

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 a.m. Sunday 25 May 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter/Memorial Day Sunday*

ENTRANCE

(To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew)

Lighting of candles and prelude

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

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for open hearts and minds: 2269 "Come, Share the Lord"

First lesson: Acts 16:9-15

Psalter: Psalm 67(UM 791)

Second lesson: Revelation 10:10:1-10, 22-22:5

Song: 557 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Gospel lesson: John 14:23-29

Memorial Day Prayer**

Joys, concerns, prayers

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15ff)

All are welcome

SENDING FORTH

Song: 2191 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Blessing: Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.
Amen.

Postlude and extinguishing of candles/Going forth

(2)

**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.*

****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 never to 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.**