

8:30 Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise

For All The Saints

Feasting on the Word: Invitation, Confession, Words of Assurance

Gloria Patri

Honoring The Saints with The Lord's Prayer

Liturgy by Bruce Prewer

Hymn of Praise

Offertory

Doxology

Sermon

Sharing of The Bread and The Cup

Prayer of Consecration for 2021 Commitment Cards

Hymn of Dedication

Benediction

11:00 Order of Worship

Gathering Song

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Worship in Song

Children's Moment

Offertory

For All The Saints

Honoring The Saints with The Lord's Prayer

Sermon

Sharing of The Bread and The Cup

Worship in Response

Prayer of Consecration for 2021 Commitment Cards

Benediction

Unison Opening Prayer ~ All Saints – UMH #713

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord. Grant us grace so to follow your holy saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which you have prepared for those who sincerely love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Traditional Service Liturgy Following Opening Hymn ~ Invitation, Confession, and Words of Assurance – *Feasting on the Word Year A*

Honoring of the Saints ~ by Bruce Prewer

Living God, in whom there is no shadow or change, we thank you for the gift of life eternal, and for all those who having served you well, now rest from their labours.

We thank you for all the saints remembered and forgotten, for those dear souls most precious to us.

Today we give thanks for those who during the last twelve months have died and entered into glory.

We bless you for their life and love, and rejoice for them "all is well, and all manner of things will be well."

We remember ... Lynnette Amundsen (light a candle)

We remember ... Richard Dale Campbell (light a candle)

We remember ... Carl E. Clingan (light a candle)

We remember ... Martha Lower (light a candle)

We remember ... Phil Stiver (light a candle)

We remember ... Carl Taves (light a candle)

We remember ... (a final candle to represent all those that are important to us that have died beyond this congregation - light candle)

Helen Bell Nichols Laurence Nichols

Marina Matibag Gatchalian Ricardo Gatchalian

Almighty God, we are mindful of all those who have gone on ahead of us. Teach us, and each present disciple of every race and place,

- to follow their example to the best of our ability;
- to feed the poor in body or spirit,
- to support and comfort the mourners and the repentant,
- to encourage the meek and stand with them in crises,
- to affirm those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
- to cherish and learn from the merciful,
- to be humbled by, and stand with, the peacemakers.

Let us clearly recognize what it means to be called the children of God, and to know we are to be your saints neither by our own inclination nor in our own strength but simply by the call and the healing holiness of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who taught us to pray, Our Father... **Amen!**

Responsive Reading Before Sermon:

One: 'The love of money,' we know, 'is the root of all evil'; but not the thing itself. The fault does not lie in the money, but in them that use it. Money may be used ill, but it likewise may be used well. It is true that if humankind were in a state of innocence, or if all people were 'filled with the Holy Ghost', so that, like the infant church at Jerusalem, 'no one counted anything they had as their own', but 'distribution was made to everyone as they had need,' then the use of money would be superseded. We cannot conceive there is anything of the kind among the inhabitants of

heaven. But in the present state of humanity, money is an excellent gift of God, answering the noblest ends.

All: In the hands of God's children, it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, clothing for the naked.

One: It gives to the traveler and the stranger where to lay their head.

All: By it we may supply the place of a husband to the widow, and of a father to the fatherless;

One: we may be a defense for the oppressed, a means of health to the sick, of ease to them that are in pain.

All: It may be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame; yea, a lifter up from the gates of death.

One: It is therefore of the highest concern that all who fear God know how to employ this valuable talent; that they be instructed how it may answer these glorious ends, and in the highest degree. And perhaps all the instructions which are necessary for this may be reduced to three plain rules, by the exact observance whereof we may approve ourselves faithful stewards. First—

All: Gain all you can,

One: without hurting either yourself or your neighbor, in soul or body, by applying hereto with ceaseless diligence, and with all the understanding God has given you. Second—

All: Save all you can,

One: by cutting off every expense which serves only to indulge foolish desire, to gratify either the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eye, or the pride of life. Waste nothing, living or dying, on sin or folly, whether for yourself or your children. And then—

All: Give all you can,

One: or in other words, give all you have to God. 'Render unto God,' not a tenth, not a third, not half, but 'all that is God's'... in such a manner that you may give a good account of your stewardship when ye can no longer be stewards...

All: Give all ye have, as well as all ye are, a spiritual sacrifice to him who withheld not from you God's Son, God's only Son; so 'laying up in store for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that ye may attain eternal life.'

- Luke 12:22-34
- (1) Gain all we can. (2) Save all we can.
 - Today we address the third and final step so that we do not stagnate as *two-thirds Methodists* (3) in our stewardship; the third step is (4) Giving all we can.
 - Wesley preached, “let not any one imagine that he or she has done anything... by “gaining and saving all one can,” if one were to stop here. All this is nothing, if an individual go not forward... [A human being cannot] properly be said to save anything, if he or she only lays it up [that is, stores it, stockpiles it, or puts it in a savings account]. You may as well throw your money into the sea, as bury it in the earth, [or under your mattress] or in the Bank.”¹
 - For Wesley, if you are not giving all you can, then you are wasting what you have gained and saved.
 - All of our gaining and saving is for a purpose; and (5) that purpose is giving.
 - Wesleyan scholar Ted Jennings writes, “The goal of diligence and frugality is the capacity to serve the poor. [In Wesley’s day, the *poor* were the socio-economic and educationally infirm. Today, the *poor* would include these as well as those infirm in relationship, opportunity, physicality, and spirit. Jennings notes] ...the willful reader may say: ‘Here are three rules, and if I obey two... well, two out of three ain’t bad.’ Wesley will say that two out of three will make you ‘twofold more the children of hell’ than you were before.”²
 - Near the end of his life, Wesley, who had seen Methodist Christianity grow from a tiny Holy Club to a rapidly spreading movement on two continents, reflected: “I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power... I fear, wherever riches have increased... [that] the essence of religion, the mind that was in Christ, has decreased in the same proportion... For the Methodists in every place grow diligent and frugal; consequently, they increase in goods. Hence they proportionably increase in pride, in anger, in the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the pride of life... So, although the form of religion remains, the spirit is swiftly vanishing away... What way, then... can we take, that our money may not sink us to the nethermost hell? ... There is one way, and there is no other under heaven. If those who “gain all they can,” and “save all they can,” will likewise “give all they can;” then, the more they gain, the more they will grow in grace, and the more treasure they will lay up in heaven.”³
- Wesley takes seriously the words of Jesus.
 - To be Christian is to give all you can, in response to God’s gracious gift to us.
 - (6) If we are Christians, if our lives have been changed by Jesus Christ, then not only will our minds and our worries be different, but our wallets and checkbooks and purses will be different, too.
 - Encountering God’s grace changes us; it is life-altering as it is life-giving.

¹ From “The Use of Money”

² (“Causes of the Inefficacy of Christianity,” VII:286) (Jennings 165)

³ (*Thoughts Upon Methodism, XIII:258, 260, 260-1*)

- God's grace motivates and enables us to (7) stop our worrying and (8) give to those in need.
 - Holiness is not the product of the force of our wills.
 - The call of a Christian is not a check list that once we satisfy all of the criteria that we have completed or attained holiness.
 - Holiness results as our entire selves are transformed by, saved, and brought to life through grace.
 - Our ability to live anew – to experience the treasures of heaven while on the terrestrial side of eternity – is gift of God – it is the gift of God's grace.
 - God's grace gives us the capacity, desire, and means to live in the likeness of God, which is to live showing the generosity of God.
- My preaching mentor, Tim Carson, gave me this advice – every sermon needs a (9) *so that*.
 - Until the *so that*, every sermon is either a speech or a soap box.
 - The hope in a sermon is that we receive all this information and hear a faithful interpretation of Scripture *so that* we can now consider this, feel that, or accomplish this for God and neighbor. (10)
 - For John Wesley, we gain all we can and save all we can *so that* we can give all we can.
 - Each time we give God **can** and **does** call us to **deeper generosity**.
 - There are endless ways that God has given us to offer back to God what is God's:
 - (11) If you give to the church;
 - If you patron Replenish Restore, Backpacks on a Mission or Angel Tree;
 - If you sponsor dinner for our youth group;
 - If you provide scholarship money;
 - If you invest in community arts, culture groups, or local schools;
 - If you're helping an individual or a family who is having a tough time;
 - If you walk, run, or bike in charity events;
 - If you plan to give more on Giving Tuesday than you spend on Black Friday and Cyber Monday;
 - If you include the church and/or charitable causes in your planned giving;
 - If you give a couple dollars or a Manna Bag to the person experiencing homelessness on your way to work
 - Each time we give God **can** and **does** call us to **deeper generosity**.
 - And if you are not giving all you can – if you realize that there is still room for growth – or even room to begin growing – do not despair.
 - We are stewards on a journey and God is not done with us yet.
- We gain all we can and save all we can *so that* we can give all we can.
 - Following these instructions frees, prepares, and enables us to give more to the poor.
 - Following these instructions ensures we will live as **whole-hearted holy followers of Christ**.
 - Following these instructions lessens the danger to our own souls: 'for those who have more tend to want more, and those who long for God's kingdom will be taken care of – just like the birds and the flowers.'
 - Where our treasure is, (12) there our heart will be also.
 - May our giving reveal that our hearts are with the poor, and our lives are daily witnesses of God's abundant grace.

Consecration Prayer for Stewardship Cards – adapted from BOW 639

O eternal God, mighty in power and of incomprehensible majesty,
whom the heavens cannot contain,
much less the walls of temples made with hands,
you have promised your special presence
whenever two or three are assembled in your name
to offer praise and prayer.

By the power of your Holy Spirit consecrate [our pledges of stewardship].
Bless us and sanctify what we do here,
that this place may be holy for us and a house of prayer for all people.

Guide and empower in this place by the same Spirit
the proclamation of your Word and the celebration of your Sacraments,
the pouring out of prayer and the singing of your praise,
professions of faith and testimonies to your grace,
the joining [of persons] in marriage
and the celebration of death and resurrection.

Save us from that failure of vision
which would confine our worship [and service] within these walls,
but send us out from here to be your servants in the world,
sharing the blessings of Christ with the world he came to redeem. **Amen.**

1 – Gain All You Can

2 – Save All You Can

3 – 2/3 with a big red X over it

4 – Give All You Can

5 – Our Purpose is Giving

6

7

8

9 – So That

10 – We **gain** all we can and **save** all we can **so that** we can **give** all we can.

11 – Collage with the words Church, Replenish Restore, Backpacks on a Mission, Angel Tree, Youth Group, VBS, Scholarship Money, Community Arts, Culture Groups, Local Schools, Helping, Charity Events, Giving Tuesday, Planned Giving, Manna Bag

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