

Sunday 14th November 2021 (Remembrance Sunday)

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God is love, let us adore God by sharing God's love.

God is ever present, around us and within us,
though separate let us worship together in God.

On this remembrance Sunday we join with churches around the country as we seek to remember those who served in the armed forces and who have lost their lives in wars around the world. We also pause to remember the horror of war and the need to work for peace.

Suggested hymn Dear Lord and father of mankind
Watch [hymn](#)

Psalm 113 (Psalms for a quantum world)

Let us lift our voices in praise to the source of all being,
the eternal presence, the creator.

Our God is with us,
in us and around us,
now and forever,
there is no moment when we are not one in God and with God.
Every waking hour,
in every nation
and beyond the confines of this world,
God is,
and in oneness we are.
In the desperation of a false separation
some seek power and honour,
but in oneness we share a common need
and all that we have belongs to everyone.
In the power of God's love
the poor can find hope,
the desperate find reason
and all find a place.
In oneness we belong, and all have something to offer,
we sit side by side held in love.
In oneness all have a home and all have purpose,
so let us praise the creator,
source of our oneness, the hope for our future.

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Prayer

Loving God, when the night is endless and we long for morning; when all around seems dark and we long for light; when love seems a far distant memory and times are tough, may we remember your presence with us and feel your love around us. When in the darkness we wait and watch, let our prayers lift us and the hope of the kingdom fuel our actions.

In times of strife may we look higher than the darkness at our feet, lifting our eyes to wonder at the glory of your creation, holding the stars in our hand like a thousand wishes that become a thousand expressions of love. As we pause to reflect on all of creation, may we be filled with love, a love that overflows into our life together and brings us closer to the kingdom.

As we worship together, we offer this time in thanks, and in response to the love which surrounds us we offer love to one another, to family and friends and to strangers, holding one another in the

oneness of creation and working together for the benefit of all people. As followers of Jesus we say together,
Our Father....

Story Peace Lily by Hilary Robinson and Martin Impney

[Listen to the story](#)

Remembrance video for young children

Watch [here](#)

Suggested Hymn O God our help in ages past

Watch [hymn](#)

As we prepare for the Act of remembrance, please watch this this video from 2014

Watch [here](#)

Act of remembrance

We pause to remember

They shall not grow old as we who 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

Keep two-minute silence

When you go home, tell them of us and say,

“for your tomorrow we gave our today.”

Poem

Peace comes through love.

Love of life, love of others.

A sense of belonging,
a sense of knowing.

Peace is a state of awareness
that we are one,
that all experience is shared,
that giving of ourselves
is giving to ourselves
and sharing is living life to the full.

Knowing love, being loved, accepting love,
giving love without conditions,
nothing held back in fear.

Peace is quite simply
love without limits.

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Hymn

Abide with me

Watch [hymn](#)

Reading

Mark 13:1-8

Reflection

No one is sure when the gospel of Mark was written, or if it was written as an entirety or added to later. This passage clearly refers to the destruction of the temple which happened around 70 CE(AD) and this is around the time some experts believe the gospel to have been written. This passage then could have been written after the destruction of the temple and be reassurance to Mark's readers that the destruction of the temple does not mean the end of everything.

The core disciples question Jesus about this statement means and ask for an insight into when the end will come. Jesus replies that they should not panic if they hear rumours of wars, we need to bear in mind that in the days of Jesus there was no instant news, it could take months for news of a war to reach a community. There is also mention of earthquakes and famines and again reassurance that these things have a natural place in the order of creation. This was said to a community without the scientific insights we now have about how the world works and what causes earthquakes, famines, and floods. For years this passage has been read in churches and taken as reassurance that we should not worry about such things, but can we still do that in 2021 or is that a naïve attitude to the world around us?

Jesus is recorded as urging his followers not to worry about things, and worry rarely achieves anything, but whilst they were not to worry, they were called to live differently and make a difference in the world around them. Worrying about climate change will achieve little but living differently will. The temple had been destroyed, but the call of Jesus remained as strong and as relevant as ever. The planet has been damaged, almost beyond repair, but the call to be one with creation and each other is still relevant and living out that call can make a difference, but we must not forget the challenge we have to spread the word. We are stewards of creation; our belief means we must act and speak on behalf of creation when we see actions which threaten its integrity.

In Matthew's version of this passage Jesus accuses the disciples of being unable to read the signs of the times. The signs are all around us, how well will we read them?

We are all aware that injustice is the root cause of war and terror. Frustration at seeing others live with different opportunities drives people to desperate actions, fleeing homelands in search of a better way of life, or joining extremists who make false claims and distort the truth. Jesus knew about such people and warned against them. Their actions are rarely borne of love, but for many who join them fear becomes the driving force, fear of the future and fear of those who now dictate their actions. God's love is about caring for each other, about living to enable everyone to reach their potential and the fullness of what it means to be human. Love overcomes fear, for love offers hope, offers a just reward for labour and love eliminates divisions. We are one in God. We are called to love our neighbour for they are a part of us in creation. Our neighbour, as Jesus reminded us, is anyone who has a need, whoever they are and wherever they are, one creation, one world, one people.

When we take up arms against another, we are taking up arms against ourselves, when we hurt another, we hurt ourselves. The futility of war has been demonstrated time and time again, there are no ultimate winners, we are all losers. As we take time to remember those who have lost their lives in war, the families left bereft and changed, and those whose lives have been changed forever by injury in war, the call to be one has never been greater.

The injustice of climate change will fuel other catastrophes as desperate people fight for the chance to live amidst floods, famines and fires. We have a voice and we have call to live differently, the signs of the times are all around us and we must act for ignoring the signs will be devastating for all people. Jesus told the disciples that they were witnessing the birth pangs. Birth pangs mean new life – for the disciples it was the living out of the message of Jesus which would create a new way of being together in our humanity. We can witness new life; it will be a different life with a new and loving emphasis, and it will bring hope of a bright and vibrant future for all humanity, but we must let go of the bricks and mortar of what has been and build a new future which is sustainable and loving. We must be prepared to let the temple of life as it has been crumble, to allow this new life to be born. This is the kingdom of God.

Suggested hymn

Tune The Bard of Armagh
Listen [here](#)

The Kingdom of God will be fair and be loving,
everyone having as much as they need;
no hunger or thirst, just a sharing and caring
where everyone's valued for all that they bring.

The Kingdom of God will be justice and freedom,
everyone sharing so all can grow strong;
no envy or fighting, no greedy dictators,
instead all will flourish because we are one.

The Kingdom of God shows a new way of living,
changing our values and outlook on life;
we're called to be one with all neighbours and strangers,
remembering others in all we decide.

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Prayers

God of all time and space, may our actions and words bring justice and love
On this day we remember all whose lives have been torn apart by wars, by terrorism and
inhumanity, winner and losers, soldiers and civilians, adults and children. We remember Holocaust
victims and victims of genocide and ethnic cleansing, and all the ways in which we allow our inner
fears to create barriers between your children. We pray for an end to violence in the world, and the
coming of peace.

God of all time and space, may our actions and words bring justice and love

We remember those whose lives have been blighted by the carelessness and the apathy of others,
the times we have stepped aside from love and allowed injustice to breed resentment.
We think of children who toil for long hours in awful conditions to make treasures for those who can
afford them, and those whose deprivation and desperation feeds our delight. We pray for the
courage to resist the temptation to have more than we need and for a love for our world that
recognises the need for sustainability.

God of all time and space, may our actions and words bring justice and love

We remember those who have endured injustice and untruths and malicious slander; the victims of
racial prejudice and faith crimes. We think of all those who feel that they are denied opportunity
because of the colour of their skin and recognise that our world is not fair, and often the upholders
of law are biased. We pray that we will love one another as brothers and sisters and stand in
solidarity with the victims of injustice

God of all time and space, may our actions and words bring justice and love

God of justice and equity, we pray for the United Nations, and peacemakers everywhere. We pray
for the charities who bring hope into the lives caught up in violence and those who support the
victims of violence across the world. On this day we pray for the Royal British Legion, and all who
care for the wounded and weary. We pray that we will not forget the hidden victims, those whose
wounds are not obvious and whose fear prevents them from seeking help.

God of all time and space, may our actions and words bring justice and love

God of justice and equity, we pray for ourselves and people of faith everywhere, that we might be
led to make fewer errors of judgement, and a greater effort to live lives that reflect your love and
give a glimpse of your glory. In our daily lives may we always seek the highest option and the most
loving action as we follow the way of Jesus, serving others in our oneness with you and all creation.

God of all time and space, may our actions and words bring justice and love

In Jesus name Amen.

Our offering to God.

As we continue to worship apart but together, we pledge our commitment to sharing in the work of
our church through our continued offering and by exploring new ways of living generously, and may
we know your blessing on all we do. Amen

Suggested hymn

Make me a channel of your peace

Watch [hymn](#)

Blessing

May the blessing that is the knowledge of God, source of all being, the love of God discovered through Jesus and the inspiration of the Spirit which binds us together be with us on our journey this day and every day. Amen.