

Sermon Notes: November 1, 2020 **Focus:** All Saints/Beatitudes [All Readings](#)

I want to vibrate a little differently with you today. The sermon will be a collection of vignettes as a way to think about living and past saints. At the end of prayers of the people, we will be doing a “necrology” as well. The Necrology is a fancy term describing the named list of those in our community who have died in the last year. We will remember Mary Hill Ashworth, Jeff Manning, Elizabeth Jane Belden, Aria Hupp, Sarah (Suzie) Elizabeth Wilson, M. Virginia Leary, Bill Jess, Barbara Budach, Norman Luengo, Jean Marie Walker, Donald G. Eagling. Forgive me if I missed someone. You are encouraged to remember your own “great cloud of witnesses” as well by remembering your many saints, past and present. Remember - we don’t typically include every extended family member in the necrology.

My sermon is a remembrance of my own saints which will hopefully provoke gratitude in you. I pray that you experience gratitude for those who have made a positive difference in your life. Less than half of the people in the sermon are dead. The other are still alive, but I feel them all strongly as an encouraging presence. The sermon will be nine mini-stories of love and mercy using Matthew 5 for the organizing structure:

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

O^{ne}
First Episcopal Church
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
They are stronger than we can imagine.

T^{wo}
Texas Medical Center
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”
They have survived the unimaginable.

T^{here}
Austin
Interfaith
“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”
They have believed that God is bigger than their moment.

F^{our}
La
Ley
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”
They have dreamed of a heavenly home.

Five
wings
over the world

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

Their mercy created love

Six
the
acolyte

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

They have burned brightly

Seven
Delta Chemical

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

They have sacrificed for something bigger than themselves

Eight
The Bishop

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

They have seen the long arc of God

Nine
The Pastor

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account."

They are strong enough, not crumple under pressure

The toughest job you'll ever have is love and mercy. You won't know how to do it until you are in it. You will fail at it regularly.

Keep looking, sacrificing, kindling, blessing, dreaming, trusting, thriving and relying up every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Rejoice for All Saints' Day even if it is only a dim reflection of the great cloud of witnesses.

Todd