CENTRAL METHODIST MISSION, CAPE TOWN

Lighting the Candle of Peace, Hope and Justice

All Saints Day – 1 November 2026

Today is All Saints, when we remember the departed, especially those we have loved dearly and lost awhile, and our ancestors whose lives still cast a guiding light upon our paths …

Today we meet also amidst the tumult of elections in crucial places: In Israel/Palestine last week, and in this week, the United States and our own beloved but broken nation.

On this day, we will again be lifted into the vision of the Seer of Patmos: of that vast throng gathered about the throne of God, which no one could count, from every nation, of all tribes, people's and languages, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. We will imagine the faces of our loved ones in that crowd, joining the rejoicing: no more hunger or thirst of any other kind of suffering, instead, a Lamb among them, as their guide and a God who wipes all from their eyes.

And later, as we light our small candles and name our loved ones, I pray we will be encouraged and comforted that they are not only held in the presence of God, but still with us in countless beautiful ways.

BUT …

I invite you also to remember that *you and I live, not in heaven but in a world that has yet to be made new.*

My father always said that for us, the living, "Everything begins in theology and ends in politics." That's just another way of praying, "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Our vision of God – of God's rule of justice, and compassion, of *ubuntu* and peace – has be to translated into the hard business of life together in a here and now, where darkness, not light, seems to have the upper hand.

Lighting of the Candle …

We light this flame as an act of faith, a small light that says to the darkness, "I beg to differ." Maybe your vote is an act of faith too.

Let us pray for new signs of light at this election time …

That in Israel/Palestine, those who seek a new and better way will find one another, that their voices will be strengthened and that the schemes of those who live by hate and oppression and violence will be frustrated …

That in the United States, growing multitudes of their people will break free from the lies and hate and corruption of their administration, demanding a new dispensation of decency at home and an end to bullying and war-making in the world.

That here at home, we may see each of our single votes as acts of faith in the better, kinder, more honest, more compassionate South Africa we know we can and should be.

The Prayer for Africa and all the world …

God bless Africa and all the world,
Guard our children,
Guide our leaders,
And give us peace. AMEN.