

Our Sunday Service Together

Remembrance Sunday 2021



An Acclamation for the Season

All: Alleluia, alleluia! To you we come, in remembrance 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. Alleluia!

Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

Amen.

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

The Psalmody Psalm 46 *We say the psalm aloud*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble;
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;
Though the waters rage and swell, and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; therefore, shall she not be removed; God shall help her at the break of day.
The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken,
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come and behold the works of the Lord, what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.
He makes wars to cease in all the world;
he shatters the bow and snaps the spear and burns the chariots in the fire.
'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.'
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is
now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Scripture Reading Micah 4.1-5

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 anymore; 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.

⁵ For all the peoples walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Gospel John 15.9-17

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A Reflection for the day Padre John Webb writes

In the 1980s I was the Garrison Chaplain in Dover and based at the rather lovely and historic church in the castle. There was one elderly lady in the congregation who was very faithful and hardly ever missed a service. Ethel was very quiet, but I gathered that her father had been the Garrison Sergeant Major and she had been married to a soldier in that church. When she heard that I was being posted to Germany she asked me if I would be anywhere near Saltau. I said that I would and enquired why it was significant. It was then that she told me that her husband had been killed in the war and was buried there. She asked me to visit his grave because she had never been able to.

So at the first opportunity I went there and found his grave and read the inscription;

**Captain Kime QM, M in D, 1st Battalion the Lincolnshire regiment. Died 25th April 1945 aged 41.
And the quotation 'There is some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England'**

That brief inscription holds a wealth of meaning. At 41 he was older than most of the soldiers and would have served throughout the war and this was recognised in his appointment as a Quartermaster. He had been Mentioned in Despatches. Most poignant of all he was killed on 25th April less than two weeks before the end of the war. Having served so long what a bitter irony to die so near the end. His life was sacrificed and she was left to cope with three children to bring up without the help and support of a husband.

I contacted Ethel and told her that I had located her husband's grave and she came over to stay with us. I took her over to the cemetery and although it was spring there had been a late fall of snow so when we went to

the cemetery it was covered with a blanket of white. As you can imagine it was a very poignant visit and it seemed to me that the fresh snow signified something very special. It seemed to be expressing the truth that the blood and horror of two world wars had been somehow cleansed. That the pain of war and suffering in Europe had been replaced by peace and understanding. Somehow the war which ended two weeks after that quartermaster's death had been replaced by a deeper and lasting peace. We had won the war then and now the challenge to our generation is to maintain the peace. We have moved on from hostility to harmony. Our relationship with Europe may be under strain as a result of Brexit, but nobody would ever suggest that this would be solved by going to war.

Ethel spent a few moments at the graveside and then quietly walked towards the top of the cemetery and the memorial in the form of a large cross. As she looked up at it, confused and sad she reminded me of Mary at the foot of the cross in Jerusalem two thousand years ago looking up at her dying son confused and sad, but soon to learn that the tragic death of one she loved had been a sacrifice from which future generations would reap the reward and it hadn't been in vain.

We can only humbly give thanks for all those who have made that sacrifice and acknowledge the true cost which they paid for the peace and freedom we enjoy. It is brave people like her that we should remember to-day. An enormous price has been paid for the peace and freedom we enjoy. A sacrifice willingly made by thousands of service men and women still mourned by widows, parents, children and friends long after most of us forget. We remember once a year, they are reminded many times each day.

The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers *We make our intercessions*

O God of peace, who has taught us that in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; help us, as we come into your presence, to be still and know that you are God.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

On this Remembrance Sunday 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 ...

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 ...

For the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and all peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free ...

May God give peace.

Let us pray for Bishop Ruth and all who seek to serve you in this diocese as they take on additional responsibilities.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We Pray for Our Queen, Prime Minister, the President of the United States and all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom to lead us in the path of peace. May they always use their power for the good of the people and avoid the temptation to personal gain or glory.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for all our young people whose lives have been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak and have missed so much at this critical time in their lives.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick, suffering and dying ... and we give thanks and pray for those who use their skill and risk their lives to care for them.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Hear us as we remember those who have died ... According to your promises grant them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.

The Collect

All: 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. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.

The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me.
Amen.