

Devotion, Week of November 5, 2023
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

This Saturday is Veteran's Day, and in Canada they call it Remembrance Day. It is indeed a time to remember those who faithfully served their country. I am reminded of those fighting across the world at this time, and their families back at home desperately hoping that their soldiers come home from battle. Serving in armed conflict is a time when military units must act as one body and take care of each other. As soldiers often say – "no one is left behind." I thank those of you in our church who served in the military, and I am grateful for those who went before us and made us safe in our homeland. I think of Israel and Ukraine where people are not safe at home, and where homes may be destroyed and the citizens become homeless and in peril.

Wearing a uniform comes with a huge responsibility, including the need to focus on de-escalation and peace efforts as opposed to knee-jerk violence. Soldiers learn to be thoughtful and conscientious, and to care for each other and the innocent citizens around them. That is not what Hamas did when it attacked Jewish communities, and that is what has outraged the world. Where that conflict will end, I cannot say. However, I pray that both sides will sit down together and work through this horror so that no more innocent civilians are harmed. Peace takes extremely hard work and the willingness to negotiate. Let us hope that by the grace of God, those efforts take root in the land that we call holy.

Jeanne