

Saints Alive

ALL SAINTS CHURCH PASADENA NOVEMBER 2018

Mike Kinman: If We Listen...

Spotlight: Rory Lowdermilk

Weicheng Zhao on the Electone

All Saints Sunday at All Saints

Jazz Vespers: Bill Cunliffe

If We Listen...

from Rector Mike Kinman

"When the grandmothers speak, the Earth will heal." – Hopi Proverb

If you listen, you can hear their voices.

Beyond the sounds of traffic and sirens.

The vibrating and ringing of phones.

The clicking of the keyboard.

The hum of the air conditioner.

They are on the winds that have blown for thousands of years.

They are in the rushing of the water that has frozen and thawed and frozen and thawed and frozen and thawed since the earth first cooled.

They are in the crashing of the waves on the shore and the rustling of the leaves on the trees.

They are in the beating of our heart and the silence of the sleepless night.

If you listen, you can hear their voices.

They are the voices of all who have come before. The voices of our ancestors.

They are the wisdom of the ages.

There truly may be no limit to our technological capacity. To our capacity to produce and consume. To discover and explore. As human beings, we are wonders ... and yet there is a seductiveness to it all. A seductiveness to our power, to our seemingly limitless capacity. It can tempt us only to trust in ourselves. To seek only our own burnished light. To believe value only exists in the latest development, the most recent thought.

To look only to the Tweet and not to the ancient text.

To forget that there are those who have come before.

To forget to listen.

To forget...

To forget...

To forget...

On All Saints Day ... we remember.

On All Saints Day ... we listen.

On All Saints Day, our very name as a community reminds us that we are always in communion, always in the presence of ancestors unseen but not unfelt. Their voices still speak, if we have the ears to hear. Their ancient wisdom is still there, if we will let it re-emerge from our hearts.

On All Saints Day, the memorial book will be laid on the table, full of names of those whose wisdom and love has brought us this far on the way.

They are merely the latest in the line of the communion of saints. Those whom we have loved but see no longer. Those whom we proclaim each time we gather around the table with us singing as "angels and archangels and all the company of heaven."

They remind us of the best of ourselves. They remind us of what really matters in life. They remind us that, sooner than we might think, we will be joining them.

On All Saints Day, our very name as a community reminds us that we are always in communion, always in the presence of ancestors unseen but not unfelt.

We can almost still hear their voices – such a short time ago it seems that they were with us. And if we listen, we can hear them ... on the wind, in the water, beating as our heart.

If we listen, we can hear their voices and remember that we are not the center of the universe ... that burden can be lifted from us.

If we listen, we can hear their voices and remember that, in the end, the love we share, the love which binds us together, is more important than the producing and consuming and discovering and exploring.

If we listen, we can hear their voices and remember that the wounds we inflict and receive, the fear we experience and incite does not need to have power over us. That we can

repair and heal ... that we can be repaired and healed.

We do not worship our ancestors, but neither do we discard them. We remember them. We listen to them. We learn from them. We let them humble us.

The Hopi people were right. When the Grandmothers speak, the Earth will heal.

This All Saints Day, and always as an All Saints community, may we have ears to hear.



PHOTO BY KEITH HOLEMAN

Spotlight

Rory Lowdermilk

by Wendy Edwards

Rory Lowdermilk, who is 15, says "I have been at All Saints my whole life, and I feel like it's the superstar of all churches! I'm so comfortable here in this very strong community. Everyone who works here cares a lot and they have innovative ideas. I think we hire the very best . . . I love the staff here – how well they nurture the community, and aren't satisfied with the status quo – they're always working to make it more." As if that weren't high enough praise, she went on to talk about how she's aware of All Saints' influence at home. "Mom always nags me about getting more involved in the community, and she'll bring up Mike's sermon in the midst of an argument!"

When I asked what kinds of things she'd participated in besides coming to church on Sunday morning, she said, "It's practically my second home! All Saints has given me a lot of platforms to express myself, and they've helped with some of my projects from the outside world, too. For example, when I was working on a Girl Scout project where I wanted to get donations for homeless women's feminine products, I got great support here."

I was curious to hear Rory's perspective on growing up in a church where liturgy is so central to worship. She answered by reflecting on her years in Children's Chapel when the kids and teachers would move the parts of the big clock-like calendar to mark the changing seasons of the liturgical year. She also admitted that every year during Advent the tune for "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" gets stuck in her head to the point of distraction, but she loves the Christmas tree in the lobby of Regas House decorated with wishes from kids in foster care.

Rory's talent for creative writing earned her a coveted spot at Orange County School of the Arts, where she is a sophomore. It's a 35-minute commute from home to school, but she tolerates the drive time because she loves her school. She described it as "more like a movie." When I asked what she meant, she said, "It's just not your orthodox high school. It's a really kind and inclusive environment, for one thing, and there's a lot of food! The work load may not be heavenly, but the rest of it is!"

She is an aspiring writer/editor: "I love tearing people's work apart and making it better." She drew on her written communication skills last March, after the Parkland mass shooting, when she became All Saints' Twitter reporter on the trip she took with other All Saints youth to the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C. Talking about that memorable journey Rory said, "It was something I'd never experienced. I met a different part of me there. The adults with us didn't

have an agenda for us, so we grew as leaders. We talked about our mutual struggles with anxiety in schools where we've felt vulnerable. We talked about how to better incorporate the junior high kids in the All Saints youth group and planned where we wanted to see the program go. There was a lot of bonding."

I looked up a few of her tweets from the trip and loved their authenticity: "Just got done with TSA. Apparently chapsticks are dangerous. Oh well, you can keep my chapstick, security lady. Looking forward to sleeping in my own bed" and, most poignantly, "Just finished the march. My throat is sore, my feet ache, but my heart is soaring. Thank you."

Rory was approached at the beginning of this past summer to speak about gun violence to an interfaith meeting at another church in Pasadena. She described that experience as "intimidating, but good!" She shared the platform with Brandon Lamar from the Black Lives Matter movement and said she learned a lot from him. Rory has also been publicizing a short documentary film called *Crowd in the Crosshairs*, directed by fellow All Saints youth, Grey Ingrassia. He was inspired to keep the national youth movement against gun violence alive after the march ended. All Saints produced and premiered the film, and now everyone can see it on YouTube. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKozP5hkZug>)

Clearly, Rory has crammed a lot into her 15 years. And this write-up didn't even touch on her passion for Disneyland ("It's like a second church!"), nor her boxing lessons. Tantalizing, I know, but we'll have to save that for another time!

PHOTO BY BERIT ANDERSON

Weicheng Zhao

on the Electone

by Keith Holeman

Five-year-old Weicheng Zhao was pushed by his mom to study music. He learned on a single keyboard for two and a half years until his teacher told Weicheng there was nothing more he could teach him — and he suggested Weicheng try learning the electone organ. He found professor Jiyong Gao at the Tianjin Conservatory of Music. "I studied with him for 15 years," Weicheng says. "Same instrument with the same teacher. Then I came to the U.S. when I was 23."

He came to the States to study the pipe organ at USC under Cherry Rhodes, and has won top prizes at national and international competitions. Now he's a Doctor in Musical Arts, and Director of Music and Organist/Choirmaster at All Saints.

Recently you may have noticed a couple of different kinds of pieces performed in church when he brought his electone to play.

The electone organ and pipe organ are two different instruments. "They're both organs," Weicheng says, "but the sound design, the keyboard design and the pedalboard design are completely different. Most electronic organs today are still made to imitate the pipe organ, but in recent years, newly discovered synthesized sounds, along with interesting orchestral-like sounds, have been incorporated into a highly advanced electronic organ — the electone. It can be used in musical settings as diverse as classical, opera, dance, drama, and musical comedy.

"And not only can you create music, you can create sound. For instance, the lowest note on the violin is G, and it's not possible to go below G. You might be able to tune it a bit lower, but that's it. With the digital instrument you can go 2 or 3 octaves below that lowest note, and the interesting thing is that when you go lower, the sound starts to change. When you go 2 octaves lower, it's not sounding like the violin anymore. That's where the magic happens. It can sound like a heart beat. Or a drum. If you move it up 3 octaves, it can sound like a bird. You just never know what happens next. It's very creative. There are hundreds of sounds that you can make adjustments to like that. Sounds that may never have been created before. It's fascinating."

"The keyboard design is very advanced. On piano, you have the initial touch on the keys — the electone has that, too — but it also has what's called 'after touch' — if you push hard the keyboard will give you louder sound. And depending on how you touch or release the keys, you can crescendo and de-crescendo on the keyboard. It's like on a string instrument when you play into the string to make it louder and play out to make it softer. You can also do left and right," he says as he wiggles his fingers, "to make vibrato like on a violin, so it's a very advanced keyboard."

"On the pipe organ, we spend a lot of time to make what's called 'registration' where you make different combinations of colors and sound. The electone is like the



pipe organ, except with the pipe organ you can see where the 'stops' are. With the electone there're hundreds of times more sounds inside. You can not only choose sounds, but you can place them in any direction you want, on the left or the right, far or near, and you can set up the reverberation so it sounds like you're in a hall, or a temple, or a cathedral. With all the options for tone and nuance it's very complicated. When I program a piece I spend a lot of time before we even start to practice. It took me three months just to make the registration for *The Finale* from Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*.

"In the two pieces I played in church I pre-programmed the percussion and I had to put every note on the computer to create that percussion, but still I can change the tempo and the volume when I do the performance — or cut it off in a certain section and bring it back later — so it's still a live performance. Nothing's recorded. I can fully control whatever I want to do with choir and the instrument.

"People say 'I heard an orchestra sound but you only have two hands and two feet.' It's because sometimes I'll add multiple colors to the notes I play — a wind instrument or brass or string playing those notes. And what's crazier on this particular instrument you can play one note and actually program a few notes based on that one note, like a chord."

Weicheng won the 43rd Yamaha International Electronic Organ Competition in Tokyo, which is recognized as the most significant event of its kind in the world. He was the first musician from China to win. "The dream for a lot of people studying that instrument," he says, "is to go to that competition." (Watch Weicheng play the Bartok concerto here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1kxwTHfOYM>)

It's unique in that in order to play it well, you have to know composition, transcription, orchestration, and on top of that, be a good performer. "That puts a lot of things on that one person, on that one instrument, because you are doing a job that a whole band or orchestra usually does."

"I've heard stories that there wasn't much variety in the music here until the piano was installed in the church in the 1980's. Before that there was only the organ, so the repertoire was limited. Now we have piano and it's much broader. And what's next if we're moving forward? What instrument can we bring in that will give us a broader range? Using the electone is one of my visions of doing more at All Saints — not too much, we also have to keep what our tradition here is. But that's what I see this instrument doing — broadening our horizons."

Worship

Your generosity
at work!

PHOTOS BY TAGGART LEE & KEITH HOLEMAN



All Saints Sunday at All Saints Church: The Mozart Requiem

All Saints Sunday, November 4, is the feast day we celebrate all the saints, known and unknown – a day we gather to offer up both love and loss in the hope-filled container of the Eucharistic celebration that promises us that we belong to love so great that it transcends even death.

Here at All Saints Church it is also our parish feast day – and our celebration includes a choral Requiem.

This year at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. Coventry Choir and chamber orchestra will offer "Requiem" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, with soloists Kelci Hahn, Jessie Shulmann, Ryan Chatterton and Dylan Gentile, accompanied by chamber orchestra and organ played by Cherry Rhoads. Weicheng Zhao conducts.

Composed in Vienna in 1791 and left unfinished at the composer's death, "Requiem" was completed the next year by Franz Xaver Süssmayr. It stands as one of the great monuments of faith expressed in music.

The services includes a grand procession of the Memorial Book as the we all sing together the great All Saints hymn "Sine Nomine" – "For all the saints." And as we circle the church during that grand procession we recognize that we are a family gathered – gathered to grieve those we love but see no more and to rejoice in the good news we share, as those who embrace together the promise of life eternal.

Many years ago a wise priest famously shared these words at a memorial service: "The only way you can lose a person is if you don't know where they are."

Yes, we grieve those we see no more – but they are not lost. We know where they are. And on All Saints Sunday they will be with us at All Saints Church – along with the angels and archangels and all that company of heaven as we all sing together "for all the saints."

Because incense will be used during the 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. services, the Small Lounge will become an "Incense-Free" zone.

Join us.

Día de Los Santos y Fieles Difuntos Day of Saints and Faithful Departed

On Friday, Nov. 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the All Saints Church sanctuary, we honor our loved ones, as they were when they were alive in this festive and colorful celebration. We encourage you to bring photographs, garments, flowers, favorite foods, stories, or other reminders of your loved one.

Then on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., we invite you to attend the Día de los Muertos conference where All Saints parishioner Oscar Alcántara will talk about different customs such as altars and beliefs centered around the Day of the Dead celebration. The art of local artists and musicians will be exhibited, and a special ballet will be performed by Xanath Dance Company. Join us, and let's celebrate! For more information contact Ada Ramirez at 626.583.2734 or aramirez@allsaints-pas.org.



PHOTO BY LAURA AGUILAR

Jazz Vespers: Bill Cunliffe

Sunday, Nov. 18, 5:00 p.m. on the Chancel. Jazz pianist, Grammy Award-winning arranger and our composer-in-residence Bill Cunliffe is widely known for his swinging and lyrical pianism and his creativity and invention as a composer and arranger of jazz. Bill began his career as pianist and arranger with the Buddy Rich Big Band and worked with Frank Sinatra, Joe Henderson, Freddie Hubbard, Benny Golson and James Moody. He has since established himself as a solo artist and bandleader, with more than a dozen albums under his name. Bill will be joined by Darek Oles on Bass and Joe LaBarbera on drums. Information = Melissa Hayes, 626.583.2725 or mhayes@allsaints-pas.org.



PHOTO BY KEITH HOLEMAN

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. in the Prepare for your holiday weekend with family and friends with a centering Eucharist on Thanksgiving Eve. Members of Canterbury and Coventry Choirs offer music. Child care provided. All are welcome to attend this beautiful, reflective service. Information = Debbie Daniels, 626.583.2750 or ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org.



Transgender Day of Remembrance

Tuesday, November 20 | 6:00 PM

On and around this day across the world, people gather in solidarity to mourn those who have been victims of anti-trans violence, and to ensure that their lives, and deaths, are not forgotten. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) allows us to call attention to the continued violence and discrimination transgender people face every day. Please join All Saints Church to honor the lives of those we have lost as we continue to work toward justice and equality for transgender people.

TDOR started in the wake of the November 1998 murder of Rita Hester and the transphobic media coverage of it in gay and mainstream media outlets that incensed the Boston area and national trans community. Hester's killer as of this date has not been brought to justice. A vigil in San Francisco held on the one year

anniversary of Hester's death grew into the Transgender Day of Remembrance – an event that continues decades later. The basic elements of a TDOR are the same no matter where the event happens: The names of trans people murdered from November 21 of the previous year to the date of this year's TDOR are read as candles are lit in remembrance. TDOR is at its core, a memorial service – and an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the task of ending anti-trans violence.

Join us on Tuesday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m. on the Quad Lawn at All Saints Church as we join with those around the world standing in solidarity with the members of the transgender community.

For more information contact Debbie Daniels at 626.583.2750 or ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org.

Cosmetics and Personal Hygiene Drive for the Los Angeles LGBT Center

On Sundays, November 4th, 11th, and 18th, All Saints Church will be doing a cosmetics and personal hygiene collection for the Los Angeles LGBT Center. Transgender people experience higher rates of poverty and unemployment which impacts their ability to buy cosmetics and personal hygiene products. Our baptismal vows call us to "respect the dignity of every human being" and one way to do that is to give a

trans person the ability to express themselves with the makeup and hygiene products they want to use! All of November we will collect new, unopened cosmetics and personal hygiene products in the main office. We will have a blessing of these items on November 18th and they will be taken to the LGBT Center that week. For more information contact Kelly Erin at kophelan@allsaints-pas.org.

We Are All Saints!

All Saints Church is a place of Radical Welcome! We Are All Saints is our campaign to improve our data about our members so we can better welcome one another. During our We Are All Saints campaign, we ask everyone to log in to My All Saints and update your personal information.

My All Saints is an online tool that helps the Church stay connected with you – it is the membership portal to All Saints Church. We have recently upgraded My All Saints so it is easier to use, and it now has a mobile-friendly interface.

Logging in to My All Saints allows you to manage your personal information in the church's records. By keeping your profile up-to-date, All Saints and other parishioners will be better able to stay in contact with you, and that helps strengthen our community! You can also use My All Saints to connect with ASC volunteer groups (small groups, committees and task teams) to share important information and view documents. My All Saints also allows you to view your pledge information and track your giving.

The We Are All Saints team will be on the lawn November 4, 11 and 18. We hope you will let us take your

photo, which we will then upload to your My All Saints profile so other parishioners using My All Saints can associate your name with your face. Your picture will be available to ASC Staff and to volunteers in your groups.

Visit the Sign-Up Center on the lawn to take your photo or get help logging in to My All Saints. While you are visiting, order a name badge!

If you need help logging in to My All Saints, please contact Amanda Perez at aperez@allsaints-pas.org or 626.583.2732.

The screenshot shows the 'User Confirmation' page of the My All Saints portal. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'My Info', 'My Groups', 'My Giving', 'My Pledge', 'Group Sign-up', and 'CMT Registration'. Below the navigation bar, there's a 'User Confirmation' section with a yellow warning message: 'Note: You have suggested using the Login ID for identification. If you are trying to confirm someone other than family, you must first register and then return here using the other person's login information, or create a new account to login.' The main content area is divided into three columns: 'Family' (with a note to update family members), 'General' (with fields for Name, Birth Date, Marital Status, User Name, Password, and Confirmation Password), and 'Communication' (with fields for Email, Cell Phone, Home Phone, Work Phone, Street Address, City, and State). A 'Sign Up' button is located at the bottom right of the Communication section.

Calendar of events for the month. Please check our website at <https://allsaints-pas.org> and the weekly *This Week At All Saints* for details and contact information.

November

- 1** – Thursday, **Senior Saints**, 12:30 p.m., Sweetland Hall
2 – Friday, **Dia de Los Santos y Fieles Difuntos**, 7:00 p.m., Church, reception in Sweetland Hall following.
Theatre Ministry: The Woman in Black, 8:00 p.m., Pasadena Playhouse
3 – Saturday, **Dia de Los Muertos Celebration**, 4:00 p.m., Regas House, Lawn
4 – Sunday, **All Saints Sunday**, All Services, Church
1 P.M. Service Convivio, 2:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall
9 – Friday, **Not So Bored Game Night**, 6:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall
10 – Saturday, **Free Legal Clinic**, 9:00 a.m.-noon., Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena 91103
11 – Sunday, **Training for Facilitating a Small Group**, 2:30 p.m., Scott Hall 5
Interfaith Study Group, 5:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall
Contemplative Evening Worship, 5:00 p.m., Church
13 – Tuesday, **Vestry Meeting**, 7:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall
16 – Friday, **Senior Saints Movie Night**, 7:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall
Fiction Fun!, 7:30 p.m., Sr. High Room
Jackson Browne Benefit Concert, 7:30 p.m., Church
Theatre Ministry: The Little Foxes, 8:00 p.m., Antaeus Theatre
17 – Saturday, **Repair Cafe**, 10:00 a.m., Learning Center
18 – Sunday, **#MeToo Momentum**, 1:00 p.m., Scott Hall 2
Jazz Vespers: Bill Cunliffe, 5:00 p.m., Chancel
20 – Wednesday, **Transgender Day of Remembrance**, 6:00 p.m., Quad Lawn
21 – Wednesday, **Thanksgiving Eve Service**, 7:30 p.m., Church
22 – Thursday, **Thanksgiving Day Holiday**, Offices closed.

Adult Ed in November, 10:15 a.m. Sundays

- 4** • All Saints Sunday
Adult Education at 10:15 will resume on Sunday, November 11
• (4:00 p.m.) *The Table: Where's the Power: In Love*, with Daniella Baker, Sweetland Hall
11 • *Reflecting on the Midterms*, Rector's Forum, Forum
• *Parent Culture*, Scott Hall 2
18 • *Michelle LeClair*, Rector's Forum, Forum
• *Parent Culture*, Scott Hall 2
25 • *Trouveres: The Civil Rights Tour*, Rector's Forum, Forum
• *Parent Culture*, Scott Hall 2

Save the Date: Nadia Bolz-Weber returns to All Saints on 2/4

Public theologian and best-selling author Nadia Bolz-Weber returns to All Saints on Monday, February 4, at 7 p.m., to talk about and sign her latest book, *Shameless: A Sexual Reformation*. A link for tickets will be available shortly – keep an eye on This Week at All Saints for more information. A portion of ticket proceeds will be donated to the Trevor Project.

Overwhelmed By the News Cycle? Contemplative Evening Worship

Sunday, Nov. 11, 5:00 p.m. in the church. Join us for an evening of poetry, music and silence. Coventry Choir, Grace Chung, and Weicheng Zhao offer music. Light a candle in prayer. Child care is available. Information = Debbie Daniels, 626.583.2750 or ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org.

Repair Café

On Saturday, November 17, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., in the Learning Center, Repair Café Returns to All Saints! Get your stuff fixed -- for FREE! Don't miss this Really, REALLY, Free Market. Where everything is 100% OFF. Really!

In the spirit of moving toward zero waste and stewardship of our planet's resources, Repair Café Pasadena links local handy people to folks in need of repair of all kinds: clothing, appliances, bikes, furniture, electronics, and more. The Repair Café is inspired by the philosophy of a Sharing Economy and they share their time, skills and talents to build a more vibrant local community ... one repair at a time.

A proud project of Transition Pasadena, and sponsored by EDEN (Environmental Defense of the Earth Now), which recognizes the need for harmonious interdependence of natural and human-made environments and works to build a healthy, sustainable world for all God's creation. Visit us at repair-cafe-pasadena.org. For information contact Ada Ramirez at 626.583.2734 or aramirez@allsaints-pas.org.

#MeToo Momentum

November 18, at 1-2:15 p.m., Scott Hall 2. Trauma is the experience of being powerless to establish a boundary between our self and that which is about to inflict, or is already inflicting, serious harm. It is one of the most acute forms of suffering that a human being can know. Survivors of the abuse of power, especially sexual misconduct, harassment and assault, often remain silent to avoid further traumatization. This silencing intensifies the effects of trauma by increasing isolation and depriving those who have been violated of needed emotional support. #MeToo Momentum is a safe space for those who identify as female, to listen to each other, and to share their stories. When we listen to each other and our stories, we are empowered together.