



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2020 MORNING MESSAGE

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TED LAND

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

Greetings in Christ Jesus!

For all the saints, who from their labors rest....

November 1 is All Saints Day. Last night was All Hallows Eve, the night before, like Christmas Eve is to Christmas.

Somehow, we Presbyterian folks and the rest of the Reformed Tradition didn't get the message about saints the same way the Roman Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church did.

I happened to be in a big Episcopal church in the Orlando area one year on All Saints Day. What a celebration!

They recognized all the church members who had died in the last year, baptized a whole year's worth of babies, had a parade of children from their church school, and celebrated Communion.

As a visiting pastor, I was the only one of several clergy without a clerical collar. I did have a silver cross on a chain. The baby I baptized that morning is the child of a couple I married in an Episcopal Church, and I confirmed the father as a Presbyterian, ordained the grandparents as deacons and elders, so I had some standing.

We will recognize the deaths in our church family on December 21, the Longest Night, a service of remembrance. Some call it Blue Christmas.

On November 1, 2020, a few of the Saints of Westminster Presbyterian Church will dress the Communion Table with objects removed from their sanctuary last Sunday. We will celebrate Holy Communion from individual cups. The Palma Sola Church will elect officers.

That baby I baptized is a senior in high school this year. He has two younger sisters. He played varsity basketball the last two years. I remember his baptism, which he doesn't. I may see him again on Thanksgiving.

I hope 18 years from now, we will all remember All Saints Day in the Year of Our Lord 2020, the year of the pandemic. I'll be 91. Or in heaven. I hope to see you all then one way or the other. It will be a day of Thanksgiving either way.

Your Transitional Pastor,

Ted Land