

WHEATHILL PRIORY BENEFICE

“Jesus Lives: Follow Him”

Service for Remembrance 8 November 2020

Sentences

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*

The presiding minister continues

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.

Choir 'Hope for the World despair'

Remembering

An older person says

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.

A younger person may reply

At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we will remember them.

All We will remember them.

The beginning of the two-minute silence may be signalled.

Silence is kept.

The completion of the silence may be signalled.

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.

All Amen.

Benefice Choir: Flowers of the Forrest

Listening for the Word from God

Psalm 46:1-11

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. *James 3.17,18*

Reflection

Don't know about you, remembrance gets harder the older I get & the further we move away from the 2 world wars initially focussed upon. Partly because of the countless numbers who have continued to die fighting as a part of their nations armed forces, or as those caught up in the trauma of war, or military veterans whose lives will never be the same again.

This year, probably for the first time remembering is happening at home, at our doorways, on the edge of the road, watching on our screens. How we do it may be different but there are two things that are unchanged amid all the change:

We remember, we recall, particularly this year the Battle of Britain, 80th anniversary some months ago & the 75th anniversary of the ending of WW2. Not doing it in the usual way doesn't mean we forget; it just means we're doing it differently. Still need to remember, not just those whose lives affected by WW1 & 2 but all those since then whose lives continue to be affected by the impact of war.

We remember in the context of a God who is utterly dependable, who does not change, who even during an earthquake can be relied upon. Trusting him means that whatever is happening around us, we can trust and find a way to life. We all have times when we feel afraid, but we do not need to fear, we can have hope and stand firm and secure whatever torrent is raging around us.

That means that as we face uncertainties in our personal, local, national, or international life we can do so secure in the knowledge of God's dependability and love. We are then called to go out from that, to be people of wisdom and peace, who can stand in the midst of this turmoil and become people of peace, hope and life.

So as we remember today, as we live life once again confined to our homes, as we care for those whose lives have been affected in any way by war and its aftermath may we do so as people who trust in God and seek to be a people of peace.

Praying Together

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

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

may God give peace. **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 peace. / **God give peace.**

For all members of the armed forces
who are in danger this day,
remembering family, friends
and all who pray for their safe return;

may God give peace. **God give peace.**

For civilian 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 peace. **God give peace.**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;

may God give peace. **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 peace. **God give peace.**

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.

All **Amen.**

All **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.

¶ Responding in Hope and Commitment

Representatives and other members of the public come forward to lay wreaths, light candles or offer other symbols of remembrance and hope, such as single flowers or crosses.

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 is made

Let us 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.**

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.

All **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.

Blessing

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,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.