

Monday, 2 November 2020 -- Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

I can still see their faces. Likely, you can, too. The faces of loved ones who have entered into the fullness of the kingdom - our siblings, parents, grandparents, friends - gathered in the sanctuary where they always used to sit. As I picture every congregation I have ever been a part of, I can still see the faces of these loved ones sitting in their usual spot.

Yesterday was the annual celebration of All Saints Day in the Christian Church, the day when we mark the lives of faith of those who have gone before us, and whose witness upholds us. I think back on several of these people: Rod Wells, Joanne Wehmeyer, Esther Bink, Chet Cashing, Jane Jencks, and many, many more. Their love, their guidance still upholds me, still directs me. And, in their warm and loving smile, they continue to invite me to be better, and to do more good.

Paul exhorted his siblings-in-Christ in the Church at Philippi to live more fully in their common faith. "If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:1-3). Even though separated, Paul could still see their faces, and he hoped they could still see his, too.

Yesterday was All Saints Day. Tomorrow is Election Day. In between these two days is today, Monday. How will you allow the witness of those who came before to direct you in being better in Christ's love? Make no mistake, this is what we all need right now.

Lord, be with us. In your Spirit, with the witness of saints who have gone before us, deepen our ability to love and to do good in this world. In your name. Amen.