

Sunday 8th November 2020 WORSHIP AT HOME: GOSPEL John 14v27

Welcome to our act of Worship for **Remembrance Sunday**

Prayer of Approach

We come together today to remember: To remember with thanks those who have given their lives in service of others.

To remember with sadness the suffering, destruction and pain caused by human conflict.

We come also to commit ourselves to be peacemakers and peacekeepers wherever we can. In Jesus' name. **Amen**

Call to worship

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*

HYMN

T Repton

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 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.

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

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!

HP673, MP111, RS492, STF495

(Some of the hymn books widely used in the
Wiltshire United Area)

Prayers of Praise

Incomparable God, Father of each one of us,
We praise and adore you.

Your love is unending, your mercy limitless, your
power infinite, your grace unbounded.

You alone give life its full and true direction;
You bring good out of evil, hope out of despair.

We are amazed that you continue to concern
yourself with us,

Despite our deep and constant unworthiness of
you.

Faithful God, we offer you our praise and
adoration with reverent, humble and thankful
hearts; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, when we glory in power and not in
humility:

forgive us and grant us your peace.

When we glory in satisfaction and not service:

forgive us and grant us your peace.

When our hearts are at war with your will for our
lives:

forgive us and grant us your peace.

When we are reluctant to plant the seeds of our
plenty in the soil of the needs of others:

forgive us and grant us your peace.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

HYMN

T Channel of Peace

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there is hatred, let me bring love

Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord

And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console

To be understood as to understand

Or to be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope

Where there is darkness, only light

And where there's sadness ever joy

Make me a channel of your peace

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned

It is in giving unto all that we receive

And in dying that we are born to eternal life

HP776, MP456, RS629, STF707

An Act of Remembrance

The two-minute silence is observed

Let us pray:

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.

Remembrance Prayer for Small Children

Heavenly Lord,

We pray for everyone on earth caught up in war.

Every man.

Every woman.

Every child.

Today we remember those who died for us long ago.

Still the wars go on... and on.

We know the world would be a better place if all the fighting stopped.

We're sad and sorry. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT Micah 4v1-4

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,

² **and many nations shall come and say:**

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

³ **He shall judge between many peoples,**

and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;

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;

⁴ **but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,**

and no one shall make them afraid;

for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

EPISTLE James 3:17-18

But 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.

GOSPEL John 14:27

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The Wiltshire village of Dilton Marsh has its own railway station where trains stop by request. You signal the driver by putting out your arm. Many services go to Brighton and that was my destination – not for the beach, nor even the Royal Pavilion, but the War Memorial.

During Lockdown I researched some family history about my two great-uncles who were killed in World War 1. Their brother, my grandfather, was in the Navy, the ship was torpedoed, those of the crew who escaped in lifeboats spending three days without drinking water before being rescued. I cannot begin to imagine the anguish and grief my great-grandparents endured. Yet their pain was replicated the length and breadth of not only this country but around the globe.

As I stood in front of the memorial amidst a sea of names, each representing a human-being cut down, often in the prime of years. Each name matters! Each a family's grief! Today as we look to the past, we also take stock of where the world is today. And it simply is not good enough! Bloodshed and violence, the bitter cycle continues unabated, *"What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?"**

Christianity is no stranger to violence; we think of the sufferings and crucifixion of Christ and the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:54-60). However, we painfully must confess that as well as a victim the Church has also being perpetrator: The Crusades, the Reformation and countless other sordid occasions when Christians have crucified Christ by barbarous actions. Ecclesiastical hands are stained with blood. We need to acknowledge past sins AND repent of them!

When will the Church truly be prepared to act on Christ's teaching? When can we show the world what it means to be a peacemaker, a bridge-builder? The fulfilment of the prophecy of Amos,

around 2750 years in age is more than long-overdue!

I find great store not only in our Gospel reading but also in those who would have heard Jesus' words – the disciples. What a politically diverse group – from Simon the Zealot (Zealots were a political movement among Jews who sought to overthrow the occupying Roman government), to Simon the Tax Collector (they represented the foreign domination of Rome and were considered renegades). Yet such polarisation of difference is overcome by the one who said, "**Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you**".

If we are serious about peace then we follow without fail in the footsteps of Christ, the one who not only calls us to be filled with his peace but to forgive our neighbour irrespective of who that is, or their misdeeds!

Today in our acts of remembrance as well as remembering we pledge again and with renewed vigour not to fail in the long hoped for future of justice, peace, mercy and truth which the prophet Amos spoke of. We remember those who died in war and we honour their sacrifice through this.

Today we remember the past, pray for the present and hope for the future.

We will remember them. Amen

An Act of Commitment

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace? **We will**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war? **We will**
Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

Let us pray

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

HYMN

T Grafton

For the healing of the nations,

Lord, we pray with one accord,

for a just and equal sharing

of the things that earth affords.

To a life of love in action

help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow brief life's span.

You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

HP402, MP-, RS620, STF696

Little people may prefer:

Let there be love shared among us,

Let there be love in our eyes,

May now Your love sweep this nation,

Cause us O Lord to arise.

Give us a fresh understanding

Of brotherly* love that is real,

Let there be love shared among us,

Let there be love.

*(*Be inclusive, why not sing this twice and on the second time sing 'sisterly') MP411*

Our Prayers

We reflect today on the horrors of the past that continue to haunt humanity and darken our world.

Where pain still overwhelms, **bring healing.**

Where hearts are still breaking, **bring comfort.**

Where peoples are still oppressed, **bring liberation.**

Where communities are still victimised, **bring justice.**

Where children are still brutalised, **bring compassion.**

Where lives are still crushed, **bring hope.**

Where evil is perpetrated, **bring repentance.**

Where war still devastates, **bring peace.**

But most of all,

wherever a single voice cries out in the darkness,

bring us to one another.

In the name of the love you bear in your heart for all people,

all nations

and all creation.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

HYMN

T St Anne

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

HP358, MP498, RS705, STF132

Blessing

Send us out O God,
to be beacons of peace
in a dark world of conflict

Make us instruments of peace
for whoever we meet
and wherever we go.
In the name of the Prince of Peace,
Our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ **Amen.**

Rev David Coppard Superintendent @ Wiltshire
United Area
Bank Chaplain @ Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

***Our churches may not all be open, but the Church is
active and alive.***

*This is service is offered to any and all, with love
and prayers.*

CCL LICENCE
Steeple Ashton Methodist CCL 291605
Warminster United CCL 1221052
Westbury Methodist CCL 781988
Westbury URC CCL 293641

***What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?**

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells,
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, -
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.
What candles may be held to speed them all?
Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing down of blinds.

Wilfred Owen 1917

Through the Week

Pax Domini (Peace of the Lord)

Peace
is a presence
not an absence of noise;
not the void,
the treaty'd end to battle,
cessation of hostilities;

Peace fought for,
won,
kept,
proves but soulless illusion without
Peace as gift,
..."Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to
you..."
and the giver.

Kenneth Carveley