

Remembrance Sunday



*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.*

(Isaiah 2.4)

Please stand.

Opening Hymn

during which the standards are received.

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone,
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust
but God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th'almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Welcome and Introduction

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

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All and also with you.

The minister offers words of welcome and introduction.

The Collect

Eternal God,
in whose perfect realm
no sword is drawn but the sword of justice,
and no strength known but the strength of love:
guide and inspire all who seek your kingdom,
that peoples and nations may find their security
in the love which casts out fear;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All Amen.

Please sit.

Reading

Say 'no' to peace
if what they mean by peace
is the quiet misery of hunger,
the frozen stillness of fear,
the silence of broken spirits,
the unborn hopes of the oppressed.

Tell them that peace
is the shouting of children at play,
the babble of tongues set free,
the thunder of dancing feet,
and a father's voice singing.

Say 'no' to peace
if what they mean by peace
is a rampart of gleaming missiles,
the arming of distant wars,
money at ease in its castle
and grateful poor at the gate.

Tell them that peace
is the hauling down of flags,
the forging of guns into ploughs,
the giving of fields to the landless,
and hunger a fading dream.

(Brian Wren)

Please remain seated or kneel.

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 all creation.

Silence is kept.

**All Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
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 neighbour 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, our God.
Amen.**

The minister declares God's forgiveness.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
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.

All Amen.

Please stand.

Hymn

Thy kingdom come, O God,
thy rule, O Christ, begin;
break with thy iron rod
the tyrannies of sin.

Where is thy reign of peace
and purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
as in the realms above?

When comes the promised time
that war shall be no more,
and lust, oppression, crime,
shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee Lord, arise,
and come in thy great might;
revive our longing eyes,
which languish for thy sight.

O'er lands both near and far
thick darkness broodeth yet:
arise, O morning star,
arise, and never set.

Please sit.

Bible Reading

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

(James 3.13–18)

Address

Please remain seated or kneel.

Prayers

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.

All 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.

All 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.

All 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.

All God, give peace.

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;
may God give peace.

All 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.

All God, give peace.

For all whose memory we cherish,
and those whose names we will never know;
may God give peace.

All God, give peace.

The Lord's Prayer

**All 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.**

Please stand.

Act of Commitment

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

All We will.

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

All We will.

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

All We will.

God of truth and justice,
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.

All Amen.

*Please come forward during the following choir anthem,
to place a visible sign of your commitment
to the flourishing of all people on the rood screen.*

Please stand.

The Peace

Jesus said: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives'.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may shake hands or share a similar sign of peace.

Recessional Hymn

during which the standards are retrieved.

The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened instead of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.

Procession to the War Memorial

*Please make your way to the War Memorial on Hollow Lane
during the concluding organ voluntary.*

*We would be grateful if you were able to make a contribution
towards the work of the royal British Legion
and this parish church as you leave.*

Act of Remembrance

On reaching the War Memorial, silence is kept.

God is our refuge and our strength;
a very present help in trouble.

In peace, let us remember before God
those who have died for their country in war;
those whom we knew,
and those whose memory we treasure;
all who have lived and died
in the service of the peoples of the world.

The names of those who have died in armed conflict 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.

All We will remember them.

The Last Post is sounded, and a two-minute silence is kept.

Reveille is sounded to mark the end of the silence.

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

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.

All Amen.

*Wreaths are laid at the War Memorial during the following hymn,
and individual wooden crosses may be presented.
Please follow the guidance of the minister and stewards.*

Hymn

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 guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Grant, Lord,
the gift of reconciliation in our world,
an end to all that divides and destroys;
that those who are estranged may come together,
shoulder to shoulder,
heart to heart.

Heal our wounds,

All and make us one.

The God of peace lead you from death to life,
All from falsehood to truth.

The God of peace lead you from despair to hope,
All from fear to trust.

The God of peace lead you from hatred to love,
All from war to peace.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

The National Anthem

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!

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*The material in this service has been adapted from
Beyond Our Tears: Resources for Times of Remembrance (Church House, 2004),
Common Worship: Times and Seasons (Church House, 2006),
New Patterns for Worship (2nd edition; Church House, 2008),
and Remember War, Make Peace (Kevin Mayhew, 2010).*

*The hymns have been reprinted from The Revised English Hymnal
(Canterbury Press, 2023).*

The cash collection during today's service will be split between the Royal British Legion and St Edward's Church.

Donations towards the upkeep of this beautiful church and our ministry in the local community can also be made via the contactless card reader, or online at <https://givealittle.co/c/stedwards>

Thank you for your generosity!



***Please join us for refreshments
at the Community Centre after the service!***



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