

Sunday 13th November 2022 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, we worship together in God.

On this remembrance Sunday we pause 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.

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, may we lift 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 that you have made and done, may we be filled with love, a love that overflows into our life together and brings your kingdom closer. As we worship together we offer you this time in thanks for all your love to us, and in response we offer love to one another, family friends and strangers, holding one another in the oneness of creation and working together for the benefit of all your people. As followers of Jesus we say together, Our Father....

Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

Reflection

This reading from Isaiah takes me to the Book of Revelation and I wonder if this may have been the inspiration for John's vision as recorded in Revelation. We are given a picture of the Kingdom, a place of peace and harmony where enemies exist side by side in love.

Isaiah paints this picture by pointing out the things which will be absent in the Kingdom, a technique which highlights for us the things which are less than loving in the world now –

- Things which cause weeping and distress
- Dying before reaching old age and the fullness of our humanity
- Situations which force people to uproot and leaves their homes and land
- People of all ages forced to work for a less than a just wage
- Children dying from malnutrition and preventable disease.

For Isaiah this vision was a distant vision and some Christians view the Kingdom as an expression of heaven but Jesus said the kingdom was already come, if only partially and his message was that we were to work to bring the kingdom closer. It involves a new way of living and a new understanding of loving, an inclusivity and interdependence to create a place peace and harmony.

Story – The Whisperer by Nick Butterworth

Listen [here](#)

Poem The Fallen – Laurence Binyon (1914)

Read [here](#)

Song We will remember them

Listen [here](#)

Silence

Reading

Luke 21:5-19

Reflection

Luke is alerting his readers to a core truth that bad things happen but don't read too much into them. He speaks of the destruction of the temple, this had probably already happened when Luke wrote his gospel, so here he is seeking to reassure them that this was meant to happen and it is not the end. He knows that many will seek to interpret unrest and war as the coming of the end and he warns his listeners not to listen to such things but to carry on fulfilling the message of Jesus. His listeners had expected Jesus to have returned and freed them from the oppression of the Romans and this had not happened so Luke is urging them to keep working for the coming of the kingdom, to keep loving and building a community of peace and inclusion.

War is caused by fear, jealousy, greed and misunderstanding, it is fuelled by rumour and misinformation. We are urged not to let the whisperers succeed. There are always signs that can be interpreted as doom and gloom, but there are also signs of the kingdom.

We, like Luke's early readers, are urged to not worry, be patient and most importantly get on with the business of spreading love and hope. We too have a story to tell and we are to take every opportunity to share our story and we are to listen to the stories of the people around us. Those stories remind us of the task we are called to do, to bring the kingdom closer by working to eliminate the signs of dis-ease and unrest, the sources of war. We are to be the peacemakers.

Prayers

*God whose care excludes no-one,
whose economy balances both rich and poor,
give us sensitivity to see the needs of all
and courage to speak your word of welcome
that enables others to welcome you.*

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.

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 ends recognises the need for sustainability.

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

Lord God, who judges with 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.

Lord God, who judges with 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.

In Jesus name Amen.