

***Veterans' Day Guided Meditation***  
***November 11, 2020***  
***11am***  
***Marsh Chapel***  
***Robert Allan Hill, Dean***

*Thank you for taking a moment to pause in meditation at 11am November 11, 2020, to remember and honor our veterans. Below please find materials to help you in your reflection and devotion*

***A Veterans' Day Opening Prayer***

*O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life  
Until the shadows lengthen  
And the evening comes  
And the busy world is hushed  
And the fever of life is over  
And our work is done  
Then grant us  
A safe rest  
A happy lodging  
And peace at the last  
Amen.*

***A Veterans' Day Litany***

*Beloved! Let us draw ourselves together and affirm our faith!*

*Whence cometh our hope?*

*From the Lord who made heaven and earth. The Creator. The Ground of Being. The God beyond God. The invisible, unknowable, unutterable, unattainable. The first, the last beyond all thought. The Transcendent.*

*What is the point of our living?*

*The meaning of life is in the living of life-To worship God and glorify God forever.*

*How is this possible, in the face of silence, darkness, mystery, accident, pride, immaturity, tragedy and the threat of meaninglessness?*

*By walking in the dark with our Transforming Friend, the Transcript in Time of who God is in eternity, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, our beacon not our boundary, the presence of the absence of God, Jesus Christ our Kyrios, our Lord..*

*Given our failures, our gone-wrongness, our sin, what daily hope have we, as those who hope for what we do not see?*

*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Where there is freedom, there is promise. There is a self-correcting Spirit of Truth loose in the universe. There is a self-correcting Spirit of Truth loose in the universe.*

*How do we follow the trail of the Spirit?*

*By generous giving, by ordered Sunday worship, by honest faithfulness in relationships.*

*And at Marsh Chapel, what is our envisioned mission?*

*To be a heart for the heart of the city, and to provide a worship service in the service of the city. We are making headway in the areas of voice, vocation, and volume.*

*Hold fast to what is good! Hold fast to what is good! Hold fast to what is good!*

### **A Veterans' Day Meditation**

*Hold fast to what is good! (Romans 12: 9)*

This is a verse we remember and revere. To return to it, to a beloved, familiar passage evokes, most evoke, some sense of humility rooted in praise, some sense of understanding rooted in wonder, some sense of life rooted in an awareness of death, some sense of love rooted in need, some sense of longing rooted amid all the daily ennui, acedia, and loneliness of life. Come Sunday, for all the struggles mid-week and all the fires burning weekday and weekend, we reach up and reach out to hold onto the good. So, this Veterans Day, we return to a familiar verse in a familiar space, a space like this one, Marsh Chapel, laden with the recollections of the good. We listen for a word of faith, in a pastoral voice, toward a common hope.

This November 11, 2020, one hundred and two years since the end of the first World War, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 'the war to end all wars', we notice again that in our balcony here at Marsh Chapel you can find a stained glass window which remembers four veterans, chaplains in the Second World War. On this Sunday Veteran's Day, we remember them. As Daniel Marsh reminded us: *In the early days of WW II, the SS Dorchester laden to capacity with soldiers was struck by a torpedo. On board were four chaplains. They were of different denominations and traditions, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. Their ship was hit and began to sink. In prayer, the four determined to take off their life jackets, and to give those four jackets to four young men who had none. It is a bracing, warning*

sign and story for us. Life is unpredictable. You never quite know what may emerge. Granted that most of us are not and will not be in the crisis faced by those four chaplains, nonetheless their courage, their courage unto death, their courage as veterans and as ministers, humbles us and inspires us too: *George L. Fox, a Methodist preacher; Clark Vandersall Poling, a Dutch Reformed preacher; John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; and Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi. Fox was a graduate of Boston University. They were on deck together, praying, when the stricken ship made her final plunge. (D. Marsh, The Charm of the Chapel, 136)*

Hold fast to what is good!

### *A Veteran's Day Closing Prayer*

*Lord, open unto me  
Open unto me – light for my darkness.  
Open unto me – courage for my fear.  
Open unto me – hope for my despair.  
Open unto me – peace for my turmoil.  
Open unto me – joy for my sorrow.  
Open unto me strength for my weakness.  
Open unto me – wisdom for my confusion  
Open unto me – forgiveness for my sins.  
Open unto me – love for my hates.  
Open unto me – thy Self for my self.*

*(by Howard Thurman)*