

May 25 Worship
Memorial Day Sunday
Greeters- Dan Smith, Chris Kenney
Readers- Dan Smith, Chris Kenney

Announcements/Joys-

Time Of Quiet Meditation- *“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”* John 15:13

Opening Scripture- Acts 16:9-15(page 963)

Opening Chorus- 617- Battle Hymn of the Republic(1st verse)

Responsive Call To Worship-

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God.

People: Let all the peoples praise you.

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

People: For you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God.

People: Let all the peoples praise you!

Hymn- 42- Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Unison Prayer- God, we remember with wonder and joy that your spirit is reaching everywhere: rejoicing in the liveliness of all living things; touching what is wounded or ill with healing power; gathering in the lonely, the lost, the least; soothing ancient animosities; creating and recreating a vision of hope. Come now, Holy Spirit. Let our worship rejoice in you, and lift our hearts, and bind us in one family of loving grace. We ask in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying...*Lord's Prayer...*

Gloria Patri- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, Amen.

Old Testament Scripture- Psalm 67(page 500)

Special Music-

Gospel Scripture- John 14:23-29(page 939)

Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace

Hymn- 524- It Is Well With my Soul

New Testament Scripture- Revelation 22:1-5(page 1086)

Message

"We Remember"

What is the true purpose of this special day that we call "Memorial Day?" It seems as if people today mark this day as the unofficial start of summer and use it as an early season get away. There are picnics, family gatherings, special cook outs and all kind of events on this long weekend that bring people together. Unfortunately, we see a marked decline in the numbers of people at local observances for the remembrance of those who have sacrificed for the rest of us. What used to be a day of solemn reflection has become a 3-day weekend for recreation. While there is nothing wrong with taking time to enjoy ourselves, we need to acknowledge that it is important for us to pay our respect to those who sacrificed on our behalf.

Memorial Day was 1st observed in 1868 to pay honor to those who gave their life in the conflict known as the Civil War. There had been ceremonies in previous years but they were all local. Originally, this day, known then as Decoration Day, was to honor those who died as a result of the conflict. In later years, it has evolved into a celebration of all those who have passed on and were veterans. We also honor those who have served their communities as First responders. No matter how this special day changes in its meaning, we must remember that the main purpose is to pay our respect to those who offered themselves for the rest of us.

It does not matter where we come from, how we grew up, who our parents were, we all owe what we have now to those who have served us throughout our history. As Christians, we all know that God calls on us to work for peace. War is not something that fits in the message of Jesus Christ. Why then do we, as a nation, continually find ourselves in conflict with other nations or cultures? It is because the human condition is made up of different ideals and methods. We all have multiple parts of who and what we are. Let's break it down into 2 main aspects. We all have 2 main parts to deal with.

First is our spiritual part. Human beings all have a part of us that is our spirit. Some call it soul and there are probably other names for it, but I will call it spirit. This part of us is our communication link with the Holy Spirit which is not only of God but is God. Every human, past present and future, has a human spirit. This part of us is often totally and completely disregarded by us and, even though we may possess a spirit, it goes unused and rejected. When we decide to use our spirit for the reason God gave it to us, our lives are enriched beyond measure. It is our human spirit which calls us to reach out and help others. For those who were called to service in times of conflict, it is their spirit that makes them do selfless things to serve each other and protect the rest of us.

The second part of us is our worldly or physical part. Every person ever born has the attributes of all other parts of God's creation. Our physical being is related to all other of God's created beings. Our physical make up is comparable to most all living things. What makes us different is the first part, our spirit. God breathed into humanity the breath of His Spirit that makes us special beings. Does this make us any more important than other beings? In reality, the answer is yes, we are special in God's plan. The human animal has been given certain things that differentiate us from all other beings.

Our ability to make choices and make decisions that can change how we live together is something that takes us to a different level than other beings. We can decide to attempt to control our environment and force our will on others. This is probably what takes us to war. We then must depend on the spirit of those called to serve to fight and die for things that we cannot

totally understand. Fighting for the freedom of humanity is a fairly new concept in human existence. Wars have been fought all through history for control of land, riches, power, and simply because one people has something another people want bad enough to die for. Going to war to insure the freedom of people is fairly new in history. It is a fight that must be fought fairly regularly simply because human nature is such that being in control of other people destiny is a powerful prize in worldly ideals.

This year, we are celebrating 250 years since the beginning of this nations "War of Independence." To those who lived in England, it is known as the "War of Colonial Rebellion." Remember, when the people of the colonies rose up they were citizens of Britain, subjects of King George, and became traitors to their lawful government. When the 1st shots were fired at Lexington in April of 1775, all those who supported the cause of independence were subject to the penalty of death for rebellion. We are coming up on the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill where the 1st head on battle between the British Army and the militias of New England took place. Those farmers, tradesmen, business men, lawyers, doctors and all others who considered themselves as patriots to this new cause, stood up and fought the finest army of the day in head-to-head combat. Even though the battle was considered to be a victory by the British, the fact that an organization of local militias was able to inflict fairly severe damage to the army of the King caused an uproar in England.

Next year we will celebrate the "Declaration of Independence," a document unlike any ever produced, that made 13 colonies of Great Britain into the United States of America. This declaration made a statement that we all should know; "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." This simple acknowledgement of God's power makes a great difference in all other documents written by humanity. We know, from scripture, that those nations or peoples who maintain an obedience to God will prosper. It is only when we remove ourselves from God that we find trouble. I did not say when God removes Himself, I said when we remove ourselves. God is always there and will be there when we humble ourselves and obey His dictates.

This nation was founded on the ideals of lesson that we find in the Holy Bible. While it is not a "Christian Nation," it is founded on principles found in Judeo/ Christian ethics. It is shown through history that those who follow God's rules, generally do well. It is when we ignore God that we find trouble. On this Memorial Day, let us pay honor to those who gave of themselves for us. We also must give God thanks and praise for blessing us with this nation and with those people we owe our freedom to. Praise Be to God. Amen.

Prayers of People/Prayer- Living God, Maker of heaven and earth, we come into your presence and we know ourselves to be recipients of great and wonderful gifts, the earth, the sky, the waters, given to us here in such abundance and beauty. We lead enormously privileged lives. Don't let our comfort blind us to the newness you are making in our midst, a newness that is taking us in directions we would not choose on our own; a newness that moves our safe horizons out beyond what we can control. This much does not change: You are our God; we are your people, bound to you by the love of Jesus Christ and by the call of your Holy Spirit. Faithful God, hold us deep in that truth even as you move us into your new creation. Creating

and re-creating God, take us in our uncertainties and make us new. We pray in the name of your Son, who has gone ahead of us into your new future and who beckons us follow. Amen.

Closing Hymn- 695- Shall We Gather at the River

Benediction- Go now and walk in the light of God's glory. Love Christ and keep his word. Do not let your hearts be troubled, but lead others to the waters of life. And may God's face shine on you with favour; May Christ Jesus mark you out as his own; And may the Holy Spirit lead you into all truth and peace. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, In the name of Christ. Amen.