

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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ALIVE. Jesus said, *“Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.”* (Luke 20:38). All Saints Day was just celebrated and it reminds us how powerful Resurrection is as foundational for the Christian Faith. Resurrection’s message is that death does not have the final power over us or God’s creation. Resurrection affirms the vitality and purpose of our creativeness and spiritual interactions with God and one another. There can be death of relationships, prisons of doubt, despair, and lack of respect for one another. The power of God in the resurrection affirms being *ALIVE* with kindness, compassion, inclusivity, peace, justice, and generosity. It is the assurance that God is engaged with *“the living”* with unlimited gifts and graces as blessings that affirm each other as children of God and honored as a *“saint,”* *ALIVE* with love shared in both word and deed.

In some traditions *“sainthood”* is conferred on someone after death, often with the description that the person was a saint of the church. In some faith traditions, sainthood is bestowed on those have died with strict criteria for canonization to be named a *“saint.”* The Anglican hymn *“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”* declares: *“They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still...And I mean to be one too.”* Saints are *ALIVE* around us as they do acts of kindness, love, compassion, and generosity. *“Death sentences”* from evil and selfish desires are changed into living with courage, hope, and God’s amazing forgiving grace and love. A saint recognizes the powerful destruction caused by evil, and, with God’s help, overcomes the power of *“death living.”* Surrounded by faith memories of saints of the past and encouraged by saints today, the power of resurrection is experiencing love, being embraced and welcomed into *“ALIVE-living.”*

The Body of Christ is *ALIVE* when it engages in caring ministries and missions, intentional relationship building, active listening with intentional response, and being blest to be blessings to one another. Christian Brunetti wrote, *“So today, despite everything the world seems to want to impose on us, I choose hope. I choose faith. I choose love.”* What a remarkable image of being a saint for the Body of Christ to be *ALIVE. BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*