



Worship Service Theme: Honor (Veteran's Day)

Helpful elements:

Green table covering (Ordinary Time)

U.S. flags

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 rightly honor these men and women.

Please pray with me as we open our time together.

Opening Prayer: Great and loving God, we ask your Holy Spirit to 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 as we confess our sins, for 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

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.

⁴Yea, 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.

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

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

Suggested Hymns:

For the Beauty of the Earth

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Amazing Grace

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.

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

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

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

⁹O Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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

Suggested Hymns:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Jesus Loves Me

Second reading: Phil. 2: 25-30

This is the apostle Paul (St. Paul) speaking to the new church in Philippi. Here, Paul talks about one of his brothers in Christ and why this brother should be honored. Paul writes:

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.

Suggested Hymns:
Softy and Tenderly
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Interactive Homily: Let's think a little more about honor.

- How would you define honor?
 - High esteem; respect; good reputation
 - A title given as a distinction (“served with high honor,” “graduated with honors”)
 - Pay public respect to
 - A personal quality we use as a promise (“on my honor”—see Boy Scout and Girl Scout pledges, last page)
- 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.
 - People in authority: Because God has placed these people in leadership
 - “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:7)

- Does that mean you always agree with your leaders? No! But respect them even in disagreement; don't stoop to name-calling or insults
 - Military, Police, Emergency Responders, and the like: They serve a higher calling, to serve and sacrifice for their country's principles, sometimes even giving their lives. "No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since the soldier's 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 sometimes forget to honor people like veterans?*
 - They are too familiar – take them for granted, forget they are there, forget what they have done, treat them as ordinary
 - Sometimes we withhold respect because we disagree with them
- *Who else do we forget to honor? God!*
 - We sometimes treat God as common or ordinary, not as the reigning King of King and Lord of Lords. But when we see God as God is, we won't see people as common or ordinary, because being God's children and bearing God's image makes people more valuable than anything else in the universe.¹
- *Could a casual attitude toward God have anything to do with why we forget to honor our veterans and others?*

A friend gave me this special **Prayer for Our Veterans**. Please join me in prayer:

Oh God, our heavenly Father,
 You have blessed us with brave men and women
 Who are willing to defend our freedom.
 May Your protection and grace surround them each day.
 Let Your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries.
 May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice
 Rest forever in Your Holy Presence.
 Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember
 The precious lives of their loved ones.

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

Help us to honor and support them.
Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people
By our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, and friends.
Amen.

And now let us pray 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.

Suggested Hymns:

This is My Father's World
It is Well with My Soul
Standing on the Promises

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. – American tennis great and Army veteran 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. –former Texas Congressman Nick Lampson

Humility forms the basis of honor, just as the low ground forms the foundation of a high elevation. –actor, director, and martial artist Bruce Lee

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

Suggested Hymns:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Shall We Gather at the River

Fourth Reading: A story about 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: “[If] you have any regard for your country—concern for yourself or posterity—or respect for me, banish these thoughts from your mind, and never communicate [them], as from yourself, or anyone else.” In refusing to become king, General Washington was more concerned with his country than his own glorification. That attitude is why he deserves honor to this day.

[optional reading:] The respect George Washington earned helped the new United 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 eyeglasses from his pocket. The soldiers had never seen Washington use eyeglasses before. Addressing the soldiers again, Washington 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.

Suggested Hymns:

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

I Need Thee Every Hour

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. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Doxology (Reprise)

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

Extra material:

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.