



# SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

## St Bartholomew's Church, Otford

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

*Psalm 46.1*

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 121.1-2*

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. *Lamentations 3.21-23*

*The minister says:*

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.

*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,  
Will bear us all 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.**

*Words: Isaac Watts, 1719*

### **CONFESSING**

*Minister:* 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 his children.

**All: Most merciful God, 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 neighbours 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Minister:* Almighty God, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **COLLECT**

Father of all mercies, grant that our remembrance this day may be consecrated for practical service and the world made better for our children's children. Amen

### **LISTENING FOR THE WORD FROM GOD**

*Readings:*

Micah 4.1-5 and Matthew 5.1-12

*Short address*

## **PRAYING TOGETHER**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

*Prayers of intercession are led. After each prayer the leader says: Lord, in your mercy*

*and all reply:*

**Hear our prayer**



*The minister continues:*

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 forever. **Amen.**

We pray together the prayer of St Richard of Chichester:

**Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits which you have given us,  
for all the pains and insults which you have borne  
for us.**

**Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,  
may we know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly. Amen.**

*(Prayer of St Richard, Bishop of Chichester 1245-1253)*

And now let us pray together, in the words that Jesus taught us:

**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  
forever and ever.**

**Amen**

## **REMEMBERING**

*The minister says:*

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 lived and died in the service of humanity.

*The list of those to be remembered by name is read,  
and then these words are said:*

They shall not grow 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.

*And all repeat:*

**We will remember them.**

*The beginning of the two-minute silence is signalled.  
You may like to join with others in the village by  
standing outside your front door as we share in this  
time of silent remembering together*

## **THE SILENCE**

*The completion of the silence is signalled*

*The Kohima Epitaph is said:*

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

*Then the minister prays: 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*



*Wreaths are laid at the memorial on behalf of the church and village*

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.  
**Amen.**

**Anthem:** *the choir sings the Kontakion for the Departed*

**ACT OF COMMITMENT**

*Minister:* Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our neighbour: that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations

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**

**Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all your peoples, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen**

*Minister:* Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love: May we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people, and live lives of justice, courage and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer. **Amen**

**National Anthem**

**God save our gracious Queen,  
Long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen.  
Send her victorious,  
happy and glorious,  
long to reign over us:  
God save the Queen.**

**Thy choicest gifts in store  
on her be pleased to pour,  
long may she reign.  
May she defend our laws,  
and ever give us cause  
to sing with heart and voice,  
God save the Queen.**

*Minister:* This year we also remember in our hearts those who have given so selfishly, sacrificed so much of their energy and time, and those who have lost their lives or loved ones as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. At this time of remembering we look forwards with hope.

We entrust to you, eternal God, those times when we can see only shadows and lose sight of the hope to come; the times when suffering seems so senseless, life so fragile, war so unstoppable and death so permanent. Bless us with the assurance that you are in all things, the tragic and the beautiful, the nightmare and the dream, the light and the darkness. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the peace of the world, today, tomorrow and forever. **Amen.**

**Hymn:**

**Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidst the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O, hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea!**

**O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain,  
O'er which our traffic runs a-main,  
By mountain pass or valley low,  
Wherever Lord our brethren go,  
Protect them by Thy guarding hand  
From every peril on the land!**

**O Spirit Whom the Father sent  
To spread abroad the firmament,  
O Wind of Heaven, by Thy might  
Save all who dare the eagle's flight,  
And keep them by Thy watchful care  
From every peril in the air!**

**O Trinity of love and power!  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them whereso'er they go.  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee,  
Glad praise from air, and land, and sea!**



*Minister:*

Peace to you from God our Father who hears our cry. Peace from his Son Jesus Christ whose death brings healing. Peace from the Holy Spirit who gives us life and strength.

**God of our pilgrimage, may your kingdom come, with deliverance for the needy, with peace for the righteous, with overflowing blessings for all nations, with glory, honour and praise for Christ, the only Saviour. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

*Minister:* God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all and remain with you this day and always. **Amen**



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