

Sermon Notes: November 2, 2025 **Focus:** All Saint's [Lectionary Readings](#)

I'm going to step away from my usual nerdery of maps, history, and context. Instead, my energy focuses on art. Art can make powerful statements that move our hearts, and it's changed mine, especially about sainthood. When I was younger, I treated the saints like a kind of medieval fantasy NBA league. (We all have our draft picks.) I still think it's worth building your own—who are the saints, living or dead, who shape you? I'll share a few pieces of art that are shaping me now.

First is Kelly Latimore. Both Susan and I regularly reference her art. And this is her fantasy league:



1st row St. Mark, Dorothy Kazel, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dostoevsky, Dorothy Day, Homeless Christ

2nd row Joseph & Jesus, James Cone, Mother Jones, Moses the Black, Frederick Douglass, Nicholas Black Elk

3rd row Mary Magdalene, Marsha P. Johnson, Mary Oliver, Maya Angelou, Henri Nouwen, Madonna and Child

4th row St. Dulce, John Lewis, Desmond Tutu, Herbert McCabe OP, Lady of Guadalupe, Mahaila Jackson

5th row Dietrich Bonhoeffer, MLK Jr., Thomas Merton, James Baldwin, Bayard Rustin, St. Thérèse of Lisieux

6th row St. Francis of Assisi, Ety Hillesum, Ruth and Naomi, Fred Rogers, St. Patrick, Pauli Murray

Second: St. Gregory of Nyssa - Episcopal Church in San Francisco

I found my visit to the church delightful AND overwhelming. It is an immersive experience. Maybe you don't like every saint the artist chose, but you get the message loud and clear that All Saints are those who have gone before, those who changed society, and those in our midst. When you join in worship, you literally dance with the saints.

From their website: *The Dancing Saints icon was created by artist Mark Dukes with the people of St. Gregory's. It was completed in 2009. The icon wraps around the entire church rotunda, showing 90 larger-than-life saints, four animals, stars, moons, suns, and a 12-foot tall dancing Christ leading the dance.*



detail from picture on left:



Near entrance



Facing Altar



Third: Why am I showing you all this art? Romans 8 says:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I hope this is as true for our **relationship** with God. Art convinces me that nothing can separate us from the promised communion of the saints **including us.**



Todd