburn, GA 30047

Rev. Dr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Interim Pastor

John Womack, Director of Music and Organist

www.allsaintsilburn.org

Introduction to the day

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

---GATHERING---

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ZOOM NARTHEX TIME

9:50-10:05 am

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisette Branscomb
Congregational President

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

**Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.**

Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God’s endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God’s love,

† comforted by Christ’s peace,

and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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GREETING (ELW p. 98)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 102)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

John Womack

Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.

Let us pray.

Amy Cauble

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,
**let us travel on God’s holy way
and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

---WORD---

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Amy Cauble

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 126

John Womack

The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.
²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great | things for them.”
³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.
⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R
⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.
⁶Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. R

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**Amy Cauble**

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.*

Alleluia. (Matt. 11:10)

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"
as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON**Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

Each Winter As the Year Grows Older



1 Each win-ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
 2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
 3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
 4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
 5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
 war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
 death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
 north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
 pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
 scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
 we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
 kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
 new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.
 Music: CAROL OF HOPE, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Amy Cauble

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship, especially Pastor Ruth Hamilton and John Womack. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm (survivors of recent natural disasters may be named). Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy God, we pray especially for:

- Julie Boyer; Sharon Marion; Maddy Faass; the family of Genet Johnson.
- Charlene Meyer; Kathryn Stoner; Tom Miller; Joyce Holdrich; Jeff Smith.
- Buster Lanham; Keith Kessler and family; Cindy Murphy; Robert and Betty.
- Jessica Kraus; Sister Roberta; Sandy Staven; Cherie Mason; Margaret.
- June Hix; Trudy Hanson; Sharon O'Connor; Gail Guffey; Hilton and Patti Austin.
- Marjorie O'Brien; Jerry Barnes; Jim Scobee; Charlie Kuni.
- Ted Haag; Leisa Wiggley; Officer Max Brewer; Rosie Marks; Marta.
- Steve Robinson; Margaret Robinson; Rick Robinson; Sondra Fowler.
- Chris Holdrich, Stephanie, and all healthcare workers.
- Bob, Ingrid, Sonya, and Connie.
- Richard Kraus.
- Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators.
- All Saints' Call Committee.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, we rejoice and give you thanks for the wedding of Meredith Lynn Jones (daughter of John Jones and Susan Holbrook) and John Wesley Turner. Bless their years together and help them to remember your presence in their marriage.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

---MEAL---

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/AllSaintsLutheranChurch1/general>

OFFERING of Bread and Wine

Preparing your bread and wine

All

OFFERING PRAYER

Amy Cauble

Generous God,
you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.
Amen.

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

+DIALOGUE (ELW P. 107)

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.

+PREFACE (ELW p. 108)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
Through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)

John Womack

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

+THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.
Come, eat and drink.

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond: Amen

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 112)

John Womack

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace unto life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Amy Cauble

Let us pray.
Gracious and abundant God,
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us
and open our hearts to the world's needs,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

---SENDING---

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING (ELW p. 114)

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

✠ now and forever.

Amen.

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

SENDING SONG

See Following Page

ELW 248

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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---PRAYER LIST---

- ❖ Julie Boyer, for strength and reassurance, diagnosis of breast cancer
- ❖ Sharon Marion, thanksgiving for a successful heart procedure
- ❖ Maddy Faass, for healing and pain relief from a broken foot
- ❖ The family of Genet Johnson (Blandon's wife), who have been caught up in violence in Ethiopia and have not been heard from for several weeks
- ❖ Charlene Meyer (mother of Sharon Marion) and Kathryn Stoner (mother of Mary Kay Kates) for comfort and peace living in a facility where there are COVID cases
- ❖ Tom Miller (father-in-law of Abby Yale Miller), for healing in recovery from a brain infection; physical therapy and rehab for 14 weeks
- ❖ Joyce Holdrich, monitoring high heart rate (Afib) condition
- ❖ Jeff Smith (cousin of Joann Rosselle), diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- ❖ Buster Lanham (brother-in-law of Angela Kates), chemo and radiation for inoperable Stage 2 pharyngeal cancer
- ❖ Keith Kessler & family (former St. James members), Keith was recently diagnosed with an incurable rare disease. Also for Sharon and Dave Anyan who have been friends with the Kessler family for 40 years
- ❖ Cindy Murphy, back surgery December 14; MRIs in early January to determine treatment for kidney issue
- ❖ Robert (nephew of Betty Bradford), recovery after surgery and other major health concerns; also for his 85 year-old mother Betty (sister-in-law of Betty Bradford), who is his caregiver
- ❖ Jessica Kraus (niece of Bruce Kraus), diagnosed with Stage 4 Hodgkins Lymphoma, prayers for strength as she begins chemotherapy
- ❖ Sister Roberta, for renewed strength and energy; she is grateful for everyone's prayers
- ❖ Sandy Staven, for relief from hip pain, waiting for a date for hip replacement surgery
- ❖ Cherie Mason, relief from side effects of chemotherapy
- ❖ Margaret (friend of Laura Trittin's mother Carol), stage 4 kidney disease; searching for a living donor
- ❖ June Hix, relief from difficulty walking, sinus issues and severe allergies
- ❖ Trudy Hanson, chemotherapy for breast cancer; radiation to follow
- ❖ Sharon O'Connor, health issues
- ❖ Gail Guffey, mother-in-law of Sandy (Cherie Mason's daughter), in hospice after suffering a massive stroke, now responsive and being considered for rehab
- ❖ Hilton and Patti Austin, for strength, comfort, and courage as Hilton moves into hospice care
- ❖ Marjorie O'Brien, health issues
- ❖ Jerry Barnes, for COPD and health issues
- ❖ Jim Scobee, recovering from heart valve replacement on October 21, prayers for patience and regained strength and energy
- ❖ Charlie Kuni, carotid artery issues
- ❖ Ted Haag (friend of Joyce & John Holdrich for 60 yrs), dealing with lung cancer, as he moves into hospice care
- ❖ Leisa Wiggley (friend of All Saints' quilters), for healing from pancreatic cancer
- ❖ APD Officer Max Brewer, now home, for healing and successful rehab and therapy
- ❖ Rosie Marks (Cherie Mason's sister-in-law), for her recovery from colon cancer surgery

- ❖ Marta (long-time friend of Rica Kelly), for healing from health issues
- ❖ Steve Robinson (brother of Rick Robinson) in rehab for diabetes
- ❖ Margaret Robinson (mother-in-law of Sandra Robinson), recovering from broken hip and falls
- ❖ Rick Robinson (Sandra Robinson's husband), for healing
- ❖ Sondra Fowler (cousin of Sandra Robinson), for healing after the death of her husband; thanksgiving that prayers are working and she is doing better
- ❖ Chris Holdrich (John & Joyce Holdrich's grandson) and Stephanie (friend of Joann Rosselle), for guidance and protection in their work as healthcare workers
- ❖ Bob (brother of Cherie Mason), Ingrid, Sonya, Connie – underemployed/unemployed
- ❖ Richard Kraus (father of Bruce Kraus), and others for reassurance and safety living in facilities where COVID-19 may be present
- ❖ Children, parents, teachers, and school administrators, for guidance, wisdom, and cooperation in making wise decisions for all
- ❖ All Saints' Call Committee, as they prepare the Congregational Profile and move ahead in the Call Process
- ❖ Meredith Lynn Jones (daughter of John Jones and Susan Holbrook) and John Wesley Turner, congratulations on their marriage in Austin, Texas on November 16