

Prayer at the Veterans Day Observance
October 24, 1975
Seattle Pacific College

Dr. F. Wesley Walls

Eternal God, Our Heavenly Father, we invite Thy gracious presence in this service held in memory of those who have served and in honor of those presently serving in the Armed Forces.

We ask Thy guiding presence:

for parents and loved ones who have lost members of their families in the course of military duty,

support them in their grief;

for those who are in the armed services and lost in the boredom and seeming futility of endless waiting, some very far from home,

through Thy presence may they be comforted;

for those who are afflicted with the arrogance of power and who are in position to use power selfishly or irresponsibly,

through Thy guidance may they be restrained;

for those very numerous conscientious members of the armed forces just seeking to do their jobs in a world which is difficult to understand,

by Thy presence give encouragement;

and particularly for those both in the armed services and outside who are disposed to contemplate upon the predicament of man caught between the aspiration for peace and the seeming necessity to wage war,

through the inspiration of Thy presence
give a vision for a new day - -
when cooperation will replace competition among nations,
when we may indeed beat our swords into plowshares,
when the lion will lie down with the lamb.

Look kindly, our Father, upon our faltering efforts to solve these dilemmas which are both our agony and our challenge.

Amen.