

October 30, 2024 // Scott Hayes

### ***What's all the fuss about All Saints Day?***

In recent weeks, our team has been immersed in preparations for All Saints' Day, a special “day” at All Saints Church. This celebration isn't just significant for us, though; it's a major occasion in Christian communities around the world!

The tradition of honoring Christian martyrs dates back to the 4th century. Originally held on May 13, it coincided with the Roman festival Lemuria, where spirits were driven away through rituals. By the 6th and 7th centuries, the date moved to November 1, potentially aligning with Samhain, the Celtic harvest festival. In 835, Pope Gregory IV formally established November 1 as All Saints' Day, which in English tradition marked the start of “Allhallowtide”: All Hallows' Eve (Halloween), All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day. In Anglican tradition, Allhallowtide extends to Remembrance Sunday, honoring lives lost in war.

This year at All Saints, we're celebrating all four days! Our Trunk or Treat event kicked things off for Halloween, and on Sunday morning, we'll honor the Festival of All Saints with hymns like “For All the Saints” and “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God.” The combined choirs will sing “And I Saw a New Heaven” by Edgar Bainton, a classic of the Anglican tradition.

At Evensong on Sunday evening, we'll observe All Souls' Day with readings dedicated to the faithful departed. As a prelude, our Evensong octet will sing “The Dreams that Remain,” a poignant piece by American composer Thomas LaVoy, exploring dreams past, present, and future. The service will also feature Philip Moore's “Third Service” Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis and James Whitbourn's “Give Us the Wings of Faith,” honoring Whitbourn, who sadly passed away this past March.

Finally, on November 10, we'll observe Remembrance Sunday with a concert centered on Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem, written in 1936 between the world wars as a call for peace. Be sure to mark your calendars for this special event.

We hope you'll join us for these meaningful and celebratory days—it's a time to come together in remembrance, music, and community!