CENTRAL WESTSIDE
UNITED CHURCH

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR SAINTS?

REV. SALLYANN LONGFELLOW

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Welcome!

'Come as you are to share in our friendliness, laughter, and tears, and be spiritually refreshed.'

WE GATHER IN THIS PLACE....

Oboe and Piano Prelude: ***All Creatures of Our God and King*** **Judy Pringle & Heather Willmes**
Arr. Jay Althouse

Welcome and Life & Work of the Church: **Ann Otterbein**

Lighting of the Christ Candle & Fellowship Candles: **Ann Otterbein**

The Christ candle is a sign to us that Jesus Christ has come into this world as the Eternal Light. The Fellowship candles remind us that Jesus' people are called to be the people of Light in this world.

As we light the Christ candle, let us hear the voice of Jesus saying, "I am the Light of the world" and as we light the Fellowship candles, let us also hear the voice of Jesus saying, "You are the light of the world."

Land Acknowledgement: **Ann Otterbein**

Long before those of us who are settlers and those who are descendants of settlers came to this land to live, there were people here. We acknowledge that many Nations of Indigenous people have lived in this beautiful place we all now call home. We give thanks to this land and the first peoples who cared for it. May we honour them by committing to the stewardship and respect of this land and the harmony of its people.

Introit: ***Come In, Come In and Sit Down*** **VU 395 v.2**

....APPROACHING GOD....

Call to Worship: (Responsive - based on Psalm 107: 8-9)
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.
Praise the Lord for his love
Give thanks to God for the wonderful things he has done.
To everyone who is thirsty he gives something to drink
To all who hunger he gives good things to eat.

Opening Prayer **Rev. Longfellow**

Loving God - meet us here and make your word live in us. Remind us, O Lord, of the cloud of witnesses that surround us and help us to follow their example. Help us to lay aside every weight, and the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race that is set before us. Make us, like all the saints before

us - a people who are eager to share your love with those that are far off and those that are near. Guide us, we pray, by the power of your Holy Spirit as we worship and serve you -- both in this hour, and in all the hours to come. We ask it in the name of Christ Jesus - our brother and our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: ***Seek Ye First*** **VU 356**

A Time for All Ages: **Masquerade** **Rev. Longfellow**

…TO HEAR GOD'S WORD…

Scripture: *(New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition)* **Myrna Hewitson**

God offers us through prophets' and apostles' words of life which in faith become the living Word. From birth to rebirth we are offered new beginnings. Let us receive and envision new meaning from the Word in these readings.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:
I Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

Response to God's Holy Word:

God never stops speaking! May we always be listening and wondering. **Thanks be to God!**

Oboe and Organ Interlude: ***Near the River*** **Judy Pringle & Heather Willmes**
Arr. Anna Laura Page

Sermon: ***What are the Qualifications for Saints?*** **Rev. Longfellow**

Sermon Response Hymn: ***For the Faithful Who Have Answered*** **VU 707**

....AND RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL....

Invitation to Offering: **Rev. Longfellow**

Offering Response: ***For the Fruit of All Creation*** **VU 227 v.3**
(Offering brought forward)

Dedication of Our Offerings: **Rev. Longfellow**

Heavenly God, you have given us riches beyond measure. We can only return a fraction of what we owe you; but we ask, Lord, that you will bless our offerings and help us to use them wisely in your service and for your glory. Amen.

Prayers of the Community: **Rev. Longfellow**

The Lord's Prayer: (spoken) **On Screen**

Closing Hymn: ***Be Thou My Vision*** **VU 642**
(stand as able)

Sending Forth and Blessing: **Rev. Longfellow**

Oboe and Organ Postlude: ***Old French Song*** **Judy Pringle & Heather Willmes**
Tchaikovsky

Acknowledgements:

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