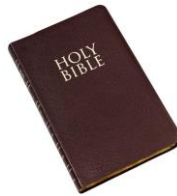




REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2020

We're again in lock down and churches have been told to close until 2nd December – and we don't know what will happen then. So you'll need your worship space again. Find your candle – five candles if you have them - your Bible and cross and use this service to focus your hearts and minds on God.



INTRODUCTION

We aren't able to keep Remembrance Sunday together as a congregation but today I will carry out by myself the key part of the ceremony. I'll stand at the war memorial, read the names of Bradshaw's fallen, and lay the three wreaths before keeping the 2-minute silence. We'll stream it via Facebook etc so you can watch it and make your own remembrance.

And the recorded Team service also includes names from all four churches and 2-minute silence. The service involves people from each of the parishes, including Nick Fielding from our church. Nick is a former Royal Engineer and speaks with the knowledge of one who has lost comrades in the hostilities that our armed forces are still engaged with.

It doesn't matter that the two World Wars recede ever further into the past: we need to be reminded of the horror and futility of war even when we believe it to be justified. And to remember those who fought those wars, and lost their lives.

I've included a Service of Light in our service. You'll need 5 candles as we remember all the armed forces and support services who bear the brunt of conflict on behalf of all of us. Don't worry if you don't have enough candles; say the biddings and the prayers anyway.

Revd Jan

Bidding and Remembrance Day prayer

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble.

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good;
whose power sustains the world he has made;
who loves us, though we have failed in his service;
who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world;
who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.

As we give thanks for his great works,
we remember those who have lived and died
in his service and in the service of others;
we pray for all who suffer through war and are
in need;
we ask for his help and blessing that we may
do his will,
and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.



God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

In prayerful reflection we remember those who have and continue to protect us.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Let us give thanks and pray for our sailors past and present.

1st candle is lit

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



Let us give thanks and pray for our soldiers past and present

2nd candle is lit .

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.



Let us give thanks and pray for our airmen and women past and present

3rd candle is lit

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.



Let us give thanks and pray for all who support, and have supported, our communities in peace and war: Police, Fire, Ambulance and Medical Services, workers in critical industries and agriculture, merchant seamen, railway and road transport staffs, and civil aviation personnel.

4th candle is lit .

O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them where so ever they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee,
Praise from the air, the land and sea



And let us Remember before God all those who died through war, terrorism and human conflict

5th candle is lit

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



Most Holy God and Father,
hear our prayers for all who strive for peace,
and help all who yearn for justice.
Help us, who remember the cost of war to work for a better tomorrow;
and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict,
bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

In life and in death we are with the Lord. Let us turn to the Lord who is full of compassion and mercy, and ask that he will forgive us our sins, and extend his healing love upon our broken world.

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again. Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen



The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Collect for Remembrance Sunday

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 6.10 – 17

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.
Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.



For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore, take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench 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.



Gospel reading: John 15.9-16

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

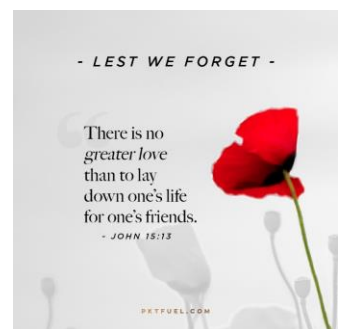
As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.



You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

Reflection

Remembrance Day has a special resonance for our family, as it does for many others. My father's birthday was 8 November so always fell at Remembrance-tide. He was our last living link with WW2. He died some years ago now so in one way, that link is broken but while ever we remember him, we remember the war and its impact on ordinary families.

My father came to England part way through the war. He left his home in Poland and travelled overland through Europe, partly by train and partly on foot, eventually arriving in England where he joined the Polish Air Force. Ironically, it wasn't the Germans he was escaping from but the Russians about to be given control of Poland. They certainly did for his brother Jan's health in their forced labour camps.

Barely more than a boy, he left his family, and the life that he'd known for uncertainty and danger, and an unknowable future. What his parents must have felt as he walked away, as the months passed without knowing what had happened to him, can only be guessed at. As they experienced long years of oppression and suffering, followed by the Soviet regime after the war ended, they must have wanted him back even while being glad he had survived and was building a life elsewhere.

For out of danger came a new life and family. If it hadn't been for the war I wouldn't be here now. His story is like many others from many other wars; ordinary people placed in extraordinary situations; decisions leading them down a road they could never imagine; casual heroism or callous betrayal turning the course of individual histories.

Remembrance Day makes us reflect again on the big questions of war and peace, right and wrong, and to reaffirm the big messages. If we're honest, we know the big questions have no easy answers; that the big messages are not straightforward.

We know and affirm, day by day, that violence and war are wrong, are against God's law; but we also know that some things are too precious to let go without a fight. Every conflict that has ever been contains these contradictory elements and for thoughtful leaders presents a real challenge in knowing what to do.

The society Jesus was born into had just the same issues. Slavery, oppression and war were everyday realities. Both his teaching and his life were uncompromising in rejecting violence, and indeed falling victim to the people of violence. But his message to his followers was to use every means at their disposal to work towards God's kingdom of peace and harmony. His followers today are told to bring comfort and heal, to rebuild and mend, to bring people together.

Today we make ourselves face the fallout of war, the continued pain and despair, the long tail of divided nations and people, the suspicion and hostility bred into generation after generation. But we also look for the signs of the Spirit working away unseen and unsung.

As we remember with sorrow and gratitude those whose deaths secured our safety, we pray that the whole world may be brought into God's peaceable kingdom.

Revd Jan

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

For the service men and women who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God;

May God give peace **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;

May God give peace **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;

May God give peace **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;

May God give peace **God give peace.**



For peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace **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;



May God give peace **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 forever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

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.



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

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow women and men: 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 humanity, 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



God Save the Queen

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!

Blessing and dismissal

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 the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and always. Amen