

Memorial Day Commemoration Liturgy

SCRIPTURE READING

John 8:31-36

- ³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;
³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"
³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.
³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

GIVING THANKS

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: O almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence.

PROCESSION TO CEMETERY

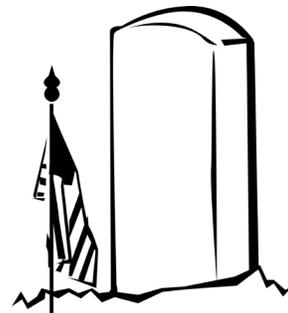
A MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S FALLEN

May 29, 2016, 9:45 a.m.

AUMC Cemetery

Please join us for today's Memorial Day tribute. In this special event we, through our exercise of memory, expression of words, and ceremonial action, honor all military service members who in the 240-year history of the United States of America made the ultimate sacrifice.

Following the conclusion of the 8:30 a.m. service, Dr. Brown, through scripture and prayer, will call us to focus on and comprehend the true meaning and purpose of Memorial Day. After this brief sanctuary litany, the congregation and visitors will process through the doors in the lower atrium to the cemetery to witness and participate in the cemetery ceremony.



After we are gathered on the crest of cemetery hill, we will witness a color guard from Boy Scout Troop 150 raise the colors to half-mast on the cemetery flagpole. The Scouts will then lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Four details comprised of church members will then implant flags on the graves of the 37 military veterans buried in AUMC Cemetery. After all flags are placed, we will gather at the flagpole where Dr. Brown will say a prayer. The ceremony then closes with the playing of taps.

After the tribute, all are invited for refreshments and fellowship in Wright Hall.

With the implanting of American flags on the grave sites of AUMC's interred veterans, we gratefully acknowledge the dedicated service of our 37 interred veterans and through them honor those soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who gave their lives in defense of their country.

Memorial Day weekend is also an ideal time to experience the dignity, beauty and historical richness of AUMC Cemetery, which serves as the final earthly resting place for many members of our church's founding families. For more information about the cemetery, contact Mike Moser at 703-591-1210 or mmoser@annandale-umc.org.

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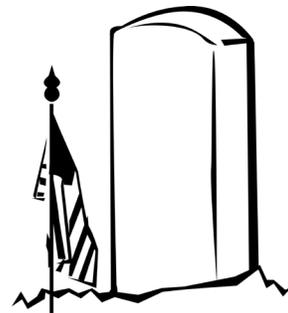
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