

September 11th Memorial Service: Benediction
Heroes Garden
September 9, 2005

Led by Ken Durham, Minister, University Church of Christ

Father, we ask you to continue to heal the wounds of our nation, and that you would continue to comfort and sustain the families who still suffer from the losses incurred four years ago.

Forgive us, Father, when we give in to hatred, when we nurse our grievances. Make us ministers of reconciliation. Make us instruments not of hate but of your peace. Make us builders not destroyers ... healers, not avengers.

We give thanks for the shining spirit of courage and self-giving love that emerged from the darkness of 9-11. With such models of heroism before us, may we make a renewed commitment to work for mercy and kindness for peoples all over the world, especially for our neighbors along the Gulf Coast and across the Southeast. Increase and extend our compassion for all those everywhere who are the victims of misfortune, or violence, or injustice.

Help us to identify for ourselves those sources of life and light that cannot be shaken by any terror, any terrorist. May we find in you, Lord, an unshakable place to stand, and the courage to build and live lives of courage and conviction.

Keep our hearts tender, Father, and our minds alert, to the human need around us. May we each seek out and find the works of love that we can do.
Through Christ. Amen.