

Devotion – Twenty Third Week after Pentecost
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

What a glorious day this past Sunday was. A bagpiper, special music from the choir, and wonderful native outfits. Rose Enow, Philippe and Celestine Karkas, Connie McWilliams, and Mary Smith outdid themselves! I was reminded while talking to Kathie Pierce that most of us, however, are a mixed up stew of ethnic backgrounds. She is part of the Scottish Campbell clan, but is also part Creek Indian. Jim and I also are part Native American. I bet most of you are a mixed up stew as well. We have some great pictures loaded on our website to show the diversity of this church family.

Fred Rohrbach bemoaned the fact that he couldn't find anything German to wear – we just told him to order a pair of lederhosen for next year. But I do hope you will all investigate your backgrounds, if you don't know them – you may be Irish and English and Native American and Indian and African and who knows what else. One of the DNA sites can give you an idea of your ethnic heritage. Next year I hope we can celebrate this with lots of you in some kind of dress representing your “clan,” wherever it came from. Regardless of our backgrounds, we are united in the love of Christ and the blessing of being part of the Reformed church.

As we move into Thanksgiving let us remember that heritage as we celebrate our blessings. In another year of COVID, that may be hard at times, and some of our members and their families have experienced a number of health care crises. At times, we may feel more like Job than someone who has been blessed. But I hope you all know that you are surrounded by a community of faith that loves you and prays for you in those times of stress, illness, and death.

This week we celebrate All Saints' Day, and in so doing we remember those of our congregation who died in the last year, as well as other family members like Jennifer Rohrbach's dad, Bob Langley, who left us. As I stated in Bud Steele's interment service, all of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we sing “Alleluia.” We know that God receives us into the arms of his mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. May those of you who have lost loved ones this year be comforted in that knowledge.

Jeanne