

VETERANS DAY

PRAYERS AND LITURGY

Veterans Day began as a way to remember our nations veterans and to commemorate the end of World War 1.

Call to Worship

Leader: This nation, under God, depends on each generation accepting the call to serve both God and country.
People: **Everywhere we look we are reminded of the commitment our veterans made in presenting their bodies as a living sacrifice.**

Leader: So today we honor them as we shout a resounding....
People: **THANK YOU!**

Leader: THANK YOU! That we are free to come and to worship the One who presented His body as the ultimate living sacrifice for ALL.
People: **Come, let us worship!**

Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)

Father, we could never thank our military men and women enough for their courageous service and sacrifice to our country and its people. Yet today we lift up our voices to express gratefulness and honor to these military troops both from the past and present. Show us ways in our communities, churches, and families to thank and love them better. Keep and protect these heroes and their families, in the powerful name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

You, O God, are our God. You are with us in all the times of life to offer hope and light and comfort.
We come to you now with thanks: thanks for our freedom; thanks for our peace; thanks for our prosperity and security. On this Veteran's Day, we thank you, especially, for the women and men who gave of themselves in times of war to help to ensure the blessings that we enjoy. The names, the faces, the stories come to us, once again, and we honor them, their courage, their sacrifice, their willingness to put themselves in harm's way for a better cause.
May we never forget. We pray that wars and rumors of wars would cease, but if there is a need, let those of us of younger generations go forth as faithfully as did our ancestors that the cause of peace and justice may be defended and upheld. That freedom found in our county and the freedom found in and through Christ is always worth fighting for.
With our Freedoms today we pray for the sick of our congregation and community.
On this day, we lift up in prayer **(here each should take the time to call out those you are praying for)**
Be with them and all of us offering healing and hope and strength to see beyond our problems to the glory of your Kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Scripture Lesson – Psalm 33 (*New International Version*)

- ¹ Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
- ² Praise the LORD with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
- ³ Sing to him a new song;

play skillfully, and shout for joy.

⁴ For the word of the LORD is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.

⁵ The LORD loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
he puts the deep into storehouses.

⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the people of the world revere him.

⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

¹⁰ The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

¹¹ But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he chose for his inheritance.

¹³ From heaven the LORD looks down
and sees all mankind;

¹⁴ from his dwelling place he watches
all who live on earth—

¹⁵ he who forms the hearts of all,
who considers everything they do.

¹⁶ No king is saved by the size of his army;
no warrior escapes by his great strength.

¹⁷ A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.

¹⁸ But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,

¹⁹ to deliver them from death
and keep them alive in famine.

²⁰ We wait in hope for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.

²¹ In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.

²² May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,
even as we put our hope in you.

Responsive Reading (*From the UMC Book of Worship, for United States Forces*)

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

People: **We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

People: **We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

People: **We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: O almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence. Amen.

Quote:

“A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.” —Joseph Campbell

*This liturgy was prepared for Veterans Day 2018, which was also the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, by (then) CPT Jenna Moon, the Chaplain of the 321st Ordnance Battalion in Cross Lanes, WV. In 2018, she had been serving in the military for 16 years and was the former pastor of three United Methodist churches in Grantsville MD. Married to the Rev. Jonathan Moon and proud mother to J.J. Posted November 1, 2018 By WVUMC News.

<https://www.wvumc.org/2018/11/veterans-day-prayers-and-liturgy/>