



Sunday 13 November 2022

Remembrance Sunday

A service of the Word for all generations

Sermon and most of the liturgy © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

Some liturgy and prayers of intercession © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

The Welcome

Words of welcome and introduction are said

Hymn 1 Praise my soul the King of Heaven

In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen

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

All And also with you.

O Lord open our lips:

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise:

Let us worship the Lord:

All all praise to his name.

**All Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever.**

Amen.

Prayers of preparation and penitence

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins:

For ignoring the New Commandment to love one another as Jesus loves us,
and for refusing to love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and
all our strength,

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

For refusing to live lives of holiness and radical commitment to the Gospel,
Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

For our willingness to ignore the human needs of our brothers and sisters,
Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

For the times you called us to act as peacemakers and we spent our time
elsewhere,

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

For the times we acted as an aggressor and ignored Your claims of over-
whelming love in our lives,

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

For refusing to live sustainably and willingness to harm and pollute our
wonder-filled and sacred planet,

Father, forgive us:

All Save us and help us

The leader declares God's forgiveness:

May 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.

All Amen

Praise and thanksgiving

We give thanks to God for all the wonderful gifts that God pours down upon
us which we so often take for granted

For nearly eighty years without waging warfare on British soil,
Father in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

For those we know who seek to bring peace and live lives that calm conflict,
Father in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

For the blessings that God bestows on peacemakers,
that they grow to become children of God,
Father in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

For the fruit of the Spirit, which include love and joy and peace,
Father in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

For the opportunities that our times of peace convey,
allowing us to create and enjoy, explore, and encourage,
Father in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

For the many opportunities to live lives of holiness and the occasions to
grow into Christlikeness,
Father in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

For those who, through lives of godliness and prayer,
have helped us and inspired us,
Father in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

For all your gifts, great and small, spiritual, and material,
Father in heaven:

All we give you thanks and praise.

**All Loving Lord, fill us with your life-giving,
joy-giving, peace-giving presence,
that we may praise you now with our lips
and all the day long with our lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

HYMN 2 **Bind us together Lord**

The Ministry of the Word

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.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Prophet Malachi

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. *Malachi 4:1-2a*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought

to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 3 Make me a channel of your peace

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you O Lord.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity

to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls. *Luke 21:5-19*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

The sermon

It's common on Remembrance Sunday to see large numbers of poppies. The reason is simple enough and is now more than a hundred years old: when the sound of the guns had ceased and when the men had come home (broken and traumatised), it was thought necessary to employ a symbol of that war as a simple means of remembering. That remembering was essential because if you forget the past, you repeat the past and the trauma of the world war was too terrible to contemplate.

They decided on a poppy because these hardy little flowers erupted into flower every year, recolouring the battlefields of the Somme, Ypres, Passchendaele, and so on. It's not that they are pretty, though of course they are. It's the symbolism, the imagery.

The first symbolism is the way poppies are so obviously blood red in colour and we must never shed blood in anger again. Second, their colour is so intense that you can't miss them, which forces recognition and, it is to be hoped, recognition. In recognising a poppy you trigger that response of, 'Never again' and thence work toward reconciliation, toward peace-making, and, as Christians, do the peace work that has its reward in becoming children of God.

I think there is a wider symbolism, though, which is perhaps best appreciated by gardeners. Poppies are actually very hard to grow artificially. Take a poppy seed and it usually refuses to grow yet poppies will self-seed almost anywhere. In fact, they prefer to grow in places where the soil has been turned often and disrupted recently. They prefer to grow in places of change, conflict, and stress. That's why you generally see them on a battlefield or, more prosaically, along a road verge, at a building site, and so on.

In the Beatitudes as cited in Luke and Matthew's Gospels, Jesus says, blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God. Turned, on its head, he implies that those who are truly children of God will of course work toward peace.

It starts with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, as does all true Christian life. *And a fruit of the Holy Spirit is peace.* The list of these fruits—it appears in Galatians—is quite long: the fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, thankfulness, and self-control. A Christian filled with the Holy Spirit of God will therefore have an instinct toward peace. That instinct will be powered by God and will work in tandem with that person's kindnesses and joys, their loves and their self-control. I'm not saying that being a Christian will inevitably lead toward peace, but that the Holy Spirit will sponsor their peace-making as a means of building the Kingdom of God.

It's time to take these themes and knit them together. Christians are to be like poppy seeds. The seeds of their Christianity grows best in rough, disrupted soil. The Spirit in their lives grows to help them become children of God in places where a lack of peace is an obvious, visual indicator that Godliness is somehow absent. Planting them at a whim probably won't work. Rather, we should allow the holy wind of God, the *Ru'ach*, the Spirit to blow where it pleases. It typically takes us to places where peace is needed, the Spirit enables peace to grow through her intervention through us, and with a visible change.

I'll conclude with a hymn of great age and exceptional power:

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy seven-fold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our mortal sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace;
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide no ill can come.



The remembering

We stand and listen to the words of the Holy Scripture, and draw comfort from their inspired wisdom:

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble. **Psalm 46:1**

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence 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**

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary they shall walk and not faint. **Isaiah 40:31**

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? **Micah 6:8**

As 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 have been given and taken away in world wars and conflicts past and present.

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.

A Church member reads aloud the names of those from our Parish who died in the First World War. A candle is lit for every name read aloud.

All We will remember them.

A church member places a wreath on the altar, then reads the names of those from our Parish who died in the Second World War. Again, a candle is lit for every name read aloud.

All We will remember them.

The last post is sounded

Silence is observed for two minutes

The reveille is sounded (on CD)

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

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!

Response of hope and commitment

We re-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

Lord 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 Redeemer.

All Amen

The Prayers

We pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, ask God to may give us peace.

We pray for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and loved by God:

May God give us His 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 us His peace

All God give peace

For all members of the armed forces living in danger today, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return:

May God give us His peace

All God give peace

For civilians—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 us His peace

All God give peace

For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free:

May God give us His 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 us His peace

All God give peace

God of truth and justice, we hold before you those others who have died: those whose names we will never know and those whose memory we cherish,

including those who have died very recently.

May God give us His peace

All God give peace

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.

May God give us His peace

All God give peace

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.

May God give us His peace

All God give peace

We summarise these prayers by saying:

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Peace

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

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

HYMN 4 Brother, sister, let me serve you

The conclusion and dismissal

**All Eternal God,
giver of love and life,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us
into all the world
to preach the gospel of the Kingdom.
Confirm us in his mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

God, grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the church, the King, the Commonwealth,
and all people peace, unity and concord,
and to us and all his servants,
life everlasting;
and the blessing of God the Almighty,
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and remain with us always.

All Amen

HYMN 5 Will you come and follow me

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All In the name of Christ. Amen