



Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 20 at 10 am features Rev. Dr. Art Mills and guest soloist

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, thankfulness echoes as we worship with the Rev. Dr. Art Mills and bass soloist, Torrie Allen (*see article on page 3*). We will dedicate our pledges to support God's ministry through our church in 2017. This is a service not to be missed!

November 27 is first Sunday in Advent

Rev. Keener returns to the pulpit to accompany us through Advent, preparing for the coming of the Christ child, the second-coming of Christ, and our imminent transition to welcome an installed pastor.

Our anticipation builds! If you are in town, join us for 8 or 10 a.m. worship.

Stewardship season ends November 20 with celebration, dedication of pledges

This year we have chosen "Hope for the Future" as the theme for our annual stewardship campaign, as we anticipate the coming of our new pastor. It is an exciting time for our church, as we look forward to 2017.

If you were not able to attend the kick-off breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 30, this is a reminder that **all pledges for next year should be turned in by Nov. 20** at the latest.

We will celebrate and dedicate

those commitments at one service at 10 a.m..

Thank you for your faithfulness,

*Brian Almquist, Stewardship
Chairman*

Mark your calendar for December dates

Sunday, Dec. 4 -- Advent Faire and lunch after worship to 2 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11 -- Noisy offering for Maslow Project; Birthday Sunday fellowship, Maslow Project speaker and package wrapping

Sunday, Dec. 18 -- 10 a.m. Lessons/carols; 4 - 7:30 caroling party/supper

Wed., Dec. 21-- 6 p.m. Blue Christmas Service and reception

Saturday, Dec. 24 -- 7 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight service

Sunday, Dec. 25 -- "Carols and Christmas Stories" -- Christmas Day combined informal service at 10 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 31 -- 3 p.m. New Year's Eve Concert, reception, and devotional service

Sunday, Jan. 1 -- No services on New Year's Day

Inside this issue

Page 2 Welcoming the disabled in church, Session notes

Page 3 Rev. Art Mills and Torrie Allen, Advent Faire

Page 4 Maslow Project, Deacons, Work Day, Birthdays

Page 5 Bible verses, Anne Sklensky, Men's Book Club

Page 6 Circles, Hospice House tour, Book club, Haiku

Page 7 Rosie

Welcoming the disabled becomes a challenge and an opportunity

By Kathy Keener

Welcoming and embracing families affected by disability is the challenge and opportunity about which Joni Eareckson Tada, who is quadriplegic, speaks.

Jodi offers a message of hope and encouragement, and you can hear her speak on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. at First Church of Christ Nazarene in Medford, as she

offers *The Irresistible Church* workshop. At 6:30 p.m. is worship and celebration at the St. Mary's School gym (816 Black Oak Dr., Medford). For details, contact the church office or see a flyer.

From the flyer: Did you know that the largest **unchurched** group in the world is the disability community? Right here in Southern Oregon the percentage of people living with

a disability is 13% (2010 census figures). This is a large number of people who need Jesus and to be integrated into the body of the church. By the way, this 13% doesn't include the circle of relatives and friends associated with each person.

Go quickly. . . find the blind, the lame and the crippled. . . and compel them to come in! Luke 58

Session notes for October

By Marcia Hunter, Clerk of Session

During the month of October, the Session:

- * Set dates for congregational meetings Nov. 6 after 10 a.m. worship to elect officers and the Annual Meeting Jan. 29, 2017 following a potluck lunch after 10 am worship.
- * Approved the recommendation of the Fall Team to give \$100 of mission funds to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Eagan MN, to support the Water Protectors.
- * Giving thanks to God for her life and ministry among us, recorded the death of Anne (Lacko) Sklensky, 75, on Aug. 2, 2016 in Placerville, California and celebrated a memorial service on Saturday, Oct. 8.
- * Continued to discuss on- and off-site security of documents/records/files and computer back up.
- * Gave approval to Karen Amarotico for a mini rummage sale to raise funds for Winter Shelter.
- * Approved the worship/communion/mission schedule submitted by the Winter Team (*see page 1*)
- * Began the stewardship process with Brian Almquist leading and Jill Turner assisting. Session decided to hold a kick-off breakfast Oct. 30 from 9-9:55 a.m. with a PowerPoint presentation. Dedication Sunday will be Nov. 20. Minutes for mission will be on Sundays in between.
- * Welcomed the Pastor Nominating Committee report that they are down to three candidates, and PNC is listening to them preach in neutral pulpits.
- * Agreed to sign letter from Environment Oregon encouraging solar projects.
- * Received correspondence about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Matthew in U.S. and Haiti; Standing Rock Water Protectors; and More Light Presbyterians offering teach-ins about racial/gender equality issues. See clerk for more information.
- * Accepted Kathy's decision (at the Session's urging) to take vacation from Oct. 30 – Nov. 20. Art Mills, retired pastor, will supply those Sundays.

The Dialogue

Thanks to all who have contributed to the Dialogue. Articles are welcome for the December issue. Please submit by Thursday, Nov. 17 (early due to Thanksgiving holiday). Email (preferred) to huntermarcia@gmail.com.

Marcia Hunter, editor



*Happy Thanksgiving!
To You And Your Family*

Rev. Dr. Art Mills to fill in for four Sundays; Torrie Allen to sing

FPC welcomes the Rev. Dr. Art Mills to our pulpit Oct. 30 - Nov. 20 while Interim Pastor Kathy Keener takes vacation time.



Art Mills moved to Ashland with his wife Thea in January of 2014. He served as the Regional Representative for the Board of

Pensions of the PCUSA in California, Hawaii, Arizona, and New Mexico prior to his retirement. Before that, Art was the senior pastor of Stone Church of Willow Glen in San Jose, CA. His first ordained call was as the Program Officer for Environment and Religion at the Marin Community Foundation in Larkspur, CA. He and Thea presently worship at First Presbyterian Church, Medford.

Art is a member of the Presbytery of the Cascades, where he serves on the Commission on Minis-

try. Art's long time faith interests have included music, Taizé worship, spiritual formation, social justice, conservation of the natural world, and children and youth ministry.

In addition to bicycling, he enjoys fly fishing, reading, and the theater. Art's two primary theological interests are public theology as expressed by Reinhold Niebuhr, and the redemptive theologies of Karl Barth and Friedrich Schleiermacher to whom he refers fondly as "Freddie S."

Art is excited and very much looking forward to spending the next weeks in worship at FPC Ashland!

On Nov. 6 and 20, Torrie Allen joins us in worship, bringing the gift of his bass voice. Torrie came to Ashland in August as the director of development for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Allen was recruited to OSF from Alaska Public Media (AKPM), where he served as chief officer of development and marketing and before that, he was general

and artistic director of Anchorage Opera. Before moving to Alaska, Allen served as director of the National Patrons Council at Americans for the Arts in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Beyond chief executive education at the schools of business at Harvard,

University of Michigan, and University of Texas at Austin, Torrie holds degrees in Political Science from UCLA and Opera/Vocal Performance from the Boston Conservatory.

Torrie's performance credits include Opéra National de Paris; Teatro Real Madrid; Bregenzer Festspiele, Austria; Rudolfinum, Prague; Carnegie Hall; St. Petersburg State Symphony, Russia; bass soloist with the Metropolitan Opera (Guild) and the Aspen Music Festival.



Come celebrate Advent Faire Sunday, Dec. 4

By Marcia Hunter

It's Advent Faire time again – on Sunday, Dec. 4 after the 10 o'clock service. We are inviting the community – so please spread the word to your friends and family.

Featured this year will be crafts for all ages: wreaths/swags, centerpieces, sand candles, ornaments, photo booth, gingerbread houses, painted cookies, and others, as well as a giving tree for the winter shelter. Prices are the same as last year: \$10 for adults/\$5 children for one of everything, including lunch (\$15

maximum per family). Or individual crafts/lunch range from free to \$2.

We are seeking workers to help set up or make soup on Saturday, Dec. 3, help with a craft table, donate cookies, or clean up. To be part of the crew, call or email Marcia Hunter for crafts and Debbie Miller for food.

Things to save and donate are natural wreath decorations (small pine cones, seeds, mistletoe, moss, evergreen boughs, and holly), empty shoe boxes, Maslow Project kids' items (school supplies, personal care

products, socks/underwear, little toys or Christmas items), and socks, gloves and scarves for the shelter tree. We will collect the Maslow Project goodies at the Advent Faire but wait a week to wrap them during coffee hour on Sunday, Dec. 11 (*see page 4*).

Come and celebrate the beginning of this wonderful season with your church family!



Loving hands needed for Maslow Project

Again this year, Kathy Keener has acquired a large number of gently used toys for our Maslow Christmas gifts. They need to be cleaned so they are ready to be sorted and packed. From Legos, building blocks and Lincoln Logs to race cars, baby toys and ball mitts, these items need some TLC. Some plastic items may go through the dishwasher while others will need attention by hand.

The toys will be in Calvin Hall

with bags and boxes for you to collect items to take home to clean. We ask you to return cleaned items to the Childcare Center in the Administration Building by Dec. 4.

The following Sunday, Dec. 11 there will be a wrapping party during and after coffee hour, so the gifts will be ready to be sent off to the Maslow Project. We are also hoping to have a representative from the Maslow Project here to speak with us on that day.



Pam Marsh, Ashland Food Bank Director, spoke about food needs in Ashland at the education program on Oct. 16.

Join us for next work day on November 19

By Marilyn and Gene Wright

Work day is upon us again – Nov. 19 from 9-noon. The leaves are falling and shrubs need to have a winter haircut. Please bring tools and gloves, and you may need to dress warmly.

Buildings and Grounds will welcome all your help. We always have a good time –including a coffee break and socializing time – so please join us. Thanks to everyone who is always so helpful!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 – Christine McCollom
4 – Lynn Fain
6 – Dee Copple
7 – Marilyn Mobley
9 – Adam Moeglein
10 – Virginia King
11 – Alma Geisslinger
18 – Eleanor Robison
20 – Carolyn Moeglein
23 – Karen Amarotico
25 – Karl Moeglein
28 – Sandra Saunders

Give generously to holiday Deacons Fund



*By Sharon
Laskos*

Deacons are supporting eight families from our community for the holidays. We don't have the details yet, but our south county DHS will be referring families who can use help with food and gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We give Shop N Kart food cards and, at Christmas, additional BiMart gift cards for children.

Your donations in the green envelopes help us help these families and those in our church family who are in need over Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Thank you.

A Prayer for the Nation's Welfare

Psalm 85

Lord, you have been merciful to your land;
 you have made Israel prosperous again.
 You have forgiven your people's sins
 and pardoned all their wrongs.
 You stopped being angry with them
 and held back your furious rage.
 Bring us back, O God our savior,
 and stop being displeased with us!
 Will you be angry with us forever?
 Will your anger never cease?
 Make us strong again,
 and we, your people, will praise you.
 Show us your constant love, O Lord,
 and give us your saving help.
 I am listening to what the Lord God is saying;
 he promises peace to us, his own people,
 if we do not go back to our foolish ways.
 Surely he is ready to save those who honor him,
 and his saving presence will remain in our land.
 Love and faithfulness will meet;
 righteousness and peace will embrace.
 Human loyalty will reach up from the earth,
 and God's righteousness will look down from
 heaven.
 The Lord will make us prosperous,
 and our land will produce rich harvests.
 Righteousness will go before the Lord
 and prepare the path for him.

Submitted by Debbie Miller

Men's Book Club to meet in November

By David Hall

The First Presbyterian Men's Book Club is currently reading *The Black Snow* by Paul Lynch. We will be meeting at Smithfield Pies on Thursday Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the book and also to make our next book selection. Feel free to attend, even if you have not read the book..



In Memoriam: Anne Sklensky

Anne (Lacko) Sklensky, 75, of Ashland, Oregon and Pioneer, California, slipped away peacefully, surrounded by loving family, on Aug. 2, 2016 in Placerville, California. A maker of music, food, art and friends, her persistent good spirits in the face of two strokes and multiple other health challenges inspired those around her.

She was the beloved wife of Alden Sklensky, to whom she had been married for 52 years. Her two daughters, Janice Sklensky (of Mansfield, MA) and Diane Sklensky (living in Jackson, TN), benefited all of their lives from her humor and generosity.



Anne grew up in Grand Junction, Colorado, close to a large extended family. She met her future husband while attending Stanford. After graduation, Anne and Al married, settling in Sunnyvale, California until 2004, when they moved to Ashland, Oregon.

A life-long lover of reading, Anne earned a Master of Library Science degree from San Jose State and began working at the Santa Clara City Library. She retired after her first stroke in 1997 from her position as head of reference. She had also been actively involved in Girl Scouts for many years, as a scout, troop leader, and with the council. In later years, she added quilting and cross-stitching to her talents, sharing her amazing creations with relatives and friends. Having been a lifeguard in her youth, she continued swimming until the end – including attempting to do a mile (with many very short laps) before each birthday. She volunteered at the Kennedy Mine in California's Gold Country and with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

Also left to cherish and honor her memory are her son-in-law Tommy Ratliff, grandchildren Kenny and Sara Ratliff, sisters Mary Scott and Helen Gray and brother-in-law Chris Gray. She is also survived by many devoted friends, including those in the Mountain Meadows community and in the First Presbyterian Church of Ashland.

Donations in Anne's name may be made to American Stroke Association (a program of the American Heart Association), <https://donatenow.heart.org/stroke/>, or the First Presbyterian Church of Ashland.

Join PW Hospice House tour November 3

By Shirley Patton

Presbyterian Women are changing things up on Thursday, Nov. 3. We'll be headed to Medford for lunch at Punky's Diner followed by a tour of the new Hospice House. All are welcome, including men.

We'll start at 11:30 for lunch. Punky's Diner, noted for their pies, is located at 953 Medford Center near Tinseltown. (From the parking lot behind Tinseltown, the diner is in the direction of McAndrews and to the right near Wild Birds Unlimited and a Senor Sams. There is parking in front of the restaurant.)

After lunch we will dedicate the Thank Offering, which supports a wide range of mission projects including medical missions.

Then at 1:30 we will meet at the future Hospice House at 217 S. Modoc in East Medford for a tour of the lovely home in Holmes Park that will offer residential hospice care for the Rogue Valley community. Carolyn and Bruce Johnson and Susan Hearn, Friends of Southern Oregon Hospice executive director, gave us an exciting introduction to this project at the Sept. 11 potluck. Now you can see the facility for yourself!

Make your lunch and/or tour reservation with Shirley Patton or Barbara Marsh. We'll organize car pools as needed, so let us know if you need a ride, and we'll be happy to find you one. And if you have room for a passenger or two, please let us know that as well.

Circles meeting in November for fellowship, Bible study

Elsie Nelson Circle will meet Mon. Nov. 14 at 1 o'clock at the home of Ilse Forney.

We will be studying Lesson 3 of our study guide, *Who is Jesus?* This lesson is based on the Gospel according to Luke (Luke 1-4; 14:12-24; 16:19-31). Rejected by his own, Jesus, prophet of God, turns the world upside down with his teachings.

Visitors are always welcome. Call Marilyn Mobley for more information.

By Marilyn Mobley

— . . . — . . .

Book club reading *The Osage Orange Tree*

By Marcia Hunter

The Women's Book Club is reading *The Osage Orange Tree* by William Stafford for this month's meeting. They will meet to discuss this book on Nov. 14 (3rd Monday because of Thanksgiving) at 7 p.m. at the home of Marcia Hunter.

According to Amazon, "*The Osage Orange Tree*, a never-before-published story by beloved poet William Stafford, is about young love complicated by misunderstanding and the insecurity of adolescence,

set against the backdrop of poverty brought on by the Great Depression. The narrator recalls a girl he once knew. He and Evangeline, both shy, never find the courage to speak to each other in high school. Every evening, however, Evangeline meets him at the Osage orange tree on the edge of her property. He delivers a newspaper to her, and they talk—and as the year progresses a secret friendship blossoms."

Please join us for another lively discussion – and snacks.

Westminster Circle will meet at the home of Joan Hancock at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7. After greeting one another and enjoying coffee and tidbits, we will study the last of the Synoptic Gospels, *Luke*, Lesson 3.

The author has suggested that if possible we read the Gospel of Luke as if we have never read it before and see what picture of Jesus emerges. Does Luke present Jesus to us as the prophet of God, a prophet who perseveres in his ministry in the face of rejection? Who is mainly responsible for the birth of the church?

This is still a perfect time to begin this fascinating Bible study. Guests and new members are always welcome. Contact Sue Sager or Shirley Patton for more information.

By Barbara Marsh

Haiku Corner

Cat studying me.
Only curiosity?
I'm not offended.

By Poet Robb Grover



Rosie's in training to be a service dog

By Wendy McAninch

Many of you have met Rosie, the Australian Labradoodle, and know that she accompanies me in worship on Sundays and is with me most of the time. I appreciate the welcome you provide for her!

Some of you may not be aware that, with the help of a certified trainer, I am training her to assist me as a Service Dog for hearing. The training is underwritten for the most part by a Board of Pensions Shared Grant. Those grant funds come from the Christmas Joy Offering! The Presbytery of the Cascades is the partner in this shared grant, and First Presbyterian Church has also provided some financial support.

Rosie is learning to respond to alarms and similar noises, so she'll be able to alert me when the tinnitus overpowers such sounds as well as tell me when a visitor approaches the door. She is a very quick study and knows what to do; we are working on consistency and then we'll be transferring her response from a kitchen timer to a variety of alarm sounds.

For example, one of the training exercises is that I set an alarm and "take a nap" on the couch. When the

alarm rings, Rosie pounces on me and I "wake up" and give her treats. This exercise simulates an alarm sounding at night with Rosie waking me up. When she is 100% on this, the trainer, Cary Voorhees, will teach me how to transfer the exercise to the real thing -- a smoke alarm or other type of alarm that Rosie might hear at night on an exceedingly unfortunate evening!

Rosie suffered a significant setback when another dog attacked her while we were on a walk. Physically she is doing well, but she continues to be afraid and anxious when faced with a "new to her" dog. This has required additional effort and training to help her regain confidence. I remain hopeful that she will have a full recovery. This affects the basic canine good citizen training part of her life much more than her ability to perform her job; however, she has to be a good citizen in order to be a good service dog. That is her growing edge!

In addition to helping me with sounds, she also makes sure I get out each day. Since I suffer from chronic pain, this is a huge help. She also puts me in social situations that I would otherwise not be in, positive developments for the most part.

As a Service Dog in training, Rosie has a lot to learn and you, the members and friends of First Presbyterian, have a role to play! She needs to be able to focus on her job(s) wherever she is; worship and coffee hour provide plenty of distraction and new experiences for her. If



you should see me trying to capture her attention or give her commands, you can be of help by not engaging her or me at that time. In fact, the etiquette around service dogs is that, other than the handler, others should leave the dog alone (no touch, no talk, no eye contact). Of course, asking the handler -- in this case me -- if you can interact with the dog would likely result in a positive response!

I am grateful for the support, financial and otherwise, I receive for Rosie's training. Even now, before she is fully trained, her presence gives me a sense of peace, knowing that she is on the scene to help.

Do you know the difference between a Service Dog and a Therapy Dog?

In general: Service Dogs help the person they are with by performing a task, as Rosie does for me; Therapy Dogs help others through their presence, as dogs in schools or nursing homes do.





First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 626
Ashland, OR 97520
Return service requested
Dated material



First Presbyterian Church

Corner of Siskiyou and Walker

PO Box 626 Ashland, OR 97520 541-482-3536

A welcoming and affirming congregation

Interim Pastor: Rev. Kathy Keener momrev1kk@gmail.com / **Office Manager:** Susan Coghill presbyashland@yahoo.com

Director of Music: Laurie Anne Hunter lahunter@mind.net / **Parish Worker:** Wendy McAninch

Treasurer: Carolyn Moeglein cmoeglein@yahoo.com / **Bookkeeper:** Lynn Godsey

Ruling Elders on Session: Amy Patton, Elaine Morgan, Linnea Gettman, Jill Turner, Howdy Miller, Linda Purdom, Brian Almquist

Clerk of Session: Marcia Hunter

Deacons: Pat Gaulke, Marilyn Mobley, Marilyn Wright, Shirley Patton, Gail Johnson, Ruth Ralls, Debbie Miller, Judi Quiett, Marjorie Lininger

Deacon Moderator: Wendy Ray

Ministers: the whole congregation

Our Mission

We are a faith community centered in Christ, doing justice,
loving kindness and walking humbly with God.

Our Vision

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Hands, Open Table



Visit the church website at www.firstpresashland.org
"Like" us on Facebook at fb.com/firstpresashland
Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/1stPresAshland



Regular Sunday Schedule
8am Chapel Worship
9am Pony Espresso
10am Sanctuary Worship
11:15am Fellowship



NOVEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <i>All Saints Day</i> AYC Fundraiser (NW Pizza)	2	3 1pm Presbyterian Woman Hospice House Tour	4	5
6 Daylight Saving- Fall Back Congregational Meeting Art Mills	7 9am A & F Committee 4:30 B & G Committee	8 Election Day 4pm Session	9 2:30pm Deacons	10  12pm Blood Drive	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> (Office Close	12
13 SECOND SUNDAY Noisy Offering Art Mills	14 1pm Elsie Nelson Circle 7pm Women's Book Club <i>7:30pm Winter Shelter (CH)</i>	15	16	17 Dialogue Articles Due 10am Westminster Circle	18 Presbytery meets in Tigard	19 9am-Noon Work Day Trim and clean up for winter 
20 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> Combined - Thanksgiving & Dedication of Pledges Art Mills	21 <i>7:30pm Winter Shelter (CH)</i>	22	23	24 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	25 Office Closed Christmas Parade	26
27 1st Sunday of Advent	28 <i>7:30pm Winter Shelter (CH)</i>	29	30 10am Dialogue Folding 5pm Community Dinner			
Weekly Building Schedule						
AA	<i>Fireside Room</i>	<i>7am-8am</i>	<i>M-Sat</i>			
AA	<i>Fireside Room</i>	<i>9am-10am</i>	<i>M-Sat</i>	<i>Preschool</i>	<i>Lower Calvin Hall</i>	<i>9:00am - 12:00pm</i> <i>M - F</i>
Alanon	<i>Fireside Room</i>	<i>7pm-8:15pm</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>BNI</i>	<i>Calvin Hall</i>	<i>8:00am - 9:30am</i> <i>Tues</i>
Alanon	<i>Fireside Room</i>	<i>7pm-8:30pm</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Realtors</i>	<i>Calvin Hall</i>	<i>8:30am - 9:30am</i> <i>Thurs</i>

A congregational meeting has been called to follow 10am worship on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016 for the purpose of electing elders and deacons. The Nominating Committee is placing into nomination:

For Deacon to serve on the Board of Deacons:

Rick Herst, to serve from Annual Meeting January 29, 2017 until Annual Meeting 2020. (three year term)

Sook-Ja Hansen, to serve from Annual Meeting January 29, 2017 until Annual Meeting 2018. (one year term)

For Ruling Elder to serve on Session:

John Sager, to serve from Annual Meeting January 29, 2017 until Annual Meeting 2020. (three year term)

Jim Holloway, to serve from Annual Meeting January 29, 2017 until Annual Meeting 2020. (three year term)

At the meeting, nominations will be accepted from the floor, however the nominee must be present and agree to serve if elected.

VETERANS DAY PRAYER

by Kathleen Rolenz

Let us join our hearts and minds together in the spirit of prayer:

O Holy One, that unites all who are estranged
and challenges all who preach division and exclusion,

We see that unity so often in the eyes of a child, who sees neither race or creed
in any eyes that look back, but only whether those are smiling or crying.

Suffer the little children to come to me, Jesus once said, for such is the Kingdom of God.

Yet every one of us had the eyes of a child at one time, had that vision, had that open acceptance.

Before we put on the armor of our educations, and our social class,
before we went to school and to war,
before we went to church or mosque or synagogue, or temple,

We were somebody's child and we were loved.

So Holy One, help us to hold in our hearts and our hands all those mother's sons and daughters who are in
harm's way this day -

those who fight the wars of today and hope to lay eyes on those they love once more—
those who came home from the wars of yesterday and could not tell us what their eyes saw
those whose eyes were closed forever and whose family's eyes were filled with tears this Veteran's Day.

On all sides, in both trenches, despite the evil that is done, despite the high ideals that are proclaimed, our
faith is that all these children deserve to be called the Children of God.

We pause in silent affirmation of that faith:

Amen.

