Remembrance Sunday 2026

We begin without music. We lay at the altar a wreath of remembrance and the memorial book containing, amongst others, the names of those from Stevenage who died in war.

The president greets us.

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.

We hear the names of those from Stevenage killed in the World Wars.

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.

Two minutes silence is kept, then a prayer of commemoration is read.

When we are invited to confess our sins, we kneel or sit.

When we forget the cost of the freedom we enjoy, Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy
When we fail to learn from the past, Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy
When we let national and personal interests blind us to the suffering of the world, Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

The president declares absolution.

The Gloria is not said or sung today.

The president prays the collect prayer.

Children (with caregivers) may be invited to a more age-appropriate reading. We may sing:

In November, we remember,
all the good things that God gives.
So that nothing is forgotten,

and our special mem'ries live.

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A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction,
and concern for instruction is love of her,
and love of her is the keeping of her laws,
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,
and immortality brings one near to God,
so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

Wisdom 6:17-20 (NRSVue)

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 70

O God, make speed to save me;*
O LORD, make haste to help me.
Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confusion; *
let them be turned back and disgraced who wish me evil.
Let those who mock and deride me, *
turn back because of their shame**.**
But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say always, "Great is the LORD!"
As for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O LORD, do not delay.

the Common Worship Psalter

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen.

We sing: AMNS 194:
King of glory, king of peace

Gospel: Mattthew 25:1-13
We stand as we are able.
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew.*
Glory to you, O Lord.

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look!

Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We listen to the sermon.

We declare the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

We are led in prayers of intercession for the Church and for the world.

Father, by your Spirit,
bring in your kingdom.

Lord of the Church,
hear our prayer,
and make us one in mind and heart to serve you in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The president introduces the Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

We give to support the work of the church and our local community, as we sing: 133, Immortal love, for ever full

The collection is blessed, and the President takes bread and wine.

We remain standing as we are able.

Eucharistic Prayer A:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.
The president praises God for his mighty acts and we respond
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
We recall the Last Supper.
Jesus Christ is Lord:
Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.
The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology:
Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

We kneel or sit for the Lord's prayer:

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.

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

The choir sing, then we repeat:

O Lamb of God who takes away
the world's sins, this we doubly pray.
Have mercy on us here today.
Have mercy on us for always.
O Lamb of God,
take and release the world's sins
and grant us your peace.

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The president invites us to Communion.

Jesus said: Gather up the fragments that nothing may be lost.
Lord, feed us with the bread of heaven.

If you regularly receive Communion in another Christian church (or have ever been confirmed or formally prepared for Holy Communion), we invite you to Communion. If this is not the case for you, you are welcome forward for a blessing (carry this leaflet to signal this) or if you prefer, simply remain in your place.

Our communion wafers meet the requirements both of Coeliac UK and the Church of England. If you do not wish to drink from the cup but want

to acknowledge the sacramental presence, you may choose to touch the chalice base, or take it into your hands for a moment, before saying "Amen".

Those at home are invited to pray a prayer of Spiritual Communion:

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world
and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist,
hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son,
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.
Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life
I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised, and with your Son who gave his life for us.
Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me
and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

The Post Communion prayer is said.

Notices are given.

We stand, if we are able, for an Act of Commitment

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?
We will.
Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?
We will.
Will you work for a just future for all humanity?
We will.

We sing 361: For the healing of the nations

We receive God's blessing and are sent into the world, refreshed by the Holy Spirit.

Go in peace to love your neighbour.
Go in power to work for reconciliation.
Go in hope to proclaim the resurrection.
Thanks be to God.

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