

Devotion, Week of November 09, 2025

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

On November 2, we honored the saints that have gone before us in this past year – Ruth Gettys and Jim Simpson. In the Presbytery meeting on November 8, we honored the ministers and elders throughout the Presbytery who died in the last year. We just celebrated the life of another saint on November 10 – Pam Langley. These deaths have been painful and sad, but at the same time we have been able to rejoice that our loved ones are no longer in pain or unable to do all the things that brought them joy. Instead, they have joy from being in heaven with our Lord and our God.

In this season where we begin to move from the brilliance of fall mornings to the cold, leafless days of winter, our liturgical season reminds us that we do not enter winter in despair. We enter winter in hope, with the coming of the Advent season. We will feast at our Thanksgiving lunch next Sunday and then again with our families the week after, but on November 30, we will have our Hanging of the Greens service and begin to sing old familiar carols. We long for Emanuel to come. We marvel at Mary's courage, and Joseph's determination not to abandon her. We hold collective breaths as they journey to Bethlehem and Mary's labor begins. And then we rejoice with the love of God come down to us, Jesus, the babe born in a manger. Angels sing, shepherds come to visit, wise men bring gifts, and we look at the colored lights and red and green decorations around us and joy fills our hearts.

This transition from death and sadness to hope and joy reminds us that God is present with us, always, in dark times and times of great light. I hope you remember that during this season.

Jeanne