

14th November 2021 – Morning Service

Remembrance Sunday

Rev Chris Watson

Introduction

Today is Remembrance Sunday, some people wear a poppy for weeks before but few people forego wearing one today. The poppy is the emblem of the Royal British Legion and this year, 2021, marks 100 years of supporting the Armed Forces and their families. One way is through the poppy appeal. Today we join with others to remember past events.

Call to Worship - Psalm 121:1-2 and John 14:27

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

StF 470 – Lord for the years

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Lord, for the years,
Your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years,
We bring our thanks today. | 4) Lord, for our world,
When we disown and doubt Him,
Loveless in strength and comfortless in pain;
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without Him,
Lord of the world,
We pray that Christ may reign. |
| 2) Lord, for that Word,
The Word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze.
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the Word, receive Your people's praise. | 5) Lord, for ourselves;
In living power remake us,
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne.
Past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone. |
| 3) Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer. | |

Timothy Dudley-Smith © Timothy Dudley-Smith CCL No. 515642

Prayers

Lord, we are saddened at the thought of war, of the soldiers who must fight and all those people who are killed. Today we remember their sacrifice with great sadness. We also remember that they won for us a victory, that without their bravery these wars may have been lost, and our lives could have been so very different, without the freedom we so much enjoy.

We are saddened at the thought of your suffering, that you, too, had to be a great hero, and walk to Jerusalem, be arrested, tried and killed on that horrible cross.

We also remember that you won for us a victory, that on Easter morning you rose again, defeating death itself so that we might rise again with you. We thank you for what you did for us. **Amen**

StF 338 – There is a redeemer

1) There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son.
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

2) Jesus my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain.

Ch) *Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till
The work on earth is done.*

3) When I stand in glory
I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King for ever
In that holy place.

Melody & Keith Green © 1982 Birdwing Music CCL No. 515642

Act of Remembrance

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping: those who have died for their country in war: those whom we knew and whose memory we treasure and all who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

Silence (2 mins)

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.

Almighty and eternal God from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life. Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day: fulfil in them the purpose of your love, and bring us all with them to your eternal joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song – Let there be peace on earth

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me

Jill Jackson-Miller & Sy Miller © 1955, 1983 by Jan-Lee Music CCL No. 515642

Reading: Psalms 46:1-3 & 8-11

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Reading: Micah 4:1-7

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

"In that day," declares the Lord, "I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame my remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The Lord will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever."

StF 712 – Put peace into each other's hands

- 1) Put peace into each other's hands
And like a treasure hold it,
Protect it like a candle-flame,
With tenderness enfold it.
- 2) Put peace into each other's hands
With loving expectation;
Be gentle in your words and ways,
In touch with God's creation.
- 3) Put peace into each other's hands
Like bread we break for sharing;
Look people warmly in the eye:
Our life is meant for caring.
- 4) As at Communion, shape your hands
Into a waiting cradle;
The gift of Christ receive, revere,
United round the table.
- 5) Put Christ into each other's hands,
He is love's deepest measure;
In love make peace, give peace a chance,
And share it like a treasure.

Fred Kaan © 1989 Stainer & Bell Ltd CCL No. 515642

Address

Sunday the 14th November is Remembrance Sunday, a tradition that began after the First World War ended, nearly a hundred years ago. Then it was not a Sunday, just 11th November each year, the day the war ended. After the Second World War it was decided to remember and commemorate on the Sunday nearest to 11th November each year. We remember not just the dead of two world wars but also soldiers who have died in conflicts that are still happening. There have been many wars throughout history, some perhaps have been more skirmishes than battles, some have been civil wars, others invasions and defence. It is likely that in all cases the protagonists felt that their cause was just. There have only been two wars significant enough to have been deemed world wars, they have proved so far to be a deterrents to world war three.

Many people have and are losing their lives due to war, some on the front line, others as civilians, who are sometimes used as pawns, sometimes seen as collateral damage. Some soldiers are conscripted, some sign up willingly for a cause they believe in. On Remembrance day we remember those who gave their lives, who are still giving their lives for others. We remember, by the laying of poppies at memorials, by quoting the same words each year promising to remember the sacrifices made. As Churchill is quoted as saying on 20th August 1940 "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few". We remember partly to ensure the same mistakes are not repeated but wars go on people continue to make sacrifices.

Biblical history is not exempt from wars and battles, from invasions and exiles, from triumph and despair. The Bible tells us that there will always be wars and rumours of wars until the end of time. It also tells us that we are in a spiritual battle and that the war has already been won by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Communion too is a memorial. We remember the sacrifice Jesus made when he willingly laid down his life and was crucified, we remember and celebrate that he rose again, we remind ourselves that he has promised to come again. We recount the story and promise to remember the significance of that one perfect sacrifice in each act of Communion.

Soldiers in the wars it could be argued, had no choice but to lay down their lives, if they had turned away they would have been counted as cowards and deserters. In the National Memorial Arboretum there is a memorial called 'Shot at Dawn' which commemorates 300 soldiers who were shot for desertion and cowardice. Jesus had a choice and he chose of his own free will to give his life, not just for the few but for all mankind. He had at his disposal the hosts of heaven to defend him and yet he chose to die. Why? He died for a cause he believed in you and me, humanity. He died because God loves each and everyone of us. He died to reconcile all things to himself, that is creation and humanity. He died because he was the only one who could put things right and he did it for you and for me. As you wear your poppy this year remember not only the sacrifices made by the armed forces but remember the sacrifice Jesus made.

Prayers

Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations. Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace: for service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;

L: May God give peace **R: God give peace**

for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

L: May God give peace **R: God give peace**

for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

L: May God give peace **R: God give peace**

for civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

L: May God give peace **R: God give peace**

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

L: May God give peace **R: God give peace**

for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

L: May God give peace **R: God give peace**

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. **Amen.**

StF 545 – Be thou my vision

- 1) Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and
the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2) Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3) Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my
true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my
strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power
of my power.
- 4) Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:
Be thou mine inheritance now and always, -
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5) High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, 8th Century; translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne CCL No. 515642

Blessing

Lord - Send us out to be beacons of peace in a dark world of conflict.
Make us instruments of peace wherever we go and with whoever we meet.
In the name of the Prince of Peace, Our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit come down upon us and remain with us always. **Amen**