

Widcombe

Postbridge

An Order of Service for Remembrance Sunday



Gathering

All gather in silence at the War Memorial

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121.1-2

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6.8

We meet in the presence of God.

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

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

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

Act of Remembrance

The names of the fallen are read

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.

We will remember them.

The Kohima Epitaph is said:

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

The wreath is laid.

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.

Amen.

In the stillness of this place
we remember all who have died in war.

The Silence

The beginning and the end of the Silence is marked by the Last Post and Reveille.

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.**

Hymn – O God our help in ages past

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKP_XxCBDZY

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

Under 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 its sons away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

The Collect

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hymn – All people that on earth do dwell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-1dQ8t03mE>

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him, and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good:
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from men and from the angel-host
be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:1-8

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.'

Sermon

Some of the most iconic images of battlefields are of outlines of ruined buildings – stark silhouettes of broken gables with rafters randomly pointing at the sky. And below these, heaps of rubble where there had been tables and chairs. Streets littered with debris, or country lanes with deep, water-filled, muddy ruts.

Destruction wrought by bombs and shells to prevent defenders hiding, and, when completely deserted, to be claimed as captured land as the battle moves slowly on.

Such destruction has always been a feature of conflicts and wars. The temple in Jerusalem that Jesus was referring to, was completely destroyed, along with most of the city, in AD 70 by the Romans, with a result not very different from the Somme battlefields.... ‘Not one stone left upon another.’

Jesus foresaw such wars and destruction because he knew that the human spirit, unchecked, can hardly resist the desire to conquer and control.

And it's when conquering and controlling are driven by hatred and oppression that those standing up for good, for peace, for justice, are faced with very few options.

The first and best option is talks seeking peace, attempting to bring about a fair agreement and a resolution of the issues. But when such talks break down, and there are violent attacks or invasive action, it's almost inevitable that fighting will start, forces will be mobilised, and defence and counter-attacks will be needed.

Fifteen years ago I met an old lady in a nursing home in Somerset who told me that she was a secretary working in Whitehall before the war – she was a copy-typist, working as part of a pool, sitting at her typewriter all day, typing up messages, memos, documents and letters. After placing in her typewriter a top sheet, with several sheets of carbon paper and “flimsy” paper underneath, she start typing, making up to 3 or 4 copies at once.

One day in 1939 she was hard at work when a new document was brought in, and she found herself typing something like “We, Great Britain, declare war on, you, Germany....” She said she was terrified, and immediately phoned her mum to tell her; despite having signed up to the Official Secrets Act!

Her reaction would shortly spread across the whole country – with every citizen facing their own fears and anxiety, many remembering that it was only twenty five years since the previous declaration of war against Germany, in 1914.

Once again, many would lose their lives. This time tens of thousands of civilians in bombing raids, along with hundreds of thousands of soldiers, airmen and seamen in conflict.

Everyone was caught up in the tragedy and bitterness of more than five years of war, with a nationwide determination to defeat Hitler’s Fascist ambitions, and to keep the country safe.

However this was no self-centred war, simply to preserve British prosperity. Britain was saved, but also the conflict led to the rooting out the European-wide evil of the gas-chambers and the Holocaust.

Terrible times, with many tragic and heroic stories that are being remembered today.

Thankfully, since then, there have been no conflicts to equal the scale of the Second World War; rather conflicts across the world have been gradually reducing. But Jesus was realistic enough to prophesy that with flawed human nature being slow to change, there will still be ‘wars and rumours of wars - For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.’

As with every generation, we need to work afresh to learn from the mistakes of the past, and to commit to built a better, safer and fairer world. Keeping hope alive for future generations.

This is a key part of today’s service, our united ‘Act of Commitment’ later in this service. And it’s also a key part of the Christian Faith, expressed so well by St Paul who says:

'Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds encouraging one another.'

The best way for us to pay our debt of gratitude to those who gave their lives for us, is for us all to work together to build a better future.

Amen.

Hymn – Eternal Father, strong to save

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjcSpCSUjdk>

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

O Saviour, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
who walkedst on the foaming deep
and calm amid its rage did sleep:
Oh hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Sacred Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
and gavest light and life and peace:
Oh hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

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;
and ever let there rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Act of Penitence

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

**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 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;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your
sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life
eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May 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.

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 for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who 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**

Hymn – I vow to thee my country

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ckrgvxPwj0>

I vow to thee my country
all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect,
the service of my love.
The love that asks no question,
the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar
the dearest and the best.
the love that never falters,
the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted
the final sacrifice.

And there's another country
I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her,
most great to them that know.
We may not count her armies,
we may not see her king,
her fortress is a faithful heart,
her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently
her shining bounds increase
and her ways are ways of gentleness,
and all her paths are peace.

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 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.**

The National Anthem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7ujvOWWfpY&t=2s>

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 mercy known
from shore to shore.
Lord, make all nations see
that all should brother's be
and from one family
the wide world o'er.

The Blessing

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 all
and remain with us always.

Amen

The Names of the Fallen

1914-18	1939-45
Widecombe	
John Harvey Endacott	Gilbert Edgar Morley
John Henry Irish	Walter Samuel Morley
George Nosworthy	Edmund Reynolds Willoughby Radcliffe
John Douglas Henderson Radcliffe	Alec Walters
Henry Broome	Charles Anthony Weymouth
Postbridge	
Reginald James Coaker	Leslie Austin Webb
Richard Charles Arscott French	
Richard Ernest William French	
George James	
John Webb	
William Gordon White	

