

A person wearing a white robe is walking on a highly reflective, wet surface, possibly a beach or a pool of water. The person's feet are visible, and they are leaving a trail of dark, circular footprints that recede into the distance. The surface is so reflective that the person's legs and the white robe are clearly mirrored in the water below them. The overall scene is serene and evocative, with a warm, golden light suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

*All Saints  
Day Devotions*



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## MONDAY – Saints in heaven



**Revelation 7: 14 &15** *And he said, these are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence.*

Let us celebrate the Christian feast of All Saints Day. We remember they who have modelled the Christ-life to us. In the Methodist tradition, it is giving thanks to God for the lives and deaths of His saints – whether they are known to you or not.

Saints are not concrete statues in cathedrals or men in stained glass windows! They are men and women who are and were, followers of Christ, and committed to serving others. Yes, if you follow Christ and serve others YOU are a saint for Christ. Anyone who trusts in Christ alone for their salvation is a saint in the eyes of God.

I feel humbled to remember the saints before me. The first disciples who courageously spread Jesus' teachings; martyrs like Stephen who died in order to show the importance of their faith; the Wesley brothers who spread the modern day church; Mother Theresa who modelled compassion; Desmond Tutu who fights for society's moral compass. And all the unnoticed followers. They all show us a higher alternative to the world's standard.

Ordinary people who have become extraordinary witnesses for Christ, by facing challenges and opportunities – and by just being faithful to God.

What inheritance of faith are you leaving behind?

The following clip is of ordinary people with an extraordinary legacy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVKExd4DaWw>



**Prayer:** Thank you, Lord, for the lives of those who have gone before us. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love. Speak to me and guide me in ways so as to leave a legacy for You. AMEN

## TUESDAY – Those who have gone before you



**Hebrews 13: 7** *Remember those who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

Who were the saints in your life who modelled the Christian life to you? Who encouraged you, supported you and showed you a more excellent way? Who taught you to love your Lord?

The apostle Paul instructs us to:

REMEMBER those who influenced your Christian journey. And as you do so, remember what they taught you. Remember what they meant to you.

CONSIDER the outcome of their lives. Consider how they ran the race. Life is hard to do! *As This Year Like No Other* has shown us! Think about the challenges they faced in their lives and how they carried on. I am often in awe of my saints who lived through TWO

world wars. The hardships went on for years, yet their faith stood firm and their legacy lives on.

IMITATE and live your faith as your saints did. When times are tough, think about how they would have forged on. They were, and still are a model on which to base your own journey.

Remember what they believed, how they endured and how they finished the race. Then you too, will hear “well done My good and faithful servant.”

Those who have gone before you are watching and encouraging you still. They are shouting from the side-lines; they were waiting at the finishing line!

When the days are long and hard, their memories will sustain us



**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for ..... who showed me Your truth and how to live it out. Whose lives were such an example and inspiration. Help me to strive for a more excellent way and to be a Christian example for those who come after me. AMEN

## WEDNESDAY - Faith



**Hebrews 11: 1** *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

**Verse 6** *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*

The saints that have gone before us lived by faith.

By faith Noah built an ark.

By faith Abraham went without knowing where.

By faith Sarah gave birth.

By faith Moses stood firm on God's promise.

By faith the Israelites walked through the Red Sea.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell.

By faith Mary gave birth to Jesus.

By faith Joseph stood by her.

Faith and reason move in opposite directions

By faith all the ordinary followers of Christ, through every generation, have walked without knowing the future.

By faith you and I walk through these uncertain times. Sustained by the knowledge that Christ knows where we go. Be encouraged by the faith of those who have modelled Christ to us.

When we doubt whether this Christian 'stuff' is real, we need to think of those whom we respect, who walk by faith and centre their lives around Christ. If they believe it, then we are assured that there must be something in it. We use the faith of the saints around us to bear us up.



**Prayer:** Lord thank you for Your faithfulness to me. Through these challenging times, You are guiding me. Help me in my wavering faith and times of unbelief. Help me to look upward and rely on my faith to walk this journey until I find my rest in You. AMEN

## THURSDAY – We are all saints



**1 Peter 2: 9** *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*

*We will never know how high we are  
Till we are called to rise,  
And then, if we are true to plan  
Our statures will touch the skies.*  
(Emily Dickenson)

Ordinary people with an extraordinary witness for Christ. That is you! And every one of us. We are all potential saints.

What is the legacy you are leaving behind? Will those that come after you, remember you on All Saints Day?

It is not too late to claim God's promise that we are a special possession, or to stand firm for Him and let our statures touch the skies. We can ensure that we are teaching our children and grandchildren to

be saints. We can live our lives well so that when they falter along their journey, it is our example and words that remind them that Jesus Christ is right there next to them.

It is not too late to look upward to God and outward to others. And with compassion view the world around us. All those giants of our faith were just being Christ to a hurting world.

You are one of those ordinary people in challenging times! Rise to your sainthood!



**Prayer:** Take my life and let it be, Consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee. AMEN

## FRIDAY – The saints of 2020



**Isaiah 4: 31** ...but those whose hope is in the Lord, will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

It has certainly been a year like no other! Never in our life-time has the entire world stood united in a common occurrence – with unprecedented hardships, illness and death.

Even those of us who have not experienced the illness first-hand, have had to bear the effects of lockdown and the devastation that that might have brought to lives. And it has been hard. Life and the world may not be the same again. The world has shifted just a little on its axis.

So where to from here?

We can strive to be the 2020 saints. Where with God's help we don't let the year affect us negatively but let it define us in a way that furthers God's Kingdom.

We can look to a dawn of a new day and work to restore people and God's creation.

Let us rise above our negativity and disgruntledness; sorrow and anger and model for those who come after us a way through adversity. Let us rise to a future dawn with this blessing:

*You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord*

*Who abide in His shadow for life  
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"*

*And He will raise you up on eagles' wings*

*Bear you on the breath of dawn*

*Make you to shine like the sun*

*And hold you in the palm of His hand*

(Michael Joncas)

- Light a candle for saints past, present and future as you worship with the blessing below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvpjxfWrjzY>



May the saints of 2020 rise up as eagles, run and not grow weary; walk and not faint and bring Christ to our new world. AMEN