



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

NOVEMBER 9TH 2025

St Andrew's Anglican Church, Moscow

The History of Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is a solemn day in the United Kingdom and many Commonwealth countries, observed on the second Sunday of November each year. It honours the service and sacrifice of the armed forces and commemorates all those who died in wars and conflicts.

Origins and historical background

World War I Armistice: *The tradition began after World War I, which ended on 11 November 1918. The armistice was signed at 11 a.m.—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month." This moment became the basis for Armistice Day in the UK, first observed in 1919.*

Remembrance Sunday Established: *After World War II, the UK government moved the main national commemoration to the nearest Sunday to 11 November, to allow more people to participate. This became known as Remembrance Sunday, while Armistice Day continued to be marked more quietly.*

Ceremonies and Symbols

Two-Minute Silence: *At 11 a.m., a two-minute silence is observed to remember those who lost their lives in war.*

Poppies: *In the UK, the red poppy, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields", is worn as a symbol of remembrance. The Royal British Legion sells poppies to raise funds for veterans.*

Cenotaph Ceremony: *The national ceremony takes place at the Cenotaph on Whitehall, London, attended by the King, political leaders, military representatives, veterans and members of the public. Wreaths are laid, and prayers are said.*

Local Services: *Across the UK, cities, towns and villages hold their own services at war memorials, often involving parades, hymns, and readings.*

Remembrance Sunday has evolved to become an act of remembrance for all those who died in wars and conflicts. It remains a deeply respected occasion, reflecting on the cost of war and the value of peace.

Order of Service for Remembrance Sunday

The Introduction and welcome (Please stand)

“What does the Lord require of you,
but to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8

We come today to seek God and His mercy, to listen to His Word and to commit ourselves afresh to His service and the service of humanity.
We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.
We remember the sacrifice of families left behind.
We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.
We commit ourselves to work for reconciliation between the nations that all people may live together in freedom, justice and peace.

Opening hymn: The Lord's my shepherd (Please stand)

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green. He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill.
For thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.**

**My table thou hast furnishéd
in presence of my foes,
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me.
And in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.**

***A Confession from the Coventry Cathedral Litany of Reconciliation**
(Please respond with the words in bold print)*

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation,
race from race, class from class,

Father Forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations
to possess what is not their own,

Father Forgive.

Our greed which exploits the work of human hands
and lays waste the earth,

Father Forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father Forgive.

Our indifference to the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father Forgive.

Our lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

Father Forgive.

Our pride which leads to trust in ourselves and not in God,

Father Forgive.

(A moment of silence)

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of His name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgives us. **Amen.**

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.**

(Please be seated)

The Bible Readings

John 15:12-15

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.
You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you
servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is
doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you
everything that I have heard from my Father.”*

Psalms 46:1-10

*“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; ”
he utters his voice; the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

*Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”*

Reflection

Literary Tributes

“A Soldier’s Grave” by Francis Ledwidge

*“Then in the lull of midnight, gentle arms
Lifted him slowly down the slopes of death
Lest he should hear again the mad alarms
Of battle, dying moans, and painful breath.*

*And where the earth was soft for flowers we made
A grave for him that he might better rest.
So, Spring shall come and leave it sweet arrayed,
And there the lark shall turn her dewy nest.”*

Inscription from the Ari Burnu Memorial by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the first President of the Republic of Türkiye, 1934

“Those heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives...

You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.

Therefore rest in peace.

There is no difference between the Johnnies

and Mehmetts to us where they lie side by side

here in this country of ours...

You, the mothers,

who sent their sons from far away countries

wipe away your tears;

your sons are now lying in our bosom

and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land

they have become our sons as well.”

“In Flanders Fields” by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, Canadian Army Medical Corps

“In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky

The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved, and now we lie,

In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:

To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders fields.”

“I Stood with the Dead” by Captain Siegfried Sassoon CBE MC, Royal Welch Fusiliers

*“I Stood with the Dead, so forsaken and still:
When dawn was grey I stood with the Dead.
And my slow heart said, 'You must kill, you must kill:
'Soldier, soldier, morning is red'.*

*On the shapes of the slain in their crumpled disgrace
I stared for a while through the thin cold rain...
'O lad that I loved, there is rain on your face,
'And your eyes are blurred and sick like the plain.'*

*I stood with the Dead... They were dead; they were dead;
My heart and my head beat a march of dismay:
And gusts of the wind came dulled by the guns.
'Fall in!' I shouted; 'Fall in for your pay!'"*

Hymn: O God our help in ages past (Please stand)

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

**Beneath 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,
will bear us all away;
we fade and vanish, as a dream
dies at the op'ning 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.**

The Act of Remembrance (Please remain standing)

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

Exhortation

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 Last Post (Please remain standing)

Two Minutes' Silence (Please remain standing)

A Lament (Please remain standing)

The Reveille (Please remain standing)

Prayers

(Please remain standing and respond with the words in bold print)

Let us pray.

As we remember before God the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to Him, so we pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict;

Lord, give your peace.

for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

Lord, give your 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;

Lord, give your peace.

for civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or tyranny and terror;

Lord, give your peace.

for just and durable peace in Ukraine

Lord, give your peace.

for His Majesty the King and for all who bear responsibility as Head of State, that you would give them wisdom to know and the courage to do what is right;

Lord, give your peace.

for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, whether as politicians, civil servants, military commanders, business and media and religious leaders. We ask for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace, and that you would raise up peacemakers and peace-keepers;

Lord, give your peace.

for all who work to improve international relationships, that they may find the true way to reconcile people of different race, culture and creed;

Lord, give your peace.

(Here follows a short silence)

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 (Please say together)

**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 be seated)

“Siciliana” from the second movement of J.S. Bach’s Concerto for Viola, Strings, and Basso Continuo in E-flat major

(Wreaths will be laid during the recital, under the direction of ushers)

An Act of Commitment (Please stand)

In silence let us prepare ourselves to make our commitment.
(A brief silence follows, then please say)

**As Jesus taught us we commit ourselves
to welcome strangers,
to care for the poor,
to love our neighbours as ourselves
and to establish justice in our community.
In the name of God and in the power of the Holy Spirit
we pledge ourselves to work for peace:
peace in our homes,
peace in our communities,
peace in the world. Amen.**

Hymn: For the Healing of the Nations (Please stand)

(During the singing of this hymn, a collection for St Andrew’s Church will be received).

**For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us, Father, into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.**

The Dismissal (Please remain standing)

“Kohima Epitaph”

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

***John Maxwell Edmonds
Epitaph in the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Kohima***

*While the recessional music is played, the congregation is requested to
remain standing.*



The Lord's my shepherd – Tune of *Crimond*; **Words:** Psalm 23 from *The Scottish Psalter*

O God, our help in ages past - Tune of *St. Anne*; **Words:** Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748)

For the healing of the nations – Tune of *Alleluia Dulce Carmen*; **Words:** Fred Kaan (b. 1929)