

Remembrance Sunday 2020

The Gathering

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

We meet in the presence of God,
who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.

Words of Welcome

In this service today,
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.

Let us pray.

Faithful God,
in times of sorrow, you are our comfort;
when we find ourselves in need, you provide.
In this season of separation, you have held us together;
by your Spirit, renew our strength
and give us the words of eternal life
to offer hope to a suffering world,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

HYMN: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise;
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee;
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity
interpreted by love!
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace;
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm;
O still, small voice of calm.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1872)

An Act of Penitence

God of all goodness,
we are reminded today of how easy it is to speak of peace,
yet how difficult it is to pursue;
how easy it is to talk of breaking down barriers,
yet how demanding it is to live as peacemakers.

For our share in the world's continuing pain,
Lord, forgive us.

God of all mercy,
we confess the things within us that make for conflict – pride, greed, envy, intolerance;
our nursing of petty grievances;
our unwillingness to forgive,
and our preoccupation with ourselves and our own interests.

For our share in the world's continuing pain,
Lord, forgive us.

God of all love,
put a new spirit within us – a spirit of love and openness, acceptance and
understanding, healing and reconciliation.
May the peace that we pray for begin in our hearts, so that we may become
instruments of your peace.

For our share in the world's continuing pain,
Lord, forgive us.

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

Silence

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.

Listening for the Word from God

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-end)

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A reading from the Gospel of John (14:1-6)

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Sermon

HYMN: *Abide with me*

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte (1861)

Prayers of Intercession

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for those in active service,
who are in danger this day,
remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return.

We pray for the leaders of the nations,
and all in positions of leadership,
that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.

We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation,
that we may have discipline and discernment,
courage and compassion.

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm,
that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.

We pray for the wounded and the captive,
the grieving and the homeless,
that in all their trials they may know your love and support.

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

We pray for those who love them in death as in life
offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss.

We pray for peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free.

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 forever.

Amen.

The Peace

Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

**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 Kohima Epitaph is said

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

The Act of Commitment

Let us, individually and together, commit ourselves to the cause of peace and reconciliation:

Lord God,
your Son proclaimed your peaceable Kingdom
in both word and deed,
open our hearts and minds, we pray,
to receive his Easter gift of peace.
And as we seek to witness to your purpose of peace,
give us generosity of spirit in times of disagreement,
patience in times of difficulty,
the desire to pray for those who oppose us,
and above all make us to be interpreters and bridge-builders
between those who are at enmity.
This we ask in the name of Christ
who has destroyed every wall that divides us,
and whose sacrifice has made our peace with you,
the Father of all humankind.

**Together we strive for all that makes for peace.
Together we seek to heal the wounds of war.
Together we work for a just future for all humanity.**

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.

The 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.

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace,
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,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*Two minutes silence takes place at 11am and will be livestreamed from the War Memorial.
Please do not attend this service but watch from home instead.*

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Service adapted from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* © The Archbishops' Council 2006

Additional prayers from Liturgical Resources for Services of Lament and Loss Related to Coronavirus, Prepared by the Bishop of Southwark's Advisory Group for Liturgy, All Saints-tide 2020

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