

## Veterans' Day Blessing

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven:

3:2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

3:3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 3:4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 3:5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 3:6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 3:7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 3:8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

God of peace,

we pray for those who have served our nation and who have put their lives on the line to protect and defend our freedom.

**We give thanks to God for your service.**

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 16:12-13

**We give thanks to God for your service.**

We pray for those who have fought, who showed their love by laying down their lives for us; whose spirits and bodies may be scarred by war, whose nights may be haunted by memories too painful for the light of day.

**We give thanks to God for your service.**

We pray for those who served with pride and honor and love for country, who have given of themselves so that we may live in peace and freedom.

**We give thanks to God for your service.**

We pray for those who are currently serving, like . . . , that you will send your Holy Spirit to guard them as they guard us; support them when away from families and friends; and inspire them to serve you in their service to us.

**We give thanks to God for your service.**