



All Saints Day
November 1, 2026 - 9:45 AM

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

"To God Be the Glory"

W. H. Doane, arr. Paul Mickelson

CALL TO WORSHIP

*SONG OF WORSHIP

"Out of Need and Out of Custom"

TUNE: HOLY MANNA #647

**Out of need and out of custom, we have gathered here again;
to the gathering we are bringing love and laughter, grief and pain.
Some believing, some rejoicing, some afraid, and some in doubt,
come we now our questions voicing, we will search these matters
out.**

**Come we now our masks displaying, fearing that we shall be known,
foolish games forever playing, feeling meanwhile so alone.
Let pretension's power be broken, to be human let us dare;
let the truth in love be spoken, let us now the questing share.**

**We have heard the glowing stories of the things that God has done,
of the power and of the glory, of God's love in Christ the Son.
God of human transformation, for your presence now we pray,
lead us ever on the journey as we gather here today.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who gathers us in as we are—

For the ways we have become practiced at hiding behind masks,
reluctant to be fully known by others, **forgive us.**

For the times our assumptions, judgments, and pretenses
have kept us distant from one another, **forgive us.**

For the ways we have gravitated toward the comfort
of carefully curated relationships
and avoided the deeper, messier,
and more complicated work of true community, **forgive us.**

Please use this period of silence for personal reflection.

By your Spirit, O God,
**help us come just as we are,
laying down our masks
and daring to be human with one another
so that we may share openly
our delight and despair,
celebration and sadness,
hope and heartache.
In the name of Christ, our example, we pray. Amen.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Congregation, bless your children.

You are God's beloved child. With you, God is well pleased.

*SONG OF PREPARATION

"Bind Us Together"

**Bind us together within your love
Bind us together within your holy love
As we shared in our sorrows
We will share in your joy
Bind us together in love**

**Bind us together and be our peace
Bind us together and be our perfect peace
Though the tempest may rage
We will rest in your joy
Bind us together in peace**

**Bind us together and give us hope
Bind us together and give us endless hope
Though our tears were our bread
We will feast in your joy
Bind us together in hope**

**Bind us together and make us one
Bind us together and make us truly one
In your love in your peace
In your hope in your joy
Bind us together as one**

SCRIPTURE & SERMON

Matthew 9:1-8

Choosing Connection: Mutuality

INVITATION & INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

God of goodness and light, you spoke into chaos and called forth life, shaping stars and oceans, earth and sky, animals and plants. You formed us in your image and called us into covenant:

**to tend the earth, to care for one another,
and to walk in justice, kindness, and humility.**

Yet we have not always lived as your people.

We forget who we are and whose we are.

**We turn from your goodness,
and fail to reflect your welcome and mercy.**

Still, in your great love, you came to us—in flesh and blood, bone and breath—dwelling among us in Jesus to heal, reconcile, and restore.

For once we were not a people, but now we are your people.

Once we had not known mercy, but now we have known mercy.

And so we remember your goodness as we gather at this table of welcome, promise, and new life, joining our voices in song with the whole communion of saints—your beloved of every time and place:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

By your Spirit moving over the waters, at our tables, and within our lives, open our eyes to your love and stir our hearts for your world. As we share this bread and cup, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in service to all the world.

May this bread **nourish bodies worn and weary.**

May this cup **restore souls longing for hope.**

May this shared table **strengthen us to live as your people—
reflecting your goodness, extending your welcome,**

and embodying your love.

Through Jesus Christ, our living water and bread of life, we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to participate in communion. When prompted, exit toward the center to a serving station. Return to your seat via the outside aisles. The station to the far right is gluten free. Please raise your hand if you are unable to come forward so an elder can come serve you in your seat.

Elders also serve on the north and south sides of the balcony.

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING

"For All the Saints"

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who in the world their faith in God confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!
Called to Christ's service, now in glory shine.
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**With earth restored, on this our fragile star,
gathered together, pilgrims from afar,
we find in God a joy that none can mar. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

A PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*SONG OF RESPONSE

“Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table”

Tithes/offerings placed in the baskets at the entrance of the sanctuary are brought forward as a sign of our response to God's call on our lives.

Donations of food and offerings for FoodShare, a Second Reformed Church-Pella Food Shelf mobile food pantry, may be brought forward to the basket in the center aisle. Through FoodShare, friends of SRC pack and deliver bags of groceries for our neighbors in southern Marion County once a month.

Checks should be made payable to the Pella Community Food Shelf.

Look who gathers at Christ's table!

Hear the stories that they bring.

**Some are weeping; some are laughing;
some have songs they long to sing.**

**Others ask why they're invited,
burdened by the wrong they've done.**

**Christ insists that all are welcome.
there is room for ev'ryone.**

**Clouds of light surround the table;
ancient followers appear,
saints confessing how they wrestled**

**with their guilt, their doubt, their fear.
Christ the host who has invited
north and south and east and west
to converge around this table,
where all life is fed and blest.**

**Here we bring our joy and sadness
and prepare to be surprised
by the host whose hands are wounded,
who will open wide our eyes
when Christ blesses bread and breaks it—
signs of grace from God above—
then he shares the cup that wakens
in our hearts the taste of love.**

***BENEDICTION**

*SENDING SONG “My Friends, May You Grow in Grace”

The congregation is invited to stand and turn toward the center aisle, blessing one another in song.

**My friends, may you grow in grace,
and in the knowledge of our Lord, and Savior.**

**My friends, may you grow in grace,
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.**

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

*POSTLUDE

"Rise Up, Ye Saints of God"

William H. Walter, arr. Robert J. Powell