

Monday -- We are remembering Jesus' great sacrifice on our behalf, *1 John 2:2*
²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. We are also remembering the many sacrifices of our troops present and past, and how much their 'following orders' and discipline is a metaphor for obeying the commands of Jesus. *1 John 2:3-4* *We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands...if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*

Tuesday -- There are approximately 25 million living veterans in the country, about 430,000 as a result of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. 20% of new veterans need treatment for mental health challenges. What is also alarming is studies show that most veterans do not seek help for these challenges until 12 years after their homecoming. 23% of all homeless people in America and 33% of all homeless men – are veterans. How can we show our veterans more honor and thanks? Is it important to treat our returning troops and veterans triumphantly? (*Heb. 2:14-15*). Christ and triumph go together: (*Hebrews 2:14-15*) & (*Col. 2:15*).

Wednesday -- Veterans were formally recognized for their sacrifices on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month World War I ended—the Armistice was signed. A year later—Nov. 11th 1919, President Wilson proclaimed that each November 11th would be Armistice Day—a day of remembrance to honor the 116,100 Americans that died in World War I. Sacrificial imagery is another way of expressing the costliness of Christ's atoning work. It is a continual reminder that divine love has assumed the shape of the cross (*Gal. 2:20*). Furthermore, sacrifice witnesses to the effectiveness of Christ's death. Through it, sin is forgiven (*Eph. 1:7*), and the conscience is cleansed (*Heb. 9:14*).

Thursday -- In 1921, on November 11th at 11 o'clock—the “Soldier Known Only to God” was lain in the tomb at Arlington—further remembrance of those who had fallen in service to Nation. Then Armistice Day became Veterans Day to honor Veterans past, present and future—those who have served—those who are serving—and, prospectively, those who prepare to serve the Nation in the days ahead. Christ's death is called a “sacrifice for sins” (*Heb. 10:12*) and a “sacrifice to God” (*Eph. 5:2*). Christ is variously identified with the Passover lamb (*1 Cor. 5:7*), the sacrifice which initiates the new covenant (*Luke 22:20*).

Friday -- Because sacrifice is fundamental to faith (*Hebrews 10:14*) as well as to the military, The Church is inextricably bound to the history of this nation. In particular, it has been a part of its conflicts. For instance, when Christ Church in Virginia was built on February 23, 1773, to raise construction money, they began to sell pews. The next day George Washington purchased pew #5 for 36 pounds and 10 schillings—the largest and most expensive pew in the Church. More than eighty years later, on April 21, 1861, the eve of the Civil War, Robert E. Lee, having just been appointed Commander of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Virginia sat in pew #46, the pew his family had purchased, seeking spiritual guidance for the days that lay ahead.