

Worship Service: HONOR

Welcome: Welcome! It's so good to be together to celebrate faith and community today. My name is ____ and I'll be leading our worship time today. This week is the celebration of Veteran's Day, so our theme for today is **honor**. Who here served either stateside or overseas in any war? Who knows someone who served in the armed forces? The Bible has much to say about why we honor these men and women.

Please pray with me as we open our time together.

Opening Prayer: Great and loving God, we ask that your Holy Spirit bless our time together and to refresh us with your presence. In the midst of a world full of trouble and strife, we thank you for watching over us, guiding us, and especially forgiving us. Enable us to enter your presence joyfully and reverently, and let us depart today with the assurance that our sins are forgiven. Fill us, O God, with the peace which passes understanding. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Doxology, p. 1

Statement of Faith: Let us affirm our statement of faith by reciting Psalm 23 together:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Hymns:

For the Beauty of the Earth, p. 2

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, p. 3

Amazing Grace, p. 4

First reading: Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

² Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?

⁵ Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly being
and crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,

⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹ O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

Hymns:

Holy, Holy, Holy, p. 5

Jesus Loves Me, p. 6

Second reading: Phil. 2: 25-30: Paul speaking to the Philippian church, just after his description of Christ's humility and obedience to God's plan.

²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ...

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

Hymns:

Softy and Tenderly, p. 7

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, p. 8

Interactive Homily:

Let's think a little more about honor.

- How would you define honor?
 - High esteem; respect; good reputation; given as a distinction (served with high honor, graduated with honors); pay public respect to
- What sorts of people do we honor?
 - Parents: honor your mother and father (Exodus 20:12). This is the only one of the Ten Commandments that includes a promise: "That you may live long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."
 - Teachers: We call them sir, ma'am, professor, doctor, Mr., Mrs.
 - Those in authority: Because God has placed these people in leadership (Romans 13:7)
 - Doesn't mean you necessarily agree with them!
 - Military: They serve a higher calling, to serve and sacrifice for their country's principles. "No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him." (2 Tim. 2:4)
- *Why* do we honor these people?
 - Selflessness
 - Sacrifice
 - Even more profound: They are made in God's image
- Why do we often *forget* to honor these people?
 - They are too familiar – take them for granted, forget they are there, forget what they have done
 - Disagree with them
- Who else do we forget to honor? God!
 - Our culture tends to treat God as common. We're too familiar with him. We refer to Him as "the Man Upstairs" or "the Big Guy." [But God] is the soon-to-return, ruling, reigning King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He is the Righteous One who shed His blood so that we would live.

We have to stop treating God as common or ordinary. When we're able to see Him as He is, we'll honor others ... because His name is on [all of] our hearts. We [and others are] no longer common or ordinary, because having His name on us [and being in His image] makes us valuable.'

- Could a casual attitude toward God have anything to do with why we forget to honor our veterans, our parents, and others?

Let's take a moment to silently pray and reflect on how to honor those around us, and especially our veterans during this time of remembrance.

(Silent Prayer) ... Lord, thank you Now let us say the Lord's prayer together:

Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

Hymns:

This is My Father's World, p. 9

It is Well with My Soul, p. 10

Standing on the Promises, p. 11

Third Reading: Quotes on Honor

True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost. –Arthur Ashe

I believe we should do more than sing the praises of the bravery and patriotism that our veterans have embodied in the past. We should take this opportunity to re-evaluate how we are treating our veterans in the present. –Nick Lampson

Life every man holds dear; but the dear man holds honor far more precious dear than life. –Shakespeare

¹ <http://www.faithgateway.com/3-ways-to-show-honor-in-bible/#.WgW9ixNSw8Y>

When you go out to fight for freedom and truth, never wear your best trousers. –
Henrik Ibsen

Hymns:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, p. 12

Shall We Gather at the River, p. 13

Fourth Reading: George Washington and Honor²

After the Revolutionary War, an officer wrote General George Washington with the suggestion that the General should become King of America. General Washington wrote back: “Let me [ask] you then, if you have any regard for your country—concern for yourself or posterity—or respect for me, to banish these thoughts from your mind, and never communicate [that feeling], as from yourself, or anyone else.” General Washington was more concerned with his country than his own glorification, and that attitude is why he deserves glory to this day.

[optional reading:] The respect he earned helped the States again shortly after the Revolutionary War, when the Continental Congress did not pay the army, and former soldiers threatened to revolt. General Washington met with the leaders of the offended group, and as he was about to beg them to show restraint, he paused and took a pair of spectacles from his pocket. The soldiers had never seen him use eyeglasses before. Addressing them again he began: “Gentlemen, you must pardon me. I have grown gray in your service, and now find myself growing blind.” This humble statement from such a [famous and honored] figure touched the soldiers greatly, and [in honor of him] they agreed to give the Continental Congress more time to provide their pay.

Hymns:

Blest Be the Tie that Binds, p. 14

I Need Thee Every Hour, p. 15

Closing Blessing: (Strike bell as you say the word “Lord”)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you peace. Amen.

² <https://user.xmission.com/~wake/honor.html>

Closing Hymn: Doxology, p. 25

Boy Scout Oath:

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my Country and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Girl Scout Promise:

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.