

Prayers from Chautauqua's Interfaith Family

No. 12 • *A Prayer for Memorial Day from a Retired Army Chaplain*

ETERNAL ONE,

HOLY ONE,

MYSTERIOUS ONE,

PRESENT ONE,

ABSENT ONE,

COMING ONE,

REMEMBERING ONE,

WEEPING ONE,

RESTORING ONE ...

GOD OF MANY NAMES THROUGH WHICH YOUR LOVE ENCOMPASSES ALL,

TO YOU, THIS DAY, WE OFFER THE MANY NAMES OF THOSE WE REMEMBER, AND IN SO DOING, REMIND OURSELVES THAT NOT ONE HAS BEEN LOST TO YOU. IN FAITH, IN HOPE, IN TRUST, WE DARE BELIEVE THAT, FROM THE BEGINNING, AS IT WILL BE TO THE END, YOUR HEART WELCOMES AND TAKES IN ALL.

EVEN AS WE ARE SADDENED BY THE DEATHS OF SO MANY FROM CONFLICT, EVEN AS WE ARE SADDENED BY THE DEATHS OF SO MANY FROM DISEASE, WE TRUST SUCH WAS NEITHER YOUR WILL NOR DESIRE, BUT THAT THE WELCOME WE ASCRIBE TO YOUR LOVE IS YOUR AIM FOR ALL CREATION.

EASE THE SADNESS IN OUR HEARTS THAT GRIEF, IN TIME, MAY BECOME THE JOY OF FAITH AND HOPE AND LOVE, AND IN OUR SURE CONFIDENCE THAT YOU ARE THE ONE OUR HEARTS DESIRE, CREATE IN US MINDS AND HEARTS AND ACTIONS THAT REFLECT YOUR AIM.

HEALING ONE,

MAKE US ONE WITH YOU AND ONE WITH ONE ANOTHER NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

—**The Rev. J. Paul Womack**

Co-host of Chautauqua's United Methodist Missionary House

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