

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



***“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down
his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)***

GATHERING (all standing)

Minister: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

THE BIDDING

Minister: We meet in the presence of God.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations that all people may live together in freedom, justice and peace.

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE (Mark SL. Annabelle B.)

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

List of names read out

Reader: 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.

All: We will remember them

The Last Post

Two minutes silence

Reveille

COMMEMORATION

Minister:

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.

All: Amen.

National Anthem

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.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

Not on this land alone-
But be God's mercies known
From shore to shore
Lord, make the nations see
That men should brothers be
And form one family
The wide world o'er.

ACT OF PENITENCE (sit or kneel)

Minister: 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 our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for his children.

Silence

All: Most merciful God, 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 neighbour as

ourselves. In your mercy forgive us 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:: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: Lord, for the years (SL 81 B 454)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Please sit for our 1ST READING: Micah ch 4 v 1-5 (Helen SL Richard B.)

4 In days to come
the mountain where the Temple stands
will be the highest one of all,

towering above all the hills.
Many nations will come streaming to it,
² and their people will say,
“Let us go up the hill of the LORD,
to the Temple of Israel's God.
He will teach us what he wants us to do;
we will walk in the paths he has chosen.
For the LORD's teaching comes from Jerusalem;
from Zion he speaks to his people.”

³ He will settle disputes among the nations,
among the great powers near and far.
They will hammer their swords into plows
and their spears into pruning knives.
Nations will never again go to war,
never prepare for battle again.

⁴ Everyone will live in peace
among their own vineyards and fig trees,
and no one will make them afraid.
The LORD Almighty has promised this.

⁵ Each nation worships and obeys its own god, but we will
worship and obey the LORD our God forever and ever.

Hymn: O God our help (SL 537 B 547)

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,
Will bear us all away;
We fade and vanish, 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 troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Please stand for our GOSPEL READING: John ch 15 v 9-17(Tony SL Martin B)

⁹ I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. ¹³ The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them. ¹⁴ And you are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name. ¹⁷ This, then, is what I command you: love one another.

TALK Ann

It was Remembrance Sunday on an RAF Station.

After the Service the Chaplain joined his colleagues in the Mess for a pre-lunch drink. “Good sermon, Padre,” says the CO, “but how is it that you got through the whole thing without any mention of the war?”

“I wasn’t born during the war, Sir,” was the Padre’s answer, “How could I talk about it if I wasn’t there?”

“You’re going to have a bit of trouble at Christmas,” the CO replied.

The numbers who did live through the two world wars are becoming fewer and yet we need to remember the terrible atrocities that are committed during any war. “Remember” means to put back together and that is what we do with the stories we are told about the wars; we put them back and understand.

It was on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month that the Armistice was signed in a railway carriage. There were great celebrations but as time passed the true cost of the 1914-18 war was realised. It was regarded by some as the war to end all wars but it wasn’t and we can only imagine what life would be like if it had been! By 1920 the celebrations had ceased and remembrance of the great losses unfolded.

In 1920 the body of an unnamed soldier was exhumed from the fields of Flanders and was taken to London for a state funeral. The King was the chief mourner and the soldier was carried through the streets of London, Hyde Park Corner, The Mall and then Whitehall where the Cenotaph was unveiled. (Cenotaph was a new word which means empty tomb) The cortege then

continued on its journey to Westminster Abbey where a funeral with full military honours took place. The tomb is near the entrance and is the only grave which people are forbidden to walk over. A homecoming for all those who did not return. There are four New Testament quotations round the sides of the grave.

The Lord knoweth them that are his ("Tim ch 2 v 19)

Unknown and yet well known, dying and behold we live (2 Cor. Ch 6 v 9)

Greater love hath no man than this (John ch 15 v 13)

In Christ shall all be made alive (1Cor. Ch 15 v 22)

Such apt words covering so much.

But it wasn't the war to end all wars and it is said that since 1945 there has only been one year when a British serviceman was not killed in conflict somewhere. And we may not have lived during the two world wars but we have all seen the results of conflict in our own time. So is all this remembering helpful?

It is surely essential. We come together to support each other whether we have been involved or not. We read out the names of those who have not returned. One vicar read out the list in his church of those who had died and the list was so long that it took twenty minutes. Some people complained bitterly that it was boring and too long but the soldiers and their families had given up their lives, somewhat more important than twenty minutes. In the confirmation service the bishop says to the candidate, "You have been called by name" because names are important and denote individuals. And God knows each one of us.

We remember in silence after those moving words written by Laurence Binyon in 1914. Another verse of the poem For the Fallen is

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

In our busy lives surely two minutes of silence is something that we can do to honour them and remember that they are known.

But there was another cenotaph, another empty tomb, found by the women on that first Easter morning. An empty tomb that brought the promise of eternal life for each one of us. There is a story of a crowd in a prison camp watching a man being tortured and a voice cried out, "Where is your God in this?" Another voice responded with the words, "He is right there". And because of that first empty tomb we know that God is indeed with us in all the horror and degradation that humans inflict on others and he weeps. Let us never forget those who die in the service to their country knowing that God knows each one and gives hope in a world of darkness. Amen.

Each morning and each evening
let the peace of the Father, be ours.
Each day and each night
let the peace of the Son be ours.
Each dawn and each dusk
let the peace of the Spirit be ours.
Let the blessing of the three in one be ours;
both now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN: Make me a channel (SL 519 B 499)

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving of ourselves that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Please sit or kneel for our Prayers of Intercession (Gale SL Daphne B)

Minister: 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

All: God give peace

Minister: 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

All: God give peace

Minister: 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

All: God give peace

Minister: 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

All: God give peace

Minister: For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free

May God give peace

All: God give peace

Minister: 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

All: God give peace

Minister: O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we treasure 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.

All: Amen.

All join in the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.

RESPONDING IN HOPE AND COMMITMENT

Kohima Epitaph (Robin)

When you go home tell them of us and say: for your tomorrow
we gave our today

Minister: Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God
and humanity: 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.

**All: Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you
and all your peoples, 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.**

Final hymn and offertory: Eternal Father (separate sheet)

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,
Who bids the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

2 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.

3 O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace
Who fills with strength the human race
Inspire us all to know the right;
Guide all who dare the eagle's flight
And underneath thy wings of care
guard from all peril in the air.

4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;
Thus, evermore shall rise to Thee
Praise from the air, the land and sea.

BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good, render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

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

All: Amen.

