

PP Nov 11

Veterans/Armistice Day

Today we gather before you, O God, to reaffirm our faith in your love and goodness; to proclaim again our trust in the way of Christ, who gave of himself to forge a spiritual peace between us. We believe that the Holy Spirit, Comforter and Counselor, is meant to teach us the ways of justice, mercy, and humility.

Inasmuch as we have failed in all of these things by embracing the arrogance of pride, privilege and ownership, through which we have unleashed unintended destruction and wars, we implore your mercy and forgiveness. At the same time we ask for courage and wisdom to stand strong in your name against the evil, the principalities and powers that trample the innocent and helpless of this world; that would wreak destruction in the name of hate and selfish gain.

In this spirit we lift to you our veterans, worthy women and men who gave their best, and even their lives, when they were called upon; who have accepted the scars of war and the searing memories on behalf of honor and freedom and peace. We hold before you, O God, those whose memories we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. May your grace and mercy surround them and their families on this eleventh day of the eleventh month, one hundred years later. May we always remember.

Today we also remember those among us who are in need of healing and solace as they make the hard journey back to health and wholeness.

Finally, Lord, we pray for peace-makers and peace-keepers; for those who work for justice without thought of personal safety; for those who go to dangerous places to bring food and bind wounds; for all who consider life and love and peace more important than self. As we remember the past, we turn to the future with hope, for you are the source of hope and the wellspring of life, in Jesus Christ. Amen.