

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 25 May 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter/Memorial Day Sunday^

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements: *(To help us connect, please sign
the attendance pad in your pew.)*

Greeting: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you will renew the face of the earth.
(Book of Prayers, U.S.A., 20th Cent.)

*Praise Choruses: W 3150 "Father, We Have Heard You Calling"
S 2282 "I'll Fly Away"

Opening Prayer:
Like the sun that is far away and yet close at hand to warm us,
so God's Spirit is ever present and around us.
Come Creator into our lives.
We live and move and have our very being in you.
Open now the windows of our souls.
Amen.
*(United Methodist Clergywomen's Consultation, U.S.A.,
20th Cent., Alt.)*

*Opening Hymn: 93 "Let All the World in Every Corner Sing"
(Tune: 10, The Methodist Hymnal 1964)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 347 (Verse 2 only) "Spirit Song"

First Lesson: Acts 16:9-15

Psalter: Psalm 67 (UM 791)

(2)

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:1-10, 22-22:5

*Hymn of Preparation: 733 "Marching to Zion"

*Gospel Lesson: John 14:23-29

~Memorial Day Prayer:

On this day our memories may be so painful that we cannot
live with them.

Yet we cannot, we dare not, live without them.

Let us pray that we may never forget, but always remember
before God, that war is evil, and, to all who experience it,
war is hell.

(Silence)

For leaders who send the young to war,
we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For soldiers who lay down their lives for others,
we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have been maimed or brutalized by war,
we pray to the Lord,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have been left behind,
we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who suffer most from war: the homeless, the orphaned,
the hungry, and the innocent, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Help us to never forget that war is evil, and war is hell.

Help us to honor its dead

**and to pray for its victims who live on,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith: 881 "The Apostles' Creed,
Traditional Version"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers, Children's time

(3)

*The Peace: Let us offer one another
signs of reconciliation and love.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people,
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offertory

*Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving**:

In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name.
Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love,
granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely,
endurance to those who care for sick family members,
and wisdom to those in fearful times of change.

**We thank you for gifts of love we have received
from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion.**

**As we have been loved by you and by others,
so may we love.**

**We offer ourselves and our gifts in glad thanksgiving,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen. (Ruth Duck, U.S.A., 20th Cent., Alt.)

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 2191 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

*Blessing**: The Lord bless you and keep you.

**The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Amen. (Numbers 6:24-26)

(4)

*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

*Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

**THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP

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^(Memorial Day: observed the last Monday in May or the
previous Sunday, this day honors the war dead of the United
States. It was first celebrated in 1866 in Waterloo, New York.
Many observe the day by decorating graves, especially of persons
who died in war).

~THE WIDENESS OF GOD'S MERCY:VOL.II, by Jeffery W.
Rowthorn, Seabury Press, 1985, Alt.