

Living Stones

A Prayer Journal for Fall 2018

"Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house". (1 Peter 2:5)

Brookline, MA

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

How to use this prayer journal:

- Make a space in your day. Maybe first thing in the morning...maybe just after a meal...maybe just before bed...doesn't really matter. And it doesn't have to be a long time, just a few minutes...but make a space.
- Slowly read the collect for the Saint of the Day. If you have time get a bible and read the readings appointed.
- Read the reflection penned by one of your fellow travellers—another person trying the best they can to be a living stone with a heart of flesh. The people we travel with—those next to us in the pews—are quite amazing.
- Be quiet for a moment and let God speak to you, inspire you, challenge you, comfort you.
- Give thanks for all that God has given you.

Offer a prayer for the parish, for the people here, for the many ministries we share.

If there is a day with no saint appointed, you might go back and reread one that stuck out to you. Or go look up the saint on the internet and learn more about them. Or if there is an author of a particular reflection you don't know, you might look up them up in the online directory—and then introduce yourself the next time you see them—get to know one another a bit better.

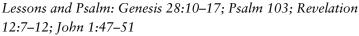
Thanks to the Stewardship Committee, and all who contributed to this wonderful volume. May it be a blessing to us, that with all the saints we may continue to grow into living stones, a holy temple for God.

Richard+

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Also available online at http://www.allsaintsbrookline.org

September 29 Saint Michael and All Angels

Everlasting God, who has ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.





Archangel St. Michael leads the heavenly host with messages to us mortals as we do battle with earthly challenges. Our sanctuary, physical center of our ministry and worship, stone upon stone as we are living stones supporting each other, is punctuated by windows, including the Corey Window. Looking upward, we see St. Michael, standing firm as the fulcrum, his resting sword and confidant stance reassuring us of the wonderful order, the balance between us mortals, with the demands of the physical foundations of our spiritual home, and the angelic presence of our ministry, listening for God's empowering messages, girding ourselves to fight the good fight. —*Bradley MacDonald*

On September 10, 1894, twenty Brookline residents sent a petition to Bishop Lawrence requesting the establishment of an Episcopal church in the Reservoir area.

September 30 Jerome, Priest and Scholar (420)



O God, who gave us the holy Scriptures as a light to shine upon our path: Grant us, after the example of

your servant Jerome, so to learn of you according to your holy Word, that we may find the Light that shines more and more to the perfect day; even Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Psalm 19:7-14; Luke 24:44-48

We at All Saints do "seek the light" on our own individual and communal paths. We strive to be a community with the collective goal of becoming the living stones built upon a historic and holy foundation. But stones need to prop themselves up together to become strong. The light does shine "more and more to the perfect day," but more and more means gradual, since the perfection of that day can come slowly and be elusive. The taxing search will require sharing and support. As a parish community, we can collectively strive to approach closeness both with the living stones around us and with Jesus Christ as our cornerstone. Each small living stone has its own steadiness and greatness to contribute. —Susan Cleaver

October 1 Therese of Lisieux, Monastic (1897)

Gracious Father, who called your servant Therese to a life of fervent prayer, give to us the spirit of prayer and zeal for the ministry of the Gospel, that the love of Christ may be known throughout all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

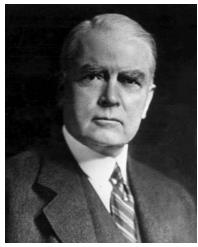


Lessons and Psalm: Judith 8:1-8; Psalm 119:1-8; Luke 21:1-4

Most mornings I pray alone in my sunroom. That makes me wonder how it would be to pray in community on a regular basis. Imagine if we all prayed at the same time to hear God's will. Perhaps we could center on one word like justice, or healing, or forgiveness, or reconciliation, or a word from the Gospel reading for just one minute, in silence, at every service. I suspect that praying together like this would become a powerful way to create change — in us, in our All Saints community, in our broader community, in America, and in the world. —*Elinor Horner*

The cornerstone of the present All Saints Parish building was laid by Bishop Lawrence on November 1, 1898.

John Raleigh Mott, Ecumenist & Missionary (1865-1955)



Give us grace, O merciful God, to seek and serve you in all nations and peoples, following the example of your servant John Raleigh Mott, that all the peoples of the earth, who divided and enslaved by sin, might be led into that glorious liberty that you desire for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Isaiah 60:1-5; Psalm 71:17-24; Luke 7:11-17

John Raleigh Mott's story reminds us of how listening for the Spirit's quiet — or sometimes not so quiet — voice can change the course of our lives and the lives of millions. When Mott was a student at Cornell, planning to go into law, a professor challenged the class: "Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." At that point, Mott gave up the study of law and, as national secretary of the YMCA and head of several missionary organizations, devoted his life to bringing people into relationship with one another and into doing God's work in the world. How fortunate that he heard the voice of the Spirit speaking to him! How can we challenge ourselves to listen better for the same voice? — *Rob Hillman*

In March 1910, the new Parish House opened. In September 1913, the Rectory was completed.

Francis of Assisi, Friar & Deacon, 1226



Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Galatians 6:14-18; Psalm 121; Matthew 11:25-30

Thanks to St. Francis, each year on a Sunday in October, many of us at All Saints bring our wonderful pets to church to celebrate the joy they bring into our lives. The author of the Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon taught us how to praise and love the many creatures of this world and their Creator. May Francis continue to inspire us at All Saints to be active participants in the earth community as we seek to preserve its diversity of life forms and take joy in the beauty and worth of all its members. —*Jonas Barciauskas*

Birgitta of Sweden, Mystic & Prophetic Witness, 1373



O God, who beholds all things and whose judgment is always mercy; by the example of your servant Brigid of Sweden, give to us in this life the vision of your Kingdom where Jesus Christ is all and in all, that we may pattern our lives on things heavenly, where our lives are hidden with Christ in you, O Father, who with him and the Holy Spirit live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Sirach 51:13–22; Psalm 12; Matthew 11:2–11

I relate to Birgitta of Sweden because she was a prophetess and a seer. She did not let anything get between her and the whispering voice of God. In her prayer, I love the resonance of being hidden in Christ. So many of us feel we are hidden, unseen — the many parts of ourselves that we can only share with God, and that somehow we feel diminished in this state. However, in delighting in God's "whole creation with perfectness of joy," being an unseen partaker in its wholeness and in the perfection of everything around us and all creation is supremely comforting. Birgitta also sees Christ in everyone — I find hope in this. — *Jessica Cooper*

The designer of our church, Ralph Adams Cram, is one of two architects honored in the Episcopal Calendar of Saints (December 16).

Vida Dutton Scudder, Educator, 1954

Most gracious God, you sent your beloved Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Raise up in your church witnesses who, after the example of your servant Vida Dutton Scudder, stand firm in proclaiming



the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 25: 1-14; John 6:37-51

Vida Dutton Scudder was born to missionaries in India in 1861 and raised near Boston. She became a Professor of English Literature at Wellesley College and spent her adult life actively connecting her Christian faith with socialist ideas of advancing the welfare of industrial workers. Wellesley resisted calls to fire her for her strong support of striking workers at the Lawrence textile mills in 1912. I'm struck that Dutton Scudder was not a "solo" saint, but constantly sought ways to work with others, including founding new organizations linking faith and justice. Her life reminds us of the importance of consistent collective action, and a willingness to try new strategies. — *Roberta Schnoor*

During 2017-18, All Saints offered 100 regular Eucharists, 5 baptisms, 4 funerals, 8 Evensongs, and 18 special services (including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Holy Week).

October 11 Philip, Deacon and Evangelist

O God, who has made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and sent your Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that we, following the example of your servant Philip, may bring your Word to those who seek you, for the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 67; Matthew 28:18–20



Philip, Deacon and Evangelist, a layman, was commissioned by the Apostles to be one of seven men in their Jerusalem community to oversee ministering to widows and the poor. He became an evangelist, eventually preaching the gospel "both far off... and near." Here at All Saints, how fortunate we are to have each other: working, praying, studying, and building friendships in community. We are each bolstered up by the living stones around us. And the strength and support this community provides sustains us as we live our lives out in the world. May we follow in Philip's steps and preach peace. — *Ginny Adams*

Last year our congregation included 97 children, of whom 85 were actively engaged in the life of the parish.

Samuel Isaac Joseph Scherechewsky & Channing Moore Williams, Bishops & Missionaries, 1906 and 1910

O God, who in your providence called Joseph Schereschewsky and Channing Moore Williams to the ministry of this church and gave them the gifts and the perseverance to translate the Holy Scriptures: Inspire us, by their example and prayers, to commit our talents to your service, confident that you uphold those whom you call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: 2 Corinthians 4:11–1; Psalm 84:1–6; Luke 24:44–48





I'm overwhelmed by the sheer courage of these two Christians, and their confidence in God's calling. American Channing Williams heard his call and went to Japan in the 1860s, a time when Christianity was illegal in that country, and later translated the English prayer book into Japanese. And Samuel Scherechewsky, studying in Russia to become a Rabbi, became convinced of the truth of the Gospel and changed the direction of his life completely — in religion, culture, and language. In 1859 he was called to China, where his translation of the scriptures into Beijing Mandarin made it possible for thousands more to be convinced as he was. May we answer God's call as bravely and confidently as these two did. — *Alan McLellan*

Teresa of Avila, Mystic and Monastic Reformer, 1582



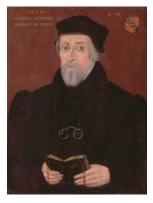
O God, by your Holy Spirit you moved Teresa of Avila to manifest to your church the way of perfection: Grant us, we pray, to be nourished by her teaching, and enkindle within us a keen and unquenchable longing for true holiness; through Jesus Christ, the joy of loving hearts, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Romans 8:22–27; Psalm 42:1–7; Matthew 5:13–16

Theresa of Avila was a 16th century Carmelite nun perhaps best known for her writings on her ecstatic experiences with God. Less well known is her belief in and writings about "mental prayer," the belief that prayer is the "raising of one's mind and heart to God." Although she believed that verbal/written prayers can improve dialogue with God, "contemplative prayer is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us." How are you most comfortable praying: a written prayer? Opening your heart and discovering what you might share with a close friend? Neither? Both? — Mary Urban Keary

Six times a year, our MANNA team cooks hot meals and serves 120-160 guests living on the margins. More than 80 parishioners and guests contribute to this effort.

Hugh Latimer & Nicholas Ridley, Bishops & Martyrs, 1555





Keep us, O Lord, constant in faith and zealous in witness, that, like your servants Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, we may live in your fear, die in your favor, and rest in your peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: 1 Corinthians 3:9–14; Psalm 142; John 15:20–16:1

"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it." So says the Epistle (from 1 Corinthians 3) for bishops Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, who were burned at the stake on October 16, 1555. It's hard to imagine the suffering in such a death, but the two of them held firm in their Protestant faith against the return of Roman Catholicism to England under Mary I. Their martyrdom inspired generations of Anglicans. As Latimer said to Ridley in the midst of the searing flames, "We shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out." — *Marianne Evett*

Participants in programs like Geography of Grace use poetry and art as well as spiritual texts to reflect on their lives.

Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr, c.115



Almighty God, we praise your Name for your bishop and martyr Ignatius of Antioch, who offered himself as grain to be ground by the teeth of wild beasts that he might present to you the pure bread of sacrifice. Accept, we pray, the willing tribute of our lives and give us a share in the pure and spotless offering of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Romans 8:35–39; Psalm 116:1–8; John 12:23–26

Although Ignatius may or may not have been sent to the lions when he was martyred in Rome, he left us letters proclaiming his faith in God and Christianity. He offered himself as bread to Christ, our Savior. Even though we may not sacrifice our lives as Ignatius did, members of All Saints, our spiritual home, offer bread to those in need, take time to build a home, devote time to the church outside worship services, pray throughout the week for those on our prayer list, and offer fellowship to each other, among so many other offerings. We contribute to the literal stones and metaphorical stones of All Saints through pledging and through worship. In this community we live in communion with Jesus, as Ignatius did. — *Janelle Mills*

In the last eight years, All Saints parishioners have built at five Habitat for Humanity sites, for a total of 15 builds.

October 18 Saint Luke the Evangelist

Almighty God, who inspired your servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of your Son: Graciously continue in your Church this love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of your Name;



through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Ecclesiasticus 38:1-14; Psalm 114; 2 Timothy 4:5-13; Luke 4:14-21

There are so many ways of healing and showing love: a glance or a touch from someone who sees or senses our pain, words of comfort, sometimes requested, often offered, seldom forced. Healing begins weekly with our welcomers and continues with music by and for the congregation: hymns of comfort, solace, joy, learnings... our weekly and special services, funerals, Evensongs. Our community includes so many persons who offer healing and learning within and outside (for our own and other children, the homeless, etc.). Many groups fill our church with rehearsals and programs, and myriad alcohol- and substance abuse-related support groups add to the many ways congregants and community are embraced within these walls. The words and wisdom of our minister(s), I believe, provide the cement, the teachings, and healings of our ever-evolving community. — *Honor McClellan*

Adult Formation provides many opportunities to share our journey in small group settings, like Geography of Grace, Meeting Church Again for the First Time, and Bible Study.

October 19 Henry Martyn, Priest and Missionary, 1812

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith: We give you heartfelt thanks for the pioneering spirit of your servant Henry Martyn. Grant us grace to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in every place and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring all people to the knowledge and love of you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 98; John 4:22-26

To be a pioneer requires many exemplary qualities. Courage. Hope. Conviction. The pioneers of All Saints certainly had these qualities when they formed our parish 125 years ago. Perhaps they didn't travel to India or Persia to share the Good News, but they built a beautiful stone church at the corner of Dean and Beacon. Together, we are the living stones of All Saints, the pioneers who share Christ's message in our own community today. How can we best embody those pioneering qualities of courage, hope, and conviction in our world? — *Jeff Thibault*

Children's activities at All Saints Parish include Church School, youth group meetings, Nightwatch, Schola, serving as an acolyte or reader, helping with service projects, and worship.

Saint James of Jerusalem, the Brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Grant, O God, that, following the example of your servant James the Just, brother of our Lord, your Church may give itself continually to prayer and to the reconciliation of all who are at variance and enmity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Acts 15:12–22a; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11; Matthew 13:54–58

James of Jerusalem is referred to as the brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 13:55 (along with his other brothers, Joseph, Simon and Judas). He was for many years the leader of the Christian congregation in Jerusalem, and is generally supposed to be the author of the



Epistle of James, although the Epistle itself does not state this explicitly. Paul, listing appearances of the Risen Lord, includes an appearance to James. Paul consults with James several times. May we each find ways, like James, to be at the center of building the community of faith at All Saints. May we be a source of strength and a bulwark for one another. May we be tireless and unflagging, sustained by the Holy Spirit and empowered to sustain one another. — *Yvonne Schlaeppi*

The choir of All Saints numbers 42 adults, and Schola and Cherubs include 45 youth and children.

Tabitha (Dorcas) of Joppa



Most Holy God, whose servant Tabitha you raised from the dead to display your power and confirm your message that your Son is Lord; grant unto us your grace, that aided by her prayers and example, we may be given a new life in your Spirit to do works pleasing in your sight; Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Acts 9:36-42; Psalm 1; Matthew 25:31-46

The disciple Tabitha, also known as Dorcas, was a hands-on philanthropist in the community at Joppa. She sewed clothing for those in need. She was a woman of great faith, and she applied her faith to doing

good in her community. She seemed to have been one of those people who, without much fanfare, just take it upon themselves to do what needs to be done. That she was raised from the dead indicates her importance. I think about the caring ministry at All Saints, and all of the people in our community who, like Tabitha, inspire me to try harder to just do what needs to be done. — Wendy Wheeler

Some repertoire! Over the last year the All Saints adult choir sang 114 different choral works, not counting weekly psalms.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Scholar & Social Reformer, 1902



O God, whose Spirit guides us into all truth and makes us free: Strengthen and sustain us as you did your servant Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Give us vision and courage to stand against oppression and injustice and all that works against the glorious liberty to which you call all your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Wisdom 7:24–28; Psalm 146; Mark 4:21-29

Lord God, I have said these words from my earliest days, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." But have I prayed them? I have longed for justice, for a world in which we respect the dignity of every human being. But was I imploring you, oh God, to wave a magic wand to make this happen? Did I miss that part of the covenant, where I might do my part? Forgive me, Lord. Grant me courage and wisdom to do what I can now to heed your call for justice and love. — *Harold Petersen*

Our chapter of the Daughters of the King provides a sisterhood of prayer and confidentiality, a space to pray and talk about one's relationship with God and other pilgrims on the way.

Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles



O God, we thank you for the glorious company of the apostles, and especially on this day for Simon and Jude; and we pray that, as they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so we may with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Deuteronomy 32:1–4; Psalm 119:89–96; Ephesians 2:13–22; John 15:17–27

You guys are Jesus "MacJoseph"'s actual uncles! Your blood was in him. How, oh, how did the grace come to you to know, *to worship*, His blood In you?

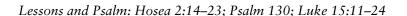
— Bruce Keary

Parishioners donated \$3,300 to the December Hope Collection, which benefits Crossroads Family Shelter, children in the B-READY program, children at Hegongo Holy Cross High School in Tanzania, and people served by the MANNA program.

October 29 Maryam of Qidun, Monastic, 4th century

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and restore them again like your servant Maryam of Qidun with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word,

Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.



Amen.



Maryam's story reminds me that we are all broken in our own way. The beauty of a faith community, like the one I've found at All Saints, is its ability to offer support, strength, and structure to lead us back to God when we feel ashamed or unworthy. It is in this community that I find the courage to seek forgiveness and reconciliation in response to my own missteps, and to approach others with the humility and wisdom that comes from this experience. More fully embracing the dichotomy of our imperfect, messy humanity and our identity as beloved children of God, as Maryam learns to do, makes us a stronger foundation of living stones. — *Sarah Brock*

Did you know that Saint Patrick combined Celtic spirituality with Christianity? And that evidence of the Celts can found from northern Spain to central Europe, from Brittany to the Hebrides?

November 1 All Saints

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.



Lessons and Psalm: Ecclesiasticus 44:1–14; Psalm 149; Revelation 7:2–4,9–17; Matthew 5:1–12 or Ecclesiasticus 2: 1–11; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11–23; Luke 6:20–36

As worshippers at All Saints, we are an assembly of God's faith-aspiring people; we are the humble, celebrating God's holiness with praise and thanksgiving, striving to follow the true path of all the saints who have led the way. As individuals coming together, we are the many stones that make up the solid foundation of our church. We are stones of all sizes, shapes and textures: some newly formed and unblemished, eager to greet the many joys and accept the many sorrows that come our way; others a bit rough edged, provocative and questioning; and still others smoothed with age, glowing with a patina burnished by the ebb and flow of life's events. We are family, embracing our individualities, supporting one another, rejoicing in our fellowship together.

— Barbara MacDonald

More than 50 people have contributed material to the Saints Alive newsletter since its new format three years and twelve issues ago.

November 2 All Souls / All the Faithful Departed



O God, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers:

Grant to the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of the passion of your Son; that on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm: Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalm 130; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 5:24-27

It is fitting that our prayer journal, which began on September 29 with All Angels, now ends with All Saints and All Souls. Together, these three days honor that vast, numberless throng who through all ages and lands, in heaven and on earth, have worshipped the same God that we worship today. And just as we living stones make up this one small community, so this small community is only one of millions of communities united in love and gratitude to the living God, to whom be glory forever and ever. — *Henry Kettell*

In 2017, All Saints Parish restored 800 square feet of exterior stone on the church.