

A Litany for Memorial Day

(adapted from a Memorial Day Invocation by Rev. Erin Clausen)

Leader: In the midst of our worship this day, we pause -giving sacred space to the somber celebration of remembering those who have gone before us.

PEOPLE: As we celebrate the promises of this particular nation, as we commit ourselves to protecting and promoting the freedoms we enjoy, we want to honor the courage and commitment of those service persons who have given their all in service to their country.

Leader: We honor all who have left behind family, friends, and community to serve in the military. We honor those who have loved these United States enough to risk everything for her prosperity. We honor men and women throughout the years who have dedicated their lives to *our* freedom and *our* rights.

PEOPLE: And as we honor them, we also support one another in lament. We lament a fallen world where war ever even occurs. We lament our failures to properly care for the veterans who survive.

Leader: And as our lament gives way to mourning. We mourn for all those who have given their lives in war. We mourn the absence of those we have loved, who, themselves, proved their love for us through their service. We mourn for all who survived war zones, only to lose their lives in the fight against mental illness.

PEOPLE: And as we mourn, we always cling to the joy of remembrance. We remember the lives and gifts of the service personnel we have loved and lost. We remember the sacrifices of so many in the service of their country. And we remember our GOD, who redeems the unredeemable; forgives the unforgivable; and encourages that we love – both our neighbor and our enemy.

[Silently meditate on those who gave their lives in military service to our nation. Following this time of silent reflection, the names of our congregation's deceased service-persons will be read; after which, beginning with those who died as a result of combat, please feel free to speak the name of a loved one who has passed in the last year]

Leader: So, this morning, as we celebrate, honor, lament, mourn and remember. And, as President Abraham Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address...

ALL: ***“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as GOD gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.” AMEN.***



RICHVILLE UCC VETERANS

Don Jones

Gary Dressler

Ron Edris

Michael Charton

Eric Klick

Doug Lautensleger

Scott Lautensleger

Chase Overholt

Gerald Bates

Dick Lutz

Floyd Showalter, Sr.

Jill Tilton

Robert Jedel

Don Long

Evelyn Eyster

Bob McFarland

Gregory Dotson Jr.

Devale Trotter

Harold Gopp

Don Noll

Brian Tilton

Michael Spears

James S. Provost III

Scott Mizeres

James L. Kracker

Bill Ensalaco

Deceased

Lester Wilson

Don Burnham

John Kalleker

Don Hunston

John Wycoff

Ed Sundheimer

Clyde (Budd) Hill

Greg Boughman

Charles Barkheimer

Clyde Risher

Claud Klick

Jack Isler

Larry Meyer

Don Rieger

Ted Provost

Morris C. Birch

Joe Tomcala

Sam Fry

Art Lautensleger

Don Foster

Russell Dressler

Robert Earl

Frank Greene

James Foltz

Ivan Carter

Bill Charton

Denny Mowery

Sam Kolonchuk

Ralph Smith

Ken Charton

Bill Jacobs

Bill Hillier

Bill Mattern

Bob Kintner

Jerry Josas Miller

Pete Ciesielczyk, Sr.

Paul Kilper

James Deyarmin

Harry Johnson

Richard Krebs

Glenn Tipton

Wilson Hawk