

Camel-Allen Churches

Remembrance Sunday Prayer at Home

Sunday 8th November 2020



This is a Remembrance Sunday unlike any other that's gone before, and as we pause to reflect upon and remember those who gave of themselves in times of war, we acknowledge that we cannot remember those from across our town and villages by name, as we might wish.

Nonetheless, throughout this service sheet, are images

representing some of the various forces and conflicts and, at the time of silence, a picture of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey, whose names none but God knows.

In the same way, trusting He knows each by name, we place in the palm of His hand, all who have lost their lives or health or loved ones because of war.

God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in times of trouble [Psalm 46:1]

WE PREPARE

Loving Lord, as we come to you now...

we come to learn and remember the lessons of the past:
the cost of war,
the price of peace,
the extent of human self-sacrifice

we come to remember before you
with thanksgiving and sorrow,
those whose lives have been taken away,
those who have felt and still feel pain,
the pain of bereavement, disability, injury, loss,
and all consequences of world wars
and conflicts past and present

we come to commit ourselves to live and work for peace,
to fight only what is evil and corrupt,
to serve and not to count the cost,
to give our all in the cause of a better world.

Gracious God, bless our time in your presence,
for we come in the name of the One
who came in peace,
Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

HYMN

To the Dam Busters' Theme

GOD IS OUR STRENGTH AND REFUGE,
our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!

Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts
is with us evermore!

There is a flowing river,
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her -
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence -
God the Lord of hosts
is with us evermore!

Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of His deeds all-powerful;
wars will cease across the world
when He shatters the spear!
Be still and know your Creator,
uplift Him in the nations -
God the Lord of hosts
is with us evermore!

We say sorry...

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;
its pride, its selfishness, its greed;
its evil divisions and hatreds.

Let us confess to God our share in what is wrong
and our failure to seek and establish that peace
which God wills for his children.

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

and receive God's forgiveness...

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Micah 4: 1 - 8

4 It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the
mountains,
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;
and peoples shall flow to it,

THE WORD OF GOD



² and many nations shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
³ He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;
and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore;
⁴ but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,
and no one shall make them afraid,
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.
⁵ For all the peoples walk
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God
forever and ever.
⁶ In that day, declares the Lord,
I will assemble the lame
and gather those who have been driven away
and those whom I have afflicted;
⁷ and the lame I will make the remnant,
and those who were cast off, a strong nation;
and the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion
from this time forth and forevermore.
⁸ And you, O tower of the flock,
hill of the daughter of Zion,
to you shall it come,
the former dominion shall come,
kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem.

Gospel Reading

John 15: 9 - 17

Jesus said, “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.



SONG

Let there be love shared among us,

let there be love in our eyes;
may now Your love sweep this nation,
cause us, O Lord, to arise:
give us a fresh understanding
of brotherly love that is real;
let there be love shared among us,
let there be love.



Reflection

Thousands of bright red poppy wreathes will be placed at war memorials across the world again this year. Each an unmistakable mark of remembrance; an unbroken ring symbolising strength, honour, respect, and hope that we will live in peace.

Yet, even as the wreathes are placed, wars continue. A normal part of life for millions of ordinary people; destroyed families, orphans, refugees; people just like us; except we live in peace, albeit, at a heightened level of awareness.

Why does war continue? How can a loving God permit nation to revolt against or within nation? Isn't Jesus' message one of love and peace?

Throughout the Bible, there are many war stories and the promise of 'war and rumours of war' until Jesus makes his return and God's Kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

God's Word is clear, '*For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone*', declares the Sovereign Lord. *So, turn and live!* [Ezekiel 18.32]. War is not of the God who creates all life; rather the result of anger, greed, envy, hatred, pride - sinful human actions despised by God.

Yet, the wise King Solomon wrote, '*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven... 'a time for war, and a time for peace.'* [Ecclesiastes 3; 1,8] How can we reconcile a loving God with, 'a time for war'? Is there a purpose? Dare we ever consider a just outcome? Perhaps Defence, Liberation, Judgment?

Christians are called, '*as far as is possible to live at peace with everyone*'. War is not for selfish ambition or aggression or vengeance; but there are times when it is necessary to defend one's family or country, or that of a friend, against another who is hostile.

The Bible doesn't prohibit war, Jesus does not speak against it; His peace is not the 'peace at any cost' that the world considers; He does not give as the world gives. '*Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid,*' He says, for distinct from social or political peace, Jesus brings an active, spiritual peace, the presence of God.

True peace is, as we have read, when
*They will beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks...
...Everyone will sit under their own vine
and no one will make them afraid,
for the LORD Almighty has spoken.*

Today we might say.... *'They will recycle their guns into
seed drills and their tanks into harvesters. Everyone will gently
sway in their hammock in dappled shade.'*

That wonderful image of the tools of war and death being
converted into tools of growth, harvest and life. Don't you just
long to hear the hammering and bending of metal that will fill the
air at that time?

Today we pause to reflect; shamed by the inhumanity of
those who seek war and so very thankful to our brothers and
sisters who, risking their very lives and health and strength,
sought and seek to combat it.

May we hold on to the knowledge that God does not take
pleasure in war, but currently it is inevitable, and God allows it,
to accomplish His purposes.

In our world, as it is today, there will be war and rumours
of war until, one day, 'when' is known only to God, all war will end,.

May we look forward in hope,
for when God's kingdom comes,
wars will forever cease,
and peace, through Jesus Christ,
will fill every heart and life and
soul. Amen



We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God

Though He was divine,
He did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave,
He was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.

Therefore, God has raised Him on high,
and given Him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.

HYMN

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.**

Beneath the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

WE PRAY TOGETHER

Loving Lord,
we pray for all members of the armed forces,
those who are in danger this day
remembering family and friends who seek their safe return.

We pray for peace makers and peacekeepers,
all who seek to keep this world secure and free.

We pray 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

We pray for all involved in the war on terror,
those impacted by the attacks on civilians
those seeking to keep ahead of
would-be attackers and terrorists

We pray too, for those drawn into ways of terror,
those at risk of becoming so radicalised that
they want to attack and cause harm to others.

May all know that your way is peace, love and hope. Amen.

Loving Lord, we come to you as ordinary people,
remembering the ordinary people
ripped from their towns and villages,
torn from their families
to serve their country in war.

We remember the ordinary people
left behind to keep things going
in factories, on farms, on the streets blitzed by war.

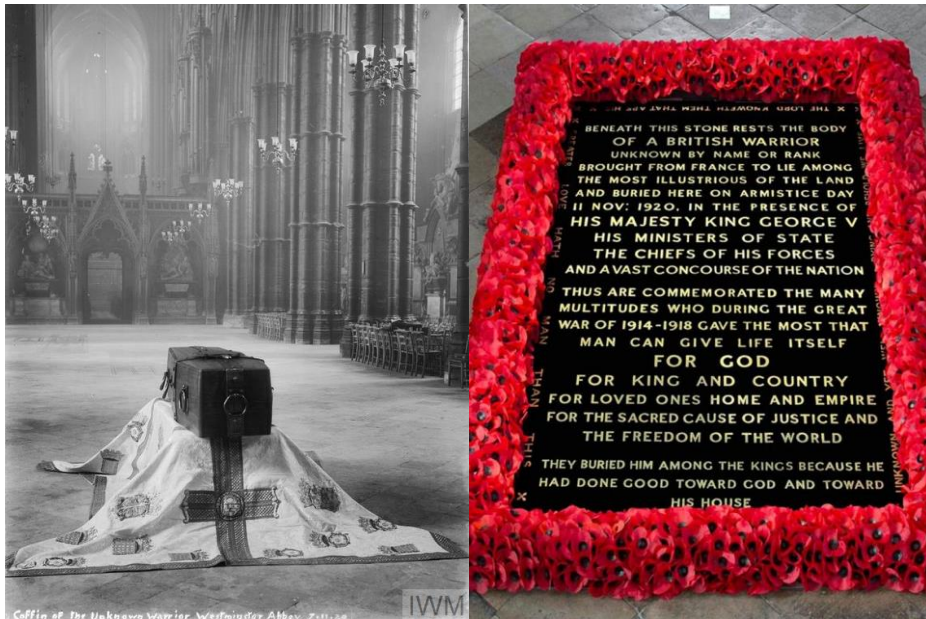
We remember the ordinary people
who lost their lives in war
and those left behind who never saw their loved ones again,
who grew, or grow, up without
a parent, a sibling, a partner or friend,
who never discovered love again
and who grew, or grow, old alone.

We remember the ordinary people
on either side of many conflicts
whose lives were, or are, changed forever,
all who paid the price of freedom.

And, in our remembering the ordinary people,
we remember, before you Lord,
that the cost of war will always be too high
and paid for by ordinary people. Amen.

We make our prayers
in the name of the One who taught us to pray,
Our Father.....

We remember those who died...



They shall not grow 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.
We will remember them.

Silence is kept

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

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God
and our fellow men and women; that we may help,
encourage and comfort others, and support those
working for the relief of the needy and for the peace
and welfare of the nations.

Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you
and all humankind, in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.

Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope;
and keep us faithful, now and always. Amen.

HYMN

Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
 who bid'st the mighty ocean deep
 its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee,
 for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Universal Lord
who suffered death by nails and sword,
 from all assault of deadly foe
sustain thy soldiers where they go;
 and evermore hold in thy hand
 all those in peril on the land.

O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace
who fills with strength the human race;
 inspire mankind to know the right,
guide all who dare the eagle's flight;
 and underneath thy wings of care
 guard all from peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
 from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;
 thus evermore shall rise to Thee,
praise from the air, the land and sea.



OUR SERVICE DRAWS TO A CLOSE

May God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people
unity, peace and concord
and to us and all God's servants,
life everlasting.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

God save our gracious Queen

Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us;
God save the Queen.



*Service material drawn from: New Patterns of Worship,
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