Worship at Home: Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2026 Ruth Lewis LP

Hello this is Ruth Lewis a local preacher from Middlesbrough and Eston Methodist Churches.

Opening Prayer for Remembrance : Lord Gather up your children worn and weary,
Wash our soiled hearts of hate and greed.
Air our minds when all we crave is power.
Dry our tears when all we have is need.

Press this crumpled world back into shape, Lord,
Iron out the creases of our souls.
Gently fold each race and every nation
And darn with peace those places war's made holes.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord,
Then shall weapons of war clatter to the ground and battlefields become oases.
Then shall fists clenched in fury become open hands, touching and healing.
Then shall arms, pinned down by the pain of the past, lift little children on to their shoulders.
Then shall minds plagued by fear know the joy of trusting another's voice.
Then shall hearts consumed by hatred fling open their windows to new beginnings, new hope and new friendships.
Then shall bodies crushed in the dust and filth of war, rise up, stretch out and leap like new born lambs.

Come let us walk in the light of the Lord
And watch the world uncurl.

Let us in this silence remember all those members of the armed forces who over the years, lost their lives defending this country. …….

Hymn By a monument of marble

https://youtu.be/wauEmhC9-es?si=H2ZXkFHpI-zJx2GC

Reading Psalm 62:1-8

https://youtu.be/BAiymqYE2QM?si=Xl3Ke84rA1QvlTew

David Suchet [Start to 1.55]

Message:
The psalmist knew from experience there are times in our lives, crisis times when we are really up against it, when the only thing we can do is trust and wait. He even repeats it. Wait in silence. Against the odds, David the soldier king and psalmist knew this. First as a mere boy, vulnerable without armour, facing the giant Goliath, before the pebble from his sling killed Goliath. Later as a

warrior general he battled the Philistines, time and again. When he was King, David knew grief when his beloved son Absalom rebelled against him and was finally killed. He knew isolation surrounded by plotters. This psalm gives voice to feelings of despair and abandonment.

The soldiers we remember today, perhaps knew of that wait in inner silence, maybe before going over the top in the First World War, or before landing on the beaches in Normandy in the Second. Waiting for combat in The Falkland Islands or in Afghanistan or Iraq. Before any war-like action, when people know life and wholeness is threatened, they can experience that crisis time where all one can do is trust.

If you haven't been in a war zone, maybe you too experience it when you submit to anaesthetic and the skill of doctors for a major operation, in the battle for the health of your body. Waiting, hoping and trusting. That is what God's people have done throughout history. And in the waiting they have found God to be solid: a rock, a fortress, a refuge.

Whatever the crisis or storm around, fierce battle, extreme weather, cancers or viruses assailing the body, even though they feel, in the psalmist's memorable words, like a leaning wall or a tottering fence, when they pour out their heart, they are strengthened. Because, whatever the outcome, we, God's people know, that God holds us from here to eternity. He has written our name on the palm of his hand. We can trust Him.

Hymn ***My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone***

https://youtu.be/rGOMfE5TaC8?si=RuJHpuwPaYYTTGsI

Prayer:

Eternal God our father, we entrust into your hands those times of turmoil and crisis in our lives. Times when we see darkness, problems, and threats, yet lose sight of the promised hope to come; times of senseless suffering, when life seems ever more fragile, war seems unstoppable and death seems so permanent.

Bless us with the assurance that you are with us in all situations, the tragic and the beautiful, the nightmare and the dream, the light and the darkness. Holding us and loving us, you are the rock and refuge of our salvation. This we ask for in the name of Jesus Christ, give peace in the world and in our hearts, today, tomorrow and forever. Let's say together the Lord's Prayer. **Amen**.

Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

https://youtu.be/-2skxuowcaY?si=lu-R4mZV-RLAWF5c

Blessing: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord look on you with kindness and give you peace. Amen