



November 8, 2020

Veteran's Day and our obligation as Christians

Veterans Day is not an observance day in the life of the church but it is a significant day for church people and their families who have, in times of war, given to our country the greatest love they could offer. Those who wear the fabric of the nation's military do so with a deep awareness of our highest values. But in moments of dying and killing those values are superseded by a profound love forged between and among those serving together in terrifying circumstances; a love that transcends all of the divisions, particularly racism, that have so thoroughly diminished country and many of our churches.

People of color have served with distinction in all of America's wars, but their sacrifices often mattered less to a nation that was, at best, indifferent. Many survived combat and military service to this great land only to be humiliated and often killed upon their return. Activist Medgar Evers, for example, survived the Battle of Normandy but died in 1963 in a civil rights battle, killed by a Klansman. Hosea Williams fought to relieve the allies at Bastogne but was savagely beaten on his return home by a group of angry whites for drinking from a bus station water fountain marked "Whites Only." These are only two of thousands of similar stories.

Buried deep in the heart of many veterans is the secret hope that his/her war would have finally brought about a lasting peace for all people regardless of race, creed or color; a peace that has been so elusive in human history. And that the sacrifices of so many would make for some permanent change to the way we make space for each other on this earth. That was the hope that gave rise to Armistice Day -- a celebration of the return of peace after four years of brutal slaughter in the European trenches of WWI.

But what started out as a day dedicated to make sure that such catastrophes could never happen again has morphed into a militaristic message that it is only armed force that guarantees the future of freedom.

We have a moral obligation as Christians and citizens to demand of our leaders that we find a better way to live together particularly when the outcome of any war or violent conflict has only one certainty-- and that is the promise of future fighting. We are also morally obligated to recognize the sacrifices of those called to duty and to care for them, no matter who they are or where they are, with the same level of conviction and commitment with which they were sent to war. By doing so, honor the very last request Jesus makes of all disciples, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34). May it be so.

- Rev. William P. Worley
 PSE Conference Minister



PSEC FALL MEETING

Register NOW

Registration closes this Wednesday!



Via Zoom

November 15th

3:00 pm—5:00 pm

There is no fee for this meeting!

Register at: <https://psec2020fall.eventbrite.com>

Churches with less than 800 members may register:

- All authorized clergy
- 2 Church delegates plus 1 youth delegate

Churches with 800 plus members may register:

- All authorized clergy
- 3 Church delegates plus 1 youth delegate