

Church at Home

Remembrance Sunday



Before the Service

A very warm welcome to today's service of Church at Home from the Diocese of Oxford on this Remembrance Sunday. We are delighted that today Bishop Steven Croft will be presiding & Archdeacon Jonathan Chaffey will be preaching.

This year Remembrance Sunday will be significantly changed for many, as England enters a second period of lockdown, and we will mark the occasion in ways very different from those we have been familiar with in the past. Yet, however we mark the day, be it in public or in the privacy of our own homes, we will each find our own way to keep silence, to pray and to remember.

Remembering is at the very heart of the Christian faith and it is the central act around which our worship revolves as we celebrate the Eucharist together. In the Eucharist we remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and give thanks for Christ's sacrifice of himself for the life of the world. But today, we also recognise and remember the sacrifice made by those who have lost their lives in war, and hold before God all whose lives and families continue to be affected by the mental, physical and spiritual effects of conflict.

The purpose of the Act of Remembrance is both to honour those who have made such great sacrifice in the cause of freedom and also to commit ourselves afresh to bringing an end to conflict, division and hatred in the world. As Christians we are called to be 'people of peace' as we seek to follow Jesus the 'Prince of Peace'.

As ever, we are hugely grateful to all of our contributors from across the Diocese in parishes, chaplaincies and other organisations, who have given of their time, skills and voice to help lead us in worship this morning, including: All Saints', High Wycombe; St Frideswide's, Water Eaton; St Michael and All Angels, Lambourn; The Sea Cadet Corps; The Royal Air Force Association; The RAF Chaplaincy; Jubilee Brass Band; The Royal British Legion and High Wycombe Town Council.

Today, as we remember with gratitude, let us each resolve to pray, seek and act to bring the peace of Christ to all whose lives we touch.

Film before the service
'Lest we forget' *The British Army 2020*
available online: <https://youtu.be/ahGRNKi8-18>

Greeting

Bishop In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Bishop We come before the throne of God
with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.

All **Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Bishop welcomes the congregation gathered online and introduces the service.

Prayer of Commemoration

Bishop Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

Our 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
Still may we dwell 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.

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: 'St Anne', William Croft (1678-1727)

Recorded by members of the Choir of All Saints' Church, High Wycombe

Confession

Bishop Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;
its pride, its selfishness, its greed;
its evil distortions and hatreds.
Let us confess our share in what is wrong,
and our failure to seek and establish that peace
which God wills for all his children.

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Absolution

Bishop Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

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 Collect

Bishop Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Bishop God, our refuge and our strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

We listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

First Reading

Amos 5.18-24 (NRSV)

read by Faye Simonds, St Frideswide's Church, Water Eaton

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light;
as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Second Reading

I Thessalonians 4.13-end (NRSV)

read by Ordinary Cadet Ben Peerless

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then shalt thou better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Words: Katharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel (1697-1768)

Music: 'Finlandia', Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Recorded by Susan Holmes & Stephen Holmes, St Michael & All Angels, Lambourn

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25. 1-13 (NRSV)

read by Sqn Ldr Edgar Samuel

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’

And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’

But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’

Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection

The Ven Jonathan Chaffey, Archdeacon of Oxford
Formerly Chaplain-in-Chief RAF

Bishop

Let us affirm our faith in God.

All

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

led by RAF Chaplain The Revd Sqn Ldr Christina Lacey

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Bishop Jesus said,
‘Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.’

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. Although we are separated by distance, we are one Body of Christ; the Spirit moves among us as we share Christ’s peace, committing ourselves afresh to bring peace in our own communities and to pray and work for peace in the world.

Song

Beauty for brokenness, Hope for despair
Lord, in the suffering, This is our prayer
Bread for the children, Justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset, Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives, Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsman, Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed, Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause, Of those who can't speak

God of the poor, Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts, Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love, From a spark to a flame

Refuge from cruel wars, Havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary, Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields, Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness, His cross for the pain

Rest for the ravaged earth, Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned, Our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness, Carelessness, greed
Make us content with, The things that we need

God of the poor, Friend of the weak...

Lighten our darkness, Breathe on this flame
Until your justice, Burns brightly again
Until the nations, Learn of your ways
Seek your salvation, And bring you their praise

God of the poor, Friend of the weak...

Words & Music: Graham Kendrick
© Make Way Music 1993
Recorded by Hannah & Liam Cartwright

Preparation of the Table

Bishop To you we come, Father of lights,
with angels and saints,
where heaven and earth unite.
May Jesus meet us in the breaking of the bread.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Bishop It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.
Your love made visible in Jesus Christ
brings home the lost,
restores the sinner
and gives dignity to the despised.
In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom
a divided and broken humanity.
Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation
we glorify your name,
for ever praising you and saying:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Bishop We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Praise to you Lord Jesus.

All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Bishop Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread.

Bishop

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,

All

**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

Agnus Dei

All

**Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Bishop God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
All **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
in the glory of God the Father.**

The President receives the Bread & Wine on behalf of the community as we make our 'spiritual communion'; taking time to notice God's presence with us and trust that, as we desire communion with God, God will meet us in our hearts by faith. There are no special words or actions required for this; only true desire, lively faith and genuine love. If you find it helpful you may wish to use the following prayer, or simply listen to the music and meditate upon God's love for you.

Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock.
You wait for me and only I can let you in.
I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me
with your presence. Feed me with your body
and unite me in your blood,
that I may be your blessing to a world in need.
Amen.

Anthem **'For the Fallen'**

They shall grow not old, as we that 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.

Words: Laurence Binyon
Music: Douglas Guest

Recorded by members of the Choir of All Saints' Church, High Wycombe

Prayer after Communion

Bishop Let us pray:

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn

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.

Words: Fred Kaan (1929-2009)
Music: 'Alleluia Dulce Carmen'
recorded by Hannah & Liam Cartwright

Act of Remembrance

Archdeacon God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble
psalm 46.1

From across the Diocese,
we join together in the presence of Almighty God,
whose purposes are good;
whose power sustains the world he has made;
who loves us, although we have failed in his service;
who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world;
who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.

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.

+ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord:

All **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Archdeacon May they rest in peace:

All **And rise in glory. Amen.**

Archdeacon They shall grow not old as we that 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

All **We will remember them.**

'The Last Post'

recorded by Roxanna Clayton, Jubilee Brass Band, Oxford

Two minutes silence is kept

'The Reveille'

recorded by Roxanna Clayton, Jubilee Brass Band, Oxford

'Kohima Epitaph'

Archdeacon When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.

Archdeacon 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.

All **Amen.**

Laying of Wreaths

'Pie Jesu' from *Requiem Mass* by Gabriel Faure (1845-1924)

Recorded by Susan Holmes & Stephen Holmes, St Michael & All Angels, Lambourn

Cllr Ian McEnnis, RAFA
Cllr Tony Green, High Wycombe

Lt (SCC) Craig Leonard, RMR
Lacey family, RAF High Wycombe

Act of Commitment

Archdeacon 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**

Archdeacon 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**

Blessing & Dismissal

Bishop 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 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

All **Amen.**

Bishop Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
All **In the name of Christ.**
Amen.

The National Anthem

Recorded by members of the Choir of All Saints' Church, High Wycombe

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.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

Music After the Service

'Nimrod' (from the 'Enigma Variations')

Edward Elgar (1857-1934) arr. William Henry Harris (1883-1973)

recorded by Liam Cartwright



Covid-19 and national lockdown means donating online is now crucial to support The Royal British Legion's 2020 Poppy Appeal.

With thousands of poppy collectors unable to sell poppies locally and many fundraising events cancelled, The Royal British Legion is relying on the British public to give as generously as possible this year.

britishlegion.org.uk/donate