

14 November 2021

Remembrance Sunday

Presentation of the colour party

Welcome & Notices

Call to worship

Father, we gather here before you, uncertain and fearful of many things. We remember past wars, present tensions, and we worry about the future. Shield us with your wings, nurture us in your Spirit. Let us learn wisdom from your words. Come, worship the eternal God. All earthly things shall pass away, but God endures for ever.

Amen.

Hymn 90 - O Lord all the world belongs to you

Opening prayers

Surrounded by memories, near and far, we come before you, O Lord, our God. In the middle of our busy lives you offer us peace. We come before you now to worship. We know that our future is in your hands, and that your promises are true.

Sovereign God, we praise you today for the freedom we enjoy, and we pray that the day will come when there will be no more war, when the nations of our world will live in harmony and when you will rule over all. Until that time, help us to learn the lessons of the past, to remember the sacrifices, and to work as far as we are able for peace. For all we owe to so many receive our thanks.

Creator of all that is good, we bring our sorrows, our suffering and distress for the ways we have failed to show your love, be it by word, by deed, or by inaction. So many have given so much of their lives for us and yet we have failed not only them but you. Lord God, forgive us we pray.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

God is beyond our rivalries and disagreements, beyond our cruelty and neglect and God speaks his words to those who truly know they have done wrong. My child, I hear your pain, I feel your sorrow, I take your burden; go, go free from pain, unburdened by sorrow for all that is past,

I forgive you, go in peace, go in love, go in joy.

Amen.

Reading: Ephesians 6.10-18

Reflection

This will be a question-and-answer session with the young people about Remembrance Sunday and with a few words about the reading

What is Remembrance Sunday?

Why is it held?

Do you know when it started?

Why do we wear red poppies and when did wearing them start?

What do they know about the Royal British Legion?

Do you think it is sensible or important to remember those who have died in wars and conflict? If so, why?

How do you feel about Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day?

Why do we remember all those who have lost their lives for their country?

From the reading we heard about parts of the armour that was used for soldiers during the Roman occupation at that time. V 14-17. Stand firm then, with the **belt** of truth buckled round your waist, with the **breastplate** of righteousness in place, and with your **feet** fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the **shield** of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the **helmet** of salvation and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Many of these parts of armour are no longer relevant for soldiers today but they still carry equipment both personally and collectively. Also, many conflicts are against rulers, people in authority and against evil powers. The way these are overcome today is very variable from the use of the internet to face to face fighting.

The reading encourages everyone to pray and keep on praying for the difficult situations in the world and the people involved. We have a lot to be thankful for and also pray for guidance of the leaders where there is conflict that the situation can be resolved by other means than fighting.

Hymn 370 - Soldiers of Christ arise

Two Minutes silence at 11.00 am

An older person says:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.

A younger person replies:

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

All affirm: **We will remember them.**

Two Minutes Silence

The following prayer is said by worship leader:

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, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers for the people

God of all peoples and nations, we pray for communities and nations trapped in the cycle of distrust, hate and conflict, for those who feel they must use force to dominate others; for those who feel they must use violence to achieve justice; for those who feel they must fight to defend their homes and their families. May there be a willingness to understand and to forgive between nations and communities.

May there be healing and peace.

Lord Jesus Christ, prince of peace, we pray for individuals and families struggling with difficult relationships, feeling hurt or angry:

for those who find it hard to admit they have made mistakes, who cannot forgive others or themselves. For those who have been let down by someone they trusted and feel betrayed, angry, confused; for those who are suffering because the people they love are continually arguing and fighting.

May there be a willingness to understand and to forgive within families and friendships.

May there be healing and peace.

Holy Spirit, bringer of life and peace, we pray for our planet at the end of COP 26, where we so often fail to live in harmony with the rest of creation. We pray for those who make the big decisions that may poison a river or save a rainforest, and for those who make the small decisions about how to travel and what to buy. May there be a willingness to understand and to forgive throughout God's brilliant, incomparable world, which suffers so much at our hands.

May there be healing and peace.

We pray for each other and ourselves that we may be at peace with one another. We also think in a moment of silence of those people we care for who particularly need our prayers at the moment. Silence

May there be healing and peace. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Offertory dedication

Take, Lord, bless and use the offering we bring, our money and time, our talents and ourselves, as we remember those who gave their lives for others, for Christ's sake. Amen

Hymn 705 - O God our help in ages past

Colours returned during the final hymn

The Kohima Epitaph

A YOUNG PERSON READS

When you go home tell them of us and say: 'For your tomorrow, we gave our today'.

Blessing

Father in heaven, we dedicate ourselves to serve you and all peoples, in the ways of peace, to work for the relief of want and suffering and for the glory of your name.

May your Holy Spirit guide us; grant us wisdom and courage; give us hope and keep us faithful in your ways through all our days.

May the God of peace and of all consolation be with you and those you love this day and forever.

Amen.

Colour party leave