



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

November 1, 2009

All Saint's Day 2009

Children's sermon

What night was it last night?

Halloween

How many got dressed up and went trick or treating?

What did you get dressed up as?

Does anybody know what today is called? All Saints. Great festivals of the faith as we remember millions of Christians who have gone before us and now died.

All saints used to be called all hallows.

Where do we say that word hallow?

Lord's prayer hallowed be thy name. It means holy or sanctified.

So all hallows or all saints remembers people who have tried to live a holy life.

In Rome there is a famous temple called the pantheon. It was a pagan temple dedicated to all the gods. There was a god for everything.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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But in the 4th century it was dedicated to Christianity and the one god of everything and the people who served him in their lives. Name changed from temple of all gods to all the saints. 7 altars built inside of building, under each altar bones brought from catacombs were buried. Dedicated on November 1st and the church has kept this date ever since to remember all those who have moved from this life into eternal life.

Now the night before all saints or all hallows was called all hallows eve.

Hundreds of years ago people believed that the spirits of the dead returned to earth and wandered around until midnight when they went back to their resting place. So people used to dress up as goblins or spirits to scare off the wandering dead people. That is where we get the tradition of dressing up.

But let's not forget that Halloween is part of a very important Christian tradition of remembering and honoring all those people who have died and are now in heaven with Christ.

Amen

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