

Sundays at 9:00AM

May 25, 2025

The Jefferson Spirit

SCRIPTURE READING

JOSHUA 4:4-7



Remembering Sacrifice, Living with Hope

Scripture Reading – Joshua 4:4–7

Memorial Day reminds us that remembering is holy. In this passage from Joshua, God commands His people to gather stones from the riverbed as a lasting memorial—so future generations will know the story of what God has done. As we honor those who gave their lives for the sake of others, this reading calls us to remember with purpose, gratitude, and hope.

Joshua 4:4-7

⁴ So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ⁵ and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the

tribes of the Israelites, ⁶ to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ⁷ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

John 15:12-13

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.



Order of Worship

Welcome

Time of Reflection and Prayer

Opening Prayer

***Call to Worship (Congregation)**

Leader:

We gather today in the presence of God— to remember, to give thanks, and to seek peace.

People:

We remember those who gave their lives so others could live in freedom.

Leader:

We give thanks for their courage, for their sacrifice, and for the families who carry their memory.

People:

We seek peace in our hearts, in our nation, and in our world.

Leader:

Let us worship the God who is our refuge and strength, our eternal hope in life and in death.

All:

We lift our hearts in remembrance and praise— for God is faithful, and His love endures forever.

Children's Message

*God of the Ages, p.698 UMC Hymnal

Scripture Reading: Joshua 4:4-7

Sermon: Remembering Sacrifice, Living with Hope

Offertory - UMC Choir—Mansions of the Lord

*Doxology - p.95 UMC Hymnal

Faith of Our Fathers, p.710 UMC Hymnal

People:

Merciful God,

**We confess that we often take our freedom for granted—
both the freedom we enjoy as a nation
and the freedom You offer through Christ.**

**We forget the cost of sacrifice,
we turn inward in comfort,
and we fail to live lives worthy of the gifts we've been given.
Forgive us, Lord, for our apathy, our pride, and our neglect.
Renew in us a spirit of gratitude,
and teach us to walk humbly, love deeply, and serve faithfully—
just as others have served on our behalf.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

Words of Pardon (Leader):

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were still sinners—
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.

People:

**In the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.**

Glory to God. Amen.

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Nearer My God to Thee, p.528 UMC Hymnal

*Sending Forth

Postlude

Sermon Insights

Sermon Lesson:

In Joshua 4, God instructs His people to take stones from the Jordan River and set them up as a memorial—so that future generations would never forget what God had done for them. Memorial Day invites us into a similar kind of remembering. We pause to honor those who laid down their lives in service to others, and like the Israelites, we mark their sacrifice not only with gratitude, but with commitment—to carry forward their legacy with lives that honor courage, freedom, and faithfulness.

Application:

1. Let someone else's burden become your mission.

Love isn't a feeling—it's a choice to carry what isn't ours. This week, look for someone who's carrying something heavy—and step in. That's greater love.

2. Don't wait for a moment to matter—make one.

Don't wait to make peace. Don't wait to forgive. Don't wait to serve. Memorial Day reminds us how quickly moments pass. Step into your calling now.

3. Let your hope interrupt someone else's despair.

You never know who's hanging on by a thread. A steady faith, a kind word, or a prayer can speak volumes. Be someone's reminder that God is still at work.

Conclusion:

As we remember the lives laid down for our nation, we also remember the deeper calling God places on each of us—to live with gratitude, to love with sacrifice, and to walk forward in hope. Memorial Day is not just about honoring the past, but about how we live in the present. Just as the stones in Joshua's time told

Announcements:

June 8 - 10AM June Birthday Celebration

June 8th 10:00 Planning Session for the remainder of 2025

June 14 - 9 AM Prayer Meeting at JUMC

June 22-26 - 6:15-8:15 PM Vacation Bible School at JUMC

This year at vacation bible school we are hosting a kick-off picnic at the Jefferson Ruritan picnic area and are looking forward to socializing with the children and their families. JUMC will be providing drinks and dessert. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help defray the cost of these items please give your donation to Jessica Trimble, Brenda Price or Doris Branch.

July 12 - 9AM Prayer Meeting at JUMC

July 13 - 10AM July Birthday Celebration

Prayer Requests:

Please continue to lift up Carol Waple in your prayers as she recovers from open-heart surgery and transitions into rehabilitation. May her healing be steady and her strength renewed day by day. Medstar national rehabilitation

Hospital-Inpatient Rehabilitation

102 Irving Street, NW

Washington, DC 20010

202-877-1000

Room, 0206-2

Pray for former Jefferson member **Dawna Beauchamp** who is related to **Vicki Dade** a member of JUMC. Dawna had Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's and crossed over this passed week to be with our Lord.

Please keep Pastor Mark Jarema and his extended family in your prayers.

This week, they experienced the loss of three loved ones. Pastor Mark's brother-in-law's brother passed away, and just two days later, his wife also died unexpectedly. In addition, Pastor Mark's stepmother passed away suddenly this week. We lift the entire family in prayer during this time of deep sorrow and loss.

Pray for baby **Levi** who underwent brain surgery a few months ago. Levi is related to **Gwyn Reynolds**.

We give thanks to God for Martin Munday's continued healing.

He has been released from rehab, and we praise God for his progress. His daughter, Deb, is asking for continued support through visits and meals for Martin as he recovers at home.

Please continue to pray for **Jimi Waple**, Carol's son, as he continues to experience pain related to ongoing medical challenges. May God bring him relief, strength, and healing.

Continue to pray for the families of the men and women who gave their lives in military service, that they may know comfort, strength, and the deep gratitude of a nation.