

*United Veterans Service
Invocation and Benediction
Memorial Day ~ May 25, 2015*

“On this day, we call to mind those who gave their lives that our nation might live. Alas that its preservation should have entailed the loss of so much treasure, should have brought so much suffering, should have demanded so many young and promising young lives! The only fitting memorial to those sacrifices is our self-dedication to the task of abolishing all inner strife, hatred, and bitterness from among us.” ~ from The Faith of America

**Creator God, in a spirit of community we pause to remember lives lost and lives forever changed in war. May we also remember your great love for us, and that there is no greater demonstration of love than to lay down one’s life for another. Grant that our reflections today honor those who made that choice as well as the many more willing to do so if called upon. To honor their legacy we commit ourselves to be more vigilant in our love for others, for our nation, and the cause of freedom, justice and peace throughout the world.
Amen.**

**May the remembrance of the price we paid for our life as a nation impel us to seek justice, to foster freedom, and to pursue the ways of peace. May our nation be a source of blessing to all its people and to the rest of humankind.
Amen.**