



**A service of
Readings and Music
for Remembrance
Sunday**

Sunday 14th November, 2021
at 6.00pm

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

In the last year, the country has witnessed great acts of kindness and service as thousands have come forward to support the nation through the Covid Pandemic. These acts of self sacrifice, continue the spirit that we come to reflect on a time of great hope and great sadness for our country. We recall our part in the horrors of war and the darkness that drives humanity to violence. But we also remember the promise of peace.

Today we remember that God is one who brings peace to hearts and calls us not only to stop violence, but to seek reconciliation. His reconciliation asks that we disempower memories of destruction and their hold over individuals and societies. Through this we can learn to approach difference with curiosity and compassion, rather than fear – and begin to flourish together in previously unthinkable ways. This kind of reconciliation is incredibly rare. Sadly, we see conflicts and fragile coexistence all around our world. So we come today to remember and to give thanks; in remembrance we are challenged and provoked to change our attitudes and thinking, to stop and ask the question –

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

how can we prevent this from happening again? That's why remembrance needs to go after today in our search to restore God's vision for peace revealed through Jesus Christ and in us now.

In this service there are opportunities to reflect on how generations past and present have used the gift of remembrance to reflect on lessons that have not been learnt from the past, to understand current conflicts and ask questions about how Christ's presence can be renewed through our commitment to reconciliation and peace.

READING

Let me forget

Let me forget – Let me forget,
I am weary of remembrance,
and my brow is ever wet,
with the tears of my remembrance,
with the tears and bloody sweat,
let me forget.

If ye forget – If ye forget,
then your children must remember,
and their brow be ever wet,
with the tears of their remembrance,
with the tears and bloody sweat,
if ye forget.

Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy (1883-1929)

INTRODUCTION

We come here today to remember the courage and fortitude of those who gave their lives for the freedom of this country; we are also here to remember those who have fought in conflicts since, for the armed forces and those who strive to uphold peace and justice in fragile and vulnerable communities across the world. As we long for the time when war will be no more, let us pray for Christ's example of sacrificial love and mercy to be upheld and given as an example to us that we may indeed do his will.

HYMN

- 1 Lord, help us to remember
the victims of past wars:
the ones who fell in combat
believing in the cause,
the ones pressed into service
who fought against their will,
the ones who suffered torment,
the ones who suffer still.
- 2 Lord, help us to acknowledge
the reasons why they died:
the leaders who chose warfare
through prejudice or pride,
the patriotic fervour,
the failure to foresee
how vast and how appalling
the loss of life would be.
- 3 Lord, help us to consider
the conflicts of our day:
the cruel and complex struggles,
the games the powerful play,
and, by your Holy Spirit,
enable us to stand
for justice in all nations
and peace in every land.

HYMN

4 Lord, give us grace and courage
to live by your commands,
to love our fellow-humans
with all that love demands;
and may we truly honour
the fallen of the past
by working now for justice,
to build your peace at last.

Sue Gilmurray

WOLVERCOTE

© 2018 Sue Gilmurray / *Jubilate Hymns* William Harold Ferguson (1874-1950)

CONFESSION

The season of Remembrance gives us the opportunity to reflect on the way that the world have become divided and war torn because of humanity's misuse of power, its greed and selfishness, and our pride resulting in the neglect of others suffering in slavery, prison or torture today.

Let us reflect for a moment on our prejudice and hatred, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which Christ brought on the Cross and calls us to give now.

**God of peace,
forgive us when we have participated
in that which turns people
against each other;
for fuelling anger
and harbouring vengeance;
for not heeding your call
to love one another.
Inspire us never to give up
on the hope that your life offers us,
and the courage to see
past war and desolation
and live for the day
when there will be peace.**

ABSOLUTION

God who loved the world
so much that he sent his Son
to be our Saviour,
forgive us our sins and make us
holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

Thou knowest, Lord,
the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears unto our pray'rs;
but spare us, Lord most holy,
O God most mighty.

O holy and most merciful Saviour,
thou most worthy Judge eternal,
suffer us not, at our last hour,
for any pains of death, to fall from thee.
Amen.

Henry Purcell (1659-95)

Words from the Book of Common Prayer (1662)

READING

A reading from the prophet Micah.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Micah 4. 1-5

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

- 1 O God of the nations,
we humbly recall
the millions in war time
who sacrificed all;
and as we remember
the grief and the pain,
we pray that their dying
was not all in vain.
- 2 O God of our longings,
we dream of a time
of no more oppression,
no hunger or crime;
that people and nations
together may find
a life made more hopeful,
more loving and kind.
- 3 O God of compassion,
you call us to share
the good things you give us
with those in despair;
for millions who hunger
for justice and peace,
may caring be active
and hope never cease.

HYMN

4 O God of the future,
now help us to give
our time and commitment
that others may live;
and always remember
the ones who were slain,
and pray that their dying
was not all in vain.

Brian Davis (born 1940)
© 2018 *Brian Davis Jubilate Hymns*
(1839)

ST DENIO
John Roberts 'Caniadau y Cyssegre'

READING

Take some time every now and then
think back and say 'I remember when'
you were as brothers you and they
sent by your country into the fray -
to a land of sun, dried dirt and dust
where dollars may rent loyalty
but you built trust
where from flowering death
they eek out a living or take what they can
from whoever is giving.
You carried all you needed on aching back
tabbing mile on mile awaiting the crack
as from a mile away a sniper takes you
or the land beneath erupts to break you.
Now you're at home and carrying on
while others you knew they're now gone.
Their laughter is missed
but their faces you spy;
when asleep or briefly
out the corner of an eye.
So growing older
don't let memories soften
Hold their names,
let them cross your lips often;
for all the stone and the brass,
it counts for nought
If we forget the names of those that fought.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Let us pray.

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.**

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

With proud thanksgiving,
a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead
across the sea.

Flesh of her flesh they were,
spirit of her spirit,
fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill:
death august and royal
sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
there is music in the midst of desolation
and a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle,
they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye,
steady and aglow.

They were staunch to the end against odds
uncounted,
they fell with their faces to the foe.

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.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

A silence follows

They mingle not
with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more
at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot
in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

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;

As the stars that shall be bright
when we are dust,
moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
as the stars that are starry
in the time of our darkness,
to the end, to the end, they remain.

For the Fallen, Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

ANTHEM

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Edgar Bainton (1880-1956)

Revelation 21. 1-4

READINGS

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the

READINGS

lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12. 1-2. 9-21

READINGS

Remembered still those souls who tried
to save the world, but many died.
A moment stolen for a tear,
as we recall those un-lived years.
The camaraderie that flew
those souls back home to those they knew
And love them dear and held them close
but for our sakes released to foes
the silence that they leave behind
is space to calm the troubled minds
of those they love – and can't rewind.
Again this day we give our thanks
for those returned from serving ranks
and them a gave it all away
forever in our minds will stay.

Ernie Rowe

*Head of British Forces Broadcasting Services Radio UK,
written for Remembrance Day 2019*

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Let us commit ourselves to the cause of peace and reconciliation:

Lord God, your Son
proclaimed your peaceable Kingdom
in both word and deed and so we seek
to witness to your purpose of peace.
Give us generosity of spirit
in times of disagreement,
patience in times of difficulty, the desire to
pray for those who oppose us,
and above all make us to be interpreters
and bridge-builders
between those who are at enmity.
This we ask in the name of Christ
who has destroyed every wall that divides
us, and whose sacrifice has made our peace
with you, the Father of all humankind.
Amen.

And so we pray together
Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace.
Where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness light;
where there is sadness joy.

HYMN

1 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.*

2 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.

3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning
that we are pardoned,
in giving unto all that we receive,
and in dying that
we're born to eternal life.

PRAYERS

The Prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer

We say together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**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.**

ANTHEM

The souls of the righteous
are in the hand of God,
and there shall no torment touch them.
In the sight of the unwise
they seem to die:
and their departure is taken for misery,
And their going from us to be utter
destruction:
but they are in peace.

Herbert Murrill (1909-52)
Words from 'The Wisdom of Solomon'

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 all people;
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 amongst you and remain with you
always.

Amen.

HYMN

- 1 Abide with me;
fast falls the eventide:
the darkness deepens;
Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail,
and comforts flee,
help of the helpless,
O abide with me.
- 2 Swift to its close
ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim,
its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see:
O thou who changest not,
abide with me.
- 3 I need thy presence
every passing hour;
what but thy grace
can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself,
my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine,
Lord, abide with me.

HYMN

4 I fear no foe
with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight,
and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting?
Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still,
if thou abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

EVENTIDE
William Henry Monk (1823-89)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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