

Remembrance Sunday Service - 8th November

If you would like to join this service on Zoom, please contact Rev. Lesley to be admitted. We shall have a silence at eleven o'clock. This will be for about four minutes to enable any of you who wishes to go to their front door for the two minutes silence to do so, and then return again to our worship.

I am sure that many of you would like to be at your local Cenotaph for a service this morning, however, as we are in lockdown, we are pleased to offer you this service. Thank you for joining us.

Today is a time to remember. As we are 75 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe, we especially remember those who gave their lives for our freedom at that time. I can just remember the Second World War and its ending. I was four years old at the time. I had just started school at Higham Ferrers Infants School. Carol was at Irchester Infants School. I recall my father used to come home for the odd weekend during the war, he was a nurse in the Royal Hasler hospital at Gosport in Portsmouth where he spent most of the war patching up sailors and the general public who suffered from bombings in the Portsmouth area. My wife's father spent his time on the continent and was one of the first to enter the concentration camp at Belsen in Germany. Neither of them spoke too much of these events, but both had vivid memories of the horrors of war. Many never returned and this Sunday each year, gives us the opportunity to think of them.

Let us start our worship with: **Hymn 696 in Singing the Faith**

1. For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
Help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
That, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3. All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
Dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4. You, Creator- God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
That by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.
Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Our lesson for this morning comes from 'The Message':

Luke 6 v 27 - 36

To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of Prayer, for that person. If someone slaps you on the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, gift wrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat, live generously. 'Here is a simple rule of thumb' for behaviour. Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them. If you only love the loveable, do you expect a pat on the back! Run of the mill sinners do that. If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? If you only give for what you hope to get back, do you think that's charity? The stingiest pawnbrokers do that.

I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never -I promise- regret it. Live out this God-created identity, the way our Father loves toward us, generously, and graciously, even when we are at our worst. Our Father is kind, you also should be kind.

How do you feel about it, all this loving others?

God really does make life difficult. Love one another as I love you, Jesus says. That's pretty hard isn't it! Then he goes on to say love your enemies as yourselves. Loving your neighbour as yourself is hard enough, not better than yourself or worse than yourself but like yourself, but enemies, that's going a bit far! Today we read in our newspapers of leaders who do not love their people, let alone enemies. We think of the atrocities that are happening around the world, of leaders who only care for themselves. I believe many world leaders have the minds of little children in the playground, fighting over lines on maps and not showing any love at all.

Regretfully things do not change for the better. World leaders think they know it all. But wait a minute, are we any better ourselves?

Do we find some people difficult to be around? Do they get us worked up when they have opinions different to ours?

Let us pray: As we meet this morning, we think of all those who have lost their lives in the wars around our planet. We especially think of those who died in the First and Second World Wars, many suffering the horrors of such events. We think of those from our communities, too many to name today. You know them, O Lord. We think of those who came back from war and still have the scars in body or mind even all these years. In your name, we ask these things. Amen.

Life is not easy. Today it is difficult once more. No coffee after the service to catch up on the news. No meetings except on Zoom. Keeping our distance, but we can still show love to those around us. Just a phone call or an email to show we care. To show we are part of the extended family of Christ.

Let us sing again the Isaac Watts hymn: **O God our help**

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

2. Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

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

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

5. Time like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they lie forgotten as a dream,
Dies at the opening day.

6. 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.

Isaac Watts (1674 -1748)

Act of Remembrance

(Please respond with the words in bold type)

Let us commemorate and commend to the loving mercy of our Heavenly Father, the Shepard of souls, the Giver of life everlasting, those who have died in wars for our country and its cause.

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

Last post

(Break here to join with others at your front door if you wish in silence)

The Reveille

Grant thee O Lord, eternal rest.

AND LET LIGHT PERPETUAL SHINE UPON THEM

Let us pray: For all who suffer as a result of conflict - we ask that God may give them peace: for all 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, we remember their families and friends and pray for a safe return, may God give peace **GOD GIVE PEACE**

For all civilians who are disfigured by war and conflict calling to mind all who suffer because of hatred and mistrust. May God give peace. **GOD GIVE PEACE**

For all peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep the world secure and free. May God give peace. **GOD GIVE PEACE**

For all who bear the burden of leadership, political, military and religious, asking for wisdom and resolve in search of peace and reconciliation. 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 grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future now and for ever more, the source of life and hope.

AMEN

We end with a hymn that has been sung at Remembrance services around this land: **And did those feet**

1. And did those feet in ancient times,
Walk upon England's mountains green,
And was the Holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here,
Among those dark satanic mills?

2. Bring me my bow of burning gold,
Bring me my arrows of desire,
Bring me my spear. O clouds unfold,
Bring me my chariots of fire,
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

In Flanders Fields - John McRae 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our places; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow.
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe.
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die.
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Prayer: Let us pray, that peoples and nations may find their true unity in Jesus Christ. O God the creator of the ends of the earth, with whom there is no distinction of race or habitation, but all are one in you, break down the barriers that divide us, that we can work together and find true peace in your way. We ask these things in and through your name. AMEN

We close with the **LORDS PRAYER**

Please be assured that Rev'd Lesley and Rev'd Kim are available should you need us.

We can be contacted by calling 01933 312778 for Rev'd Lesley and 01933 622137 for Rev'd Kim

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