

Sermon :: 25-May-2025
Memorial Day (making ref to Easter 6, Year C)

"Eternal-ed Peacemakers"
A reflection for Memorial Day Weekend

Hearing
they heeded
the cry,
 "Come help us!"

Leaving behind lives of safety and sureness; to
 join battle, in bravery
 flying the air
 forging the seas
 'fending the land; to
hurl self, into service
 rescuing the imperiled
 releasing the captived
 re-un-ing* the hostaged; to
preserve—protect—nay, to *prosper*
 the wavering, yet worthy
 Godly goods
 humanity hath wrought:
 respecting the will of the whole, in democracy
 correcting the wrongs of oppressors, in justice
 deflecting the advance of
 avarice & evil,
 high hand & hateful heart,
 all in the peacemakers'
 pursuit
 of peace

And, in leaving behind
 lives,
 they, too, left behind
 life
itself: sound of ear and breath of lung
 beat of heart and taste of tongue
 hold of hand and share of sigh
 kiss of lips and glint of eye

 already loves: cruelly severed, *and*
 future loves: for e'er unknown
 those left
 be-fallen
 and
 those ne'er to-be

* *I.e.*, re-unION-ing.

And leaving
left

all—*all*—**all**—for peace ... for *true* peace ... for *righteous* peace
not cheap peace that evades and averts

conjuring good, in the will of evil
accommodating awful, in the name of order
but the peace of *love*, the peace of **holy-conflict**—yea, the very peace of *Christ*: Who
overturned tables of cheats
spoke truth, simple and sure ... to power, inflated and ill-eased
paraded fearlessly into
a city set to
kill
Him ... and *did*

Like His, the peace *they* died for ... died *doing* ... died **making** (like Him)
is the *dear* peace that won't **look past** dominance or oppression
won't **truck** with libel or hatred
won't **ally** the cruel or **excuse** the callous
won't let law and justice, rights and honor
be **cast aside**
tramped under
thrown over- ||
board, like so much vexsome jetsam in a storm
won't **embolden** or **empower** those who insist they
know better
see farther
build bigger
than any—than *every*— -one else

For Christ *left* His peace ... His *Godly* peace ... His *Heavenly* peace ... His *total* peace
His peace of the heart of peoples;
peace of the ethos of nations;
peace of the *divine destiny* of
humanity

to all

"Love one another," said He: Reason, rival, wrestle, reconcile, **re-solve**, with
each other,
again and again and again and again, *and* all at once
with love, and
in love, and
for love, and
toward love

This—*this!*—is the peace ... the *universal* peace ... the *fundamental* peace
the Christly, loving, costly, laboring
peace
they ... the peacemakers ... *sought* to attain
and *died* to perfect

And,
in *seeking* ... did also **surely find**: peace, now *theirs*, all well ...
the "Love thy neighbor" peace
the "Well done, good and faithful servant" peace
the "Greater love hath no **one** than this,

to lay down **one's** life
for another" peace –
how still much *more* peace
if they *strangers* be

And thus: Behold, now, the **eternal-ed peacemakers**

heroes of our hearts and heroes of the Holy:

Christ enfolds them, in His glory
 envelops them, in His grace
 embraces them, in always-communion and infinite joy of the peace

of *Paradise*:

There ... along the River of the *Water* of Life: **flowing** from the **Throne** of God

There ... in the shade of the *Tree* of Life: **growing** from the **Lamb** of God

There ... at the banquet of the *Twelve Fruits* of Peace: **sowing** seeds from the **Hope** of God

There ... where

they weave crowns-of-peace
of healing, balming leaves

for the union of humanity
for the perfection of creation and the peace
of God's people:

The *same* crowns-of-peace they,
in noble service
 and
 selfless death,
also bravely strove and sought
to weave
 in *life*

AMEN.

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