

## Favorite Scripture – Pastor Carl Haynes (2021)

### Scripture – Book(s) and Chapter(s):

John 15:12-13



CHRISTIANA  
LUTHERAN  
*Church*

### Scripture passage(s):

*<sup>1</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>2</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

### Why this is my favorite scripture:

Today is Memorial Day. It is an American holiday honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it began in the years following the Civil War. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades, who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. For many years the Southern states held their own Memorial Day. But from WWI on, both Union and Confederate soldiers were included. Subsequently, each war that followed, the dead men and women who gave their lives in defense of their country were added. We live in a free nation today because of the sacrifice of those willing to die for the United States of America.

However, we will only enjoy this freedom as long as we are alive. When we die, if we do not believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we will spend eternity in the bondage of hell. The good news is that Jesus laid down his life on the cross in love for the world, that all who believe in him might not perish, but have eternal life. He took his life up so that we who believe in Jesus may be raised from the dead too. In the meantime we are called to love one another as he loves us. The greatest love we can have for another is to give our life for theirs.

### Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for laying down your life for us, that we might have life now and forever. Give us such a love for you and for others, that we are willing to lay down our lives for them. In your precious name we pray. Amen.