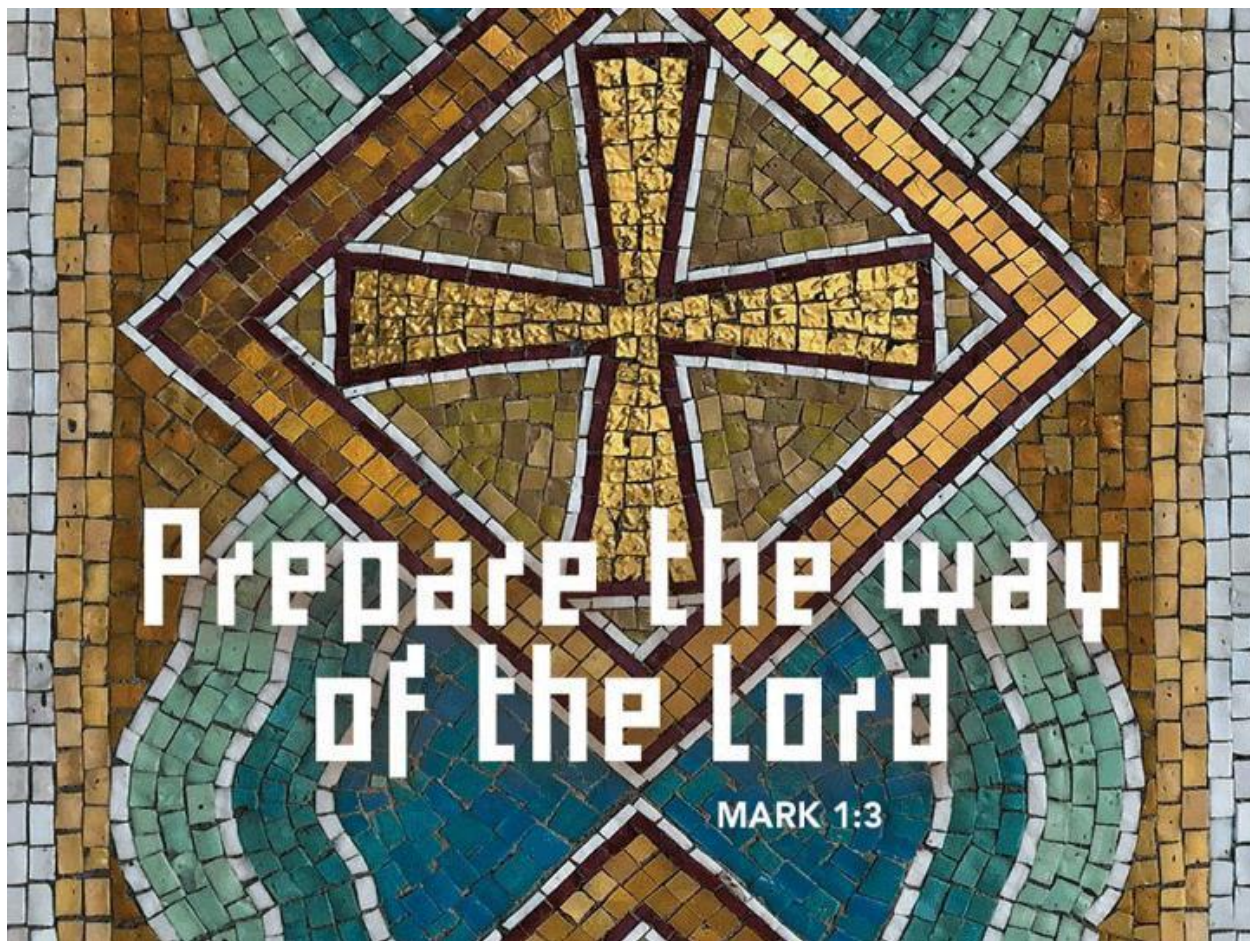


Second Sunday of Advent
ELW Holy Communion Setting One
Sunday, December 6, 2020



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

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

---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. 97)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to
 serve you with purified lives; 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 one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.

Let us pray.

Jack Branscomb

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,
let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

---WORD---

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

Jack Branscomb

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

John Womack

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.
²You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.
⁸I will listen to what the LORD| God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.
⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land. R
¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,

and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Jack Branscomb

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

A reading from 2 Peter.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

Alleluia. Prepare the way | of the Lord.* All flesh shall see the salva- | tion of God.

Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6)

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of

Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 256

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load,
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor,
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
 Music: FRIEDRICH SEHR, *Threizehn psalmen Davids*, Geneva, 1551

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Jack Branscomb

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

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace.

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.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work, especially Marie Zagaglia. Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

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

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

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

OFFERING of Bread and Wine

Preparing your bread and wine

All

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

Jack Branscomb

+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

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

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

Jack Branscomb

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 255

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Ruth Hamilton

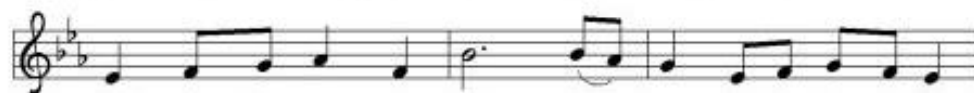
From sundaysandseasons.com.

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There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
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---PRAYER LIST---

- ❖ Julie Boyer, for strength and reassurance, diagnosis of breast cancer
- ❖ Sharon Marion, thanksgiving for a successful heart procedure this past week
- ❖ 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
- ❖ 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 in managing Hilton's cancer
- ❖ 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), for healing from ongoing lung cancer, undergoing chemo, prognosis is not favorable
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Comfort and peace for the family and friends of Marie Zagaglia, special mercies for Jeannette and Ray Sanders in their grief