

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

2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

Luke 21.5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify.

So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.'

Sermon

I find it's hard to think back to last year, just a year ago, when we were recovering from the first waves of Covid, and things looked like settling comfortably back to normal. It was a time to feel optimism and relief – but it turned out to be a short lived time.

Is it really only nine months since the invasion of Ukraine started? Since petrol shot up in price, and inflation started its ominous rise?

A year ago, if anyone had prophesied, like Jesus did, "that Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues", they would have been politely ignored. Possibly laughed at.

But, take out the bit about earthquakes, and the rest of Jesus' prophecy can be seen to have come true yet again. Nation rose against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places famines and plagues have become major issues.

While we had hoped that the two World Wars would be the end of war, that humanity had cast such things aside and moved on, we are brought back to earth by finding that Jesus' words are an accurate forecast of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. One nation has risen up against another, and the consequences have far reaching implications way beyond anything we might have predicted.

It's not that Jesus was specially talking about Ukraine – how could he? It's just that he knew that what he saw in his time would endlessly recur until people finally realised the futility and destruction of war – until God's Kingdom comes.

Shockingly, the Ukrainian conflict, day by day, is shown on our screens and in our newspapers, and we are seeing sights that were thought to be unthinkable, never to be seen again. Instead it's like being transported back each day to revisit the pain of other conflicts such as the World Wars.

Front lines, trenches, bombed out buildings, ambulance trains, casualties, aerial attacks, generals making pronouncements; all this happening in Europe, when surely the two World Wars promised to end such conflicts?

It's not just the fighting that has scary parallels, but the knock on effect across the world. Economic disruption, refugees fleeing to distant countries, manufacturing of guns and ammunition ramping up and up.

Add to that the realisation that Ukraine's grain has been feeding millions in drought-struck countries, and the global disruption caused by this conflict becomes clear – I never realised that African famines were being relieved by ship-loads of wheat from Ukraine.

The consequences of a war, even such a limited war in just one country, are terrible and far-reaching, and are having an impact on all of us here today – directly responsible for rising fuel and food cost, inflation and financial hardship.

More than that, the parallels between Hitler and Putin are alarming – both ambitious men with a deep-seated need to boost their egos, their power and their status, and to ensure that any dissent or disagreement is quashed immediately. How can such men rise to power? Surely there should be ways of stopping them?

Well, yes there are, but it's a long game.

Perhaps on this Remembrance Sunday, it's more important than ever for us all to be conscious that we have a part to play in requiring politicians and statesmen to act in the public interest rather in their own interest. To always be discussing ways to peace, ways to resolve conflict.

Remembrance Sunday is not just about reminiscing and sympathising with those who lost their lives. It's about taking an active role ourselves in committing to the "cause of peace and for the relief of want and suffering", as our "Commitment" at the end of this service calls us to do.

The best way of honouring our own fallen is by taking up their cause and playing our part in reducing conflict – at all levels – local, national and international. Living out Jesus' message of love to all, and modelling it.

I was delighted by a news story this week that just one person in a community who shows kindness can influence all the people around them in a positive way – it's catching. If all were kind and loving, conflict would end.

But it's not easy – resolving any conflict or dispute can be incredibly hard, hence St Paul begs of his readers "Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right." Keep going, live out what you believe and be an example to others.

Of course this is an endless task, one that has to be begun afresh each generation. We need to pass on our passion for reducing conflict and suffering in the world around us.

The lessons that we have learnt, need to be passed on, ensuring that children and young adults in our lives gradually increase in awareness of the world around them, and form their views based on the positive attitudes they encounter in those around them – their teachers, parents, grandparents, friends.

How do you resolve a playground argument? What do you say when you encounter a child playing a game of blowing up tanks and killing the enemy on their X-boxes?

There are no simple answers, but today is about re-affirming our intention for a better world, at whatever cost to ourselves.

And we are inspired by examples of those we remember today. People who were just like us, who did their best, but were caught up in the destruction of war and gave their lives.

They are examples to follow if we are called upon to do so, but more realistically, to allow ourselves to be inspired by them. They didn't know, but we do, that their sacrifice was another paving stone in the road that led to peace.

As we remember them, let us indeed be inspired by them. 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=6ckrqvxPwj0>

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=BLGUNQAfyQ>

God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us,
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause,
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

Not on this land alone
but be God's mercy known
from shore to shore.
Lord, make all nations see
that all should brothers be
and form one family
the wide world o'er.

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King, 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	

