

**Order of Service  
October 30, 2011**

**Call to Worship ...sounding of the chime**

**Prelude Children Enter Funeral March of A Marionette  
Charles Gounod**

**Welcome and announcements Peri Nelson**

**Opening Words**

**Good morning and welcome. Today we are delighted to invite the children to our service to celebrate Halloween, and all of its meanings. It is a tradition that goes back thousands of years. It is time of mystery and of acknowledging the unknowns that we wonder about. It is a time of imagining ghosts and goblins, and a time when we think about the things that frighten us.**

**For Latin Americans it is a festival to remember those who have passed away and for Wiccans it is a holiday called Samhain which marks the end of the summer. From many traditions we have adopted our own celebrations and today we welcome you to our service of history, stories and song. So Please take a moment to turn to your neighbors and to wish them a good morning.**

**Chalice Lighting: would Haley Caswell please come forward to light the chalice)**

**We gather this hour as people of faith,  
with joys and sorrows, gifts and needs.  
We light this beacon of hope,  
sign of our quest for truth and meaning  
In celebration of the life we share together**

**Children's Story *Go Away Big Green Scary Monster* Tina Lesley-Fox**

**Choir *Monsters in the Closet***

**Reading : *Where Did Halloween Come From? A Time of History*  
Rev Baylies**

**Where did Halloween come from?**

**The holiday originally comes from a people called the Celts.**

The Celts lived in Europe more than 2000 years ago, long before I was born when there were no electric lights, and only the very rich lords and kings had candles to light their way at night. Everyday folks, like you and I, would have no light at all except a small fire in the fireplace when the sun went down. Night time back then was a very scary time, when you could not see what was making all the noises outside; like the call of a coyote, the howling of the wind in the trees, the hoot of an owl, or the rustle of a deer. So the Celts imagined all kinds of monsters and spooks were out there and thought that ghosts visited the living on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.

They were also afraid that when the sun set, it might not come back up again, so they decided to get together and build a huge bonfire for light. They would dress up like ghosts and goblins and carried lanterns made of hollowed out turnips so the spirits would not harm them.

When people moved to this country from places like Ireland and Scotland, the celebration continued. They also had a tradition of giving food to the spirits. Later, they gave the food to people who had little or none. This is where trick-or-treating comes from.

Now, instead of using turnips, we used pumpkins, like the ones the children carved last night and this is where the Jack-O-Lantern originated.

Today, many countries still remember those who have died on November 1st. It is called All Saints Day. The day before, October 31st, is called All Hallow's Eve, or Halloween for short.

Halloween has changed a lot since its origins. New people have brought new traditions, and changed the old ones. Even families celebrate in different ways. And I am sure that in time the celebration will change again with new ideas, thoughts and customs.

**Hymn # 118** this little light of mine

**Story: John's Halloween A Time for Courage**

What Day is coming soon: Right... Halloween What is Going to happen? Do You think that sometimes you might Be Scared?

Well I have something for you that might help it's called  
**MONSTER SPRAY!**

Inside this bottle is a magic wonderful potion and you know what? it never, ever gets empty. Do you know what's in it? It's called courage. You can't smell it or taste it but you can feel it, deep inside.

Courage makes you feel brave and strong at times when get scared, like alone in your room at night when you can't go to sleep. Now when you feel that way you just spray it in the air and say

Scary, pretend Monster under my bed You are  
just a picture in my head So I'll spray some  
courage in the air now come and get me if you  
dare." Then say: (this is the important part: "I am  
not afraid" then take a deep breath

**AND SPRAY IT ALL OVER THE PLACE!**

I need some kids to help me (ages 4 to 6) while I tell you a story: You will need some monster spray and courage to help you ... The story is called:

**"John's Halloween a Time for Courage"**

Remember, you don't have to be frightened if you don't want to be because you have courage! Are you ready to hear the story? Good. Now when you hear me say something that scares you just squirt the bottle and say, "I am not afraid" Lets do that..."I am not afraid" are you ready for the story ...O.K.... here goes...

### **John's Halloween**

Once upon a time it was a cold, dark and rainy night... The lightening was all around, flashing into the window, and the thunder made loud crashing booms that shook the house. And the rain banged against the window pane It felt like a really scary night.

John was trying to go to sleep and he could hear the rain get louder and louder...

So he pulled his covers up over his head, but he could still see the lightening through the blankets. John had been out with his Dad and his friends Trick or Treating because it was Halloween night.

He had a great time and all the kids dressed up as monsters. They didn't really scare him because he knew they were his friends wearing masks and making weird, growling noises.

Well this was different. Now it was late, he was home in his own bed and everyone else was asleep, but John. When the lightening flashed and made shadows in his room he imagined that there were monsters that came up from the floor. When the thunder boomed he thought he saw a great giant was stomping through his room.

Just when John was about as scared as he thought he could ever be, He remembered one thing. . .

**Monsters are not real.**

Monsters are something that scare you when you make them up in your mind. John was so frightened that he almost forgot. . .

So he reached under his pillow and there was his monster spray right where he had left it . Just in case., (spray)

And he squirted his bed and his bureau and his clock and his chair and the walls and his shoes and the closet and the toys all over his floor, his mom told him to pick up last week.

John squirted everything in the room. It gave him courage and then he remembered and said out loud

Scary pretend monster under my bed  
You are just a picture in my head So I'll  
spray some courage in the air Now  
come and get me if you dare! I am not  
afraid. . .

Suddenly John felt much better, and stronger.

He felt the courage coming back to him. It was raining just as hard and he could hear it on the roof of the house, he remembered that his mom said we needed the rain to water the trees and the ground was just too dry. He wasn't scared it was just rain. The lightening flashed, but instead of hiding under the covers, this time he thought about how awesome it was, that the sky could make light all by itself without a switch to turn it all on.

The thunder rolled and sometimes was loud. But John wasn't afraid anymore, he had courage . There were still shadows on the wall, but instead of looking like monsters they really looked like his lamp and bed and toys and stuff. Soon he was tired of thinking about all of these interesting things, so he turned over pulled up his covers and fell fast asleep.

The next morning John woke up. The sun was shining in the window of his room. The birds were singing.

Overnight during the storm many more leaves had fallen and the ground was all red and yellow and orange with beautiful colors.

John got dressed and went downstairs for breakfast. His dad was getting the lunches for school and his mom was getting ready for work. "John" his mom said, did the storm wake you last night, honey?" No said John, I was already awake, but I went right to sleep. John sat down to his breakfast.

He smiled to himself as he knew he would never be afraid again. The sky is bright and clear this morning, he thought, as he remembered how much courage he had last night. The monster spray helped, but deep inside he knew that the world can be beautiful like today and scary like last night.

John was glad that he had courage, and he knew that he would have it always for the rest of his life.. All he had to do was say," I am not afraid. I am not afraid. . " and he never was afraid of monsters again.

May the strength of courage engage us all, in the spirit of generosity as the offering will now be received !

OFFERTORY: March of The Dwarfs      Edvard Grieg op 54, no. 3

**STORY: Trick or Treat a Time of Giving**

**Trick or treat, Smell my feet  
Give me something good to eat !!!**

The history of "Trick'O'Treating" can be traced back to the early celebrations of All Soul's Day in Britain. The poor would go begging and the housewives would give them special treats called "soulcakes". This was called "going a-souling", and the "soulers" would promise to say a prayer for the dead.

Over time the custom changed and the town's children became the beggars. As they went from house to house they would be given apples, buns, and money.

During the Pioneer days of the American West, the housewives would give the children candy to keep from being tricked. If the kids didn't get any candy they would play a trick instead. They would turn over the outhouse or go "sheep tipping," which means they would turn the sheep over and the sheep could not get back up by themselves. The farmers would find them in the morning up-side down and all muddy! So, when The children would shout "Trick or Treat!" you can bet that most people would give them a treat. But there is another side to Trick or treat, rather than begging for candy or apples. That is told in a story called:

**Esmirelda's Halloween Treats**

Many years ago in a town no one ever heard of on Halloween night, a child named Esmirelda Smotz got into her costume to ready herself for a night of trick or treating. Only this year she decided to do something different. She had eaten all the candy she wanted to eat and it always gave her a tummy ache, so she decided to do something different than anyone had done before. Instead of just taking she decided to give back something special to all the folks who had been so nice to her in the past. Last year Esmirelda had been invited into their homes and had been told how wonderful her costume was. Even the grumpy old guy down the street with the rickety porch had given her an apple from his tree.

She thought and thought, then went to work. There would be no tricks this Halloween, just treats for every home she visited. There would be no tummy aches, or fighting with her brothers over who had the most candy, or complaining about how skimpy one neighbor had been. She got busy writing and then filled her bag and went out. This morning the children would like to share with you Esmirelda's Halloween surprise, no tricks just treats that should not be eaten, just kept forever as a reminder of how good it can feel to be loved and to give as well as to receive.

The Children's offering will now be given

CHILDREN'S OFFERTORY ( Piano -Simple Gifts)

CLOSING WORDS:

Halloween, a time to face what frightens us  
 Steeped in a history that invites our imagination  
 That conjures the spirits of those we loved  
 It is an opportunity to don our costumes  
 And carve out pumpkins

Holidays and holy days  
 A time of reflection, of celebration and of mystery  
 A time of giving and receiving  
 To always remember with gratitude  
 How very luck we are  
 To have one another.

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

*We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,  
 the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.  
 These we carry in our hearts until we are together again*

CLOSING HYMN # 1 May Nothing Evil Cross this Door

POSTLUDE: Dance Macabre OP 40 NO 3 by Camille Saint-Saens

