Morning Prayer

In Honor of Veterans Day

November 11, 2020 • 7:00 AM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
PARTICIPANTS

OFFICIANT
The Right Reverend Carl Walter Wright
Bishop for the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, The Episcopal Church

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Canon to the Bishop for the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, The Episcopal Church

HOMILIST
Chaplain (Major General) Stephen A. Schaick
Chief of Chaplains, United States Air Force

READERS
Frances A. Cheever
Major (Ret.), United States Army

Julie Riggs
Blue Star Families

MUSICIANS
Timothy Coombs
Susan Lewis Kavinski
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The people’s responses are in bold.

WELCOME

The Right Reverend Carl Walter Wright
Bishop for the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, The Episcopal Church

OPENING SENTENCES

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy;
for you rule the world with justice.

With fairness you rule the peoples,
and guide all the nations upon earth.

VETERANS DAY PROCLAMATION

October 8, 1954 Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States of America

WHEREAS it has long been our custom to commemorate November 11, the anniversary of the ending of World War I, by paying tribute to the heroes of that tragic struggle and by rededicating ourselves to the cause of peace; and

WHEREAS in the intervening years the United States has been involved in two other great military conflicts, which have added millions of veterans living and dead to the honor rolls of this Nation; and

WHEREAS the Congress passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies, and later provided in an act approved May 13, 1938, that the eleventh of November should be a legal holiday and should be known as Armistice Day; and

WHEREAS, in order to expand the significance of that commemoration and in order that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation, the Congress, by an act approved June 1, 1954, changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day:

On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain.

PRAYER FOR VETERANS

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
THE FIRST READING

Micah 4:1-5

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord’s house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
and many nations shall come and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.
For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God
for ever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

Prayed responsively by whole verse.

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
The Lord of hosts is with us
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown;
    God shall help her at the break of day.
The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;
    God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
    the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,  
what awesome things he has done on earth.  
It is he who makes war to cease in all the world;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.  
“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.”  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

THE SECOND READING

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

THE HOMILY

Chaplain (Major General) Steven A. Schaick  
Chief of Chaplains, United States Air Force

ANTHEM

Almighty Father, strong to save  
Almighty Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Spirit, whom the Father sent  
To spread abroad the firmament;  
O Wind of heaven, by thy might  
Save all who dare the eagle’s flight,  
And keep them by thy watchful care  
From every peril in the air.

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain  
O’er which our traffic runs amain  
By mountain pass or valley low;  
Wherever, Lord, thy people go,  
Protect them by thy guarding hand  
From every peril on the land.

O Trinity of love and power,  
Our people shield in danger’s hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,  
Protect them where-so-e’er they go;  
Thus, evermore shall rise to thee  
Glad praise from space, air, land, and sea.

(Sts. 1 and 4, William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.; sts. 2-3, Robert Nelson Spencer, 1877-1961, alt.)
A LITANY FOR ALL VETERANS

For all who have served in the armed forces to ensure our freedom,
We honor you.

For the families who kept the home fires burning and provided continuous support for their soldiers,
We thank you.

For the wounds you have suffered at the hands of war
For the times of loneliness you have felt on the battlefields of life

For the sacrifices you have made
For the times you were not thanked

For the times you chose courage in the face of fear
For the times you were not shown compassion

For the difficult decisions you had to make
For the losses you have suffered

We thank you now
We honor you now

YOUR SACRIFICE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN!

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE

Our recognition of the survivors of war would be incomplete without honoring the loss and sacrifice of those who gave their lives in service to their country. The fallen are on their fellow soldiers’ hearts and minds, and on our hearts and minds, as well. Let us pause for a moment in silence in memory of those who did not return.

A period of silence follows.

Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM

Our God, our help in ages past
Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:
Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
(Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.)

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.
O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guide while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

William Croft (1678-1727)
CONCLUDING PRAYERS

*The bishop offers closing prayers.*

PRAYER FOR PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE BLESSING

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, and all people, unity, peace, and concord, and to us and all God’s servants, life everlasting. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all and remain with you always. *Amen.*
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