



The Blyth Valley
Team Ministry

Remembrance Sunday 2020



Introduction

Today we remember, with sorrow and thanksgiving, all those who have died in war: both those who fought and those caught up in war's tragedy. We remember especially the two world wars of the twentieth century, but also all the conflicts since and those in our own time. We ask God to transform us and make us new, that our hearts and the hearts of all humankind may be turned to peace, following Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Reflection

Together we search our hearts and acknowledge in the presence of God our failure to love, our failure to act and our failure to forgive.

Made in your image to reflect your truth and light,
we have not loved you with our whole heart
or our neighbour as ourselves.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Made in your image to reflect your truth and light,
we have walked by on the other side
and not acted to prevent evil.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Made in your image to reflect your truth and light,
we have held grudges against others
and not forgiven others as you have forgiven us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

God, your love and mercy know no end. Forgive us, restore us and renew us in your service and in the service of others, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

The Dove

One olive tree above the flood and one branch is the sign of solid land again. You bring hope, messenger of peace. What olive leaves do we discover in the world's flood of pain? The fall of a dictator, a pact between old enemies, a government halving its spending on arms, a family embracing different cultures, a doctor's care in a war-torn land, and children with uncorrupted eyes. Jesus of the olive grove you knew the agony of doubt. Shall we be saved? Yes, in the garden dawn; yes, in the upper room and yes, where the tree of life bears leaves to heal the nations. **Bernard Thorogood**

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

by John McCrae

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.

Reflections

Please take this order of service home with you

Here are some reflections for you to think about at home

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of God from Jerusalem. God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 2:2-4

On the ninth all Batteries were relieved by the 42nd Divisional Artillery and orders were issued to march to Quievy to rejoin the Division. We moved on 11 November Armistice Day, and we heard the announcement of the Armistice when we were still in the Foret de Mormal on a cheerless, dismal, cold misty day. There was no cheering or demonstration. We were all tired in body and mind, fresh from the tragic field of battle, and this momentous announcement was too vast in its consequences to be appreciated or accepted with wild excitement. We trekked out of the wood on this dreary day in silence. We read in the papers of the tremendous celebrations in London and Paris, but we could not bring ourselves to raise even a cheer. The only feeling we had was one of great relief. **Gunner B.O. Stokes, 13th Battery, New Zealand Field Artillery**

To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future. To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace. Let us promise our fellow human beings that we will work untiringly for dis-armament and the banishment of all nuclear weapons; let us replace violence and hate with confidence and caring. Peace must always be the aim; peace pursued and protected in all circumstances. Let us embark upon the steep and difficult path of peace. **Pope John Paul II**

Praying Together

Almighty God and Father,
you embrace all your children with unbounded love
and you are Lord of the living and the dead.

Hear us as we remember
the fallen in war
and all war's victims.

As your Son Jesus Christ
died and rose again to save us,
may they, together with us,
know the joy of life restored;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

As Jesus taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God
and our fellow men and women:
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.

**Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves
to serve you and all humankind, 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.**

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

We 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. Especially we remember the men and women of
this parish who gave their lives:

The names of the Fallen are read.

Wreaths are laid.

A representative of the Royal British Legion says:

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 respond loudly:

We will remember them.

The Last Post is played.

Two minutes' silence is kept and all remain still.

The Reveille is played.

A representative of the Royal British Legion says the Kohima:

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

(The piper plays a lament.)

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love, embodied for us in
Jesus Christ we can never be parted, neither by death nor life: hear
our prayer and thanksgiving for all whom we remember today;
complete in them the purpose of your love; and bring us, with them,
to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church,
the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all humankind, peace and
concord; and to us and all peoples, life everlasting; and the blessing of
God almighty, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Where possible we listen to the National Anthem (in silence)