CALL TO WORSHIP

Today is the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day that came to be called Veterans Day. Armistice Day commemorated the end of the first World War, which was expected to be “the war to end all wars.”

But we are now a nation at war for 17 years. We grieve with those whose loved one has died, and we thank God for those who have returned home safely, albeit many with lifelong physical or mental disabilities. We remember men and women who are even now in places of great danger while wearing the uniform of our country. We pray for their deliverance, along with all civilians in harm’s way.

We pray that we can be co-creators of the day when war will be no more.

With these thoughts foremost in our minds we come to worship on this Armistice/Veterans Day. God bless our time together.

HYMN

CONFESSION

Loving God, as the years of human history go by, we continue to bring suffering to each other through the scourge of war. We have too often sent our finest youth into fields of horror and pain, and have found reason to rain death and destruction upon those we call enemy. We confess that we seem to be unable to free ourselves from this pattern of death. Forgive us, God. Oh forgive us, we pray.

ABSOLUTION

The God of love sees our frailties and suffers with us in our suffering. Please know that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God has called us to be children of God and, indeed, that is what we are. Though surrounded by war, live in peace – the peace of God which simply surpasses all human understanding.

PASSING OF THE PEACE  {Special exchange}
“May you be an instrument, manifesting God’s peace.”
Or “May you be an instrument of peace.”

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

PRAYER

Prince of Peace, move the hearts and wills of those who govern to seek swift and just solutions in those places where violence and war hold sway. Shield the innocent, protect those who serve in the armed forces, grant patience to those who wait, comfort those who mourn. And empower us to be proactive peacemakers in every arena of our lives. Gracious God, in your mercy...

PRAYERS (See digital files titled “Prayers” for other suggestions.)

SENDING

Go in peace. Make the peace.
Response: Thanks be to God!

This 2018 version is adapted from the liturgy published in Welcome Them Home–Help Them Heal
Pastoral care and ministry with service members returning from war
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