Service of Remembrance

10th November 2019
10.55 a.m.
The Gathering

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46.1

We meet in the presence of God.

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.

Hymn – O God our help in ages past

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

Beneath 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,
Will bear us all away;
We fade and vanish, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

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

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

The Royal British Legion Exhortation

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.

We will remember them.

The Act of Remembrance

Bugler sounds “The Last Post“
The Standards Dip

We observe the two-minute silence

Bugler sounds Reveille
The Standards are Raised

Remember, Lord, your people, who cry to you in their grief.
Remember the fallen in battle, and the innocents who have died.
Remember your power to heal and save.
Amen.
When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.’

Address

Praying Together

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;

May God give peace.

God give peace
for those who love them in death as in life, 
offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;
May God give peace

God give peace

for all members of the armed forces who
are in danger this day, remembering family, friends
and all who pray for their safe return;
May God give peace

God give peace

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;
May God give peace

God give peace

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who
seek to keep this world secure and free;
May God give peace

God give peace

for all who bear the burden and privilege
of leadership, political, military and
religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and
resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.
May God give peace

God give peace

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.
As we honour the past, may we put our
faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope,
now and for ever.
Amen.
Gathering our prayers and remembrance into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.\nThy Kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.\nGive us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.\nAnd lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil\nFor thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory
for ever and ever.\nAmen*

Wreaths are laid

The wreaths are laid in this order
Lord Lieutenant or his representative
Civic VIP
Representatives of regular forces
Representatives of territorial and reserve forces
Representatives of ex-Service associations, including RBL & RBLWS
Representatives of uniformed public services (police, fire brigade, ambulance services)
Representatives of uniformed voluntary services (St John, Red Cross etc)
Representatives of cadet forces
Representatives of youth organisations
Vicar of Littleborough

*The Kohima Epitaph*  
Said by a Veteran

When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today.
Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bid’st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee,
for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Universal Lord,
who suffered death by nails and sword,
from all assault of deadly foe
sustain thy soldiers where they go;
and evermore hold in thy hand
all those in peril on the land.

O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace,
Who fills with strength the human race,
Inspire us all to know the right;
Guide all who dare the eagle’s flight;
And underneath thy wings of care
Guard all from peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger’s hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe’er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to thee,
Praise from the air, the land and sea.

verses 1,4: William Whiting (1825–78); verses 2,3: BE

Responding in Hope and Commitment

The act of commitment is made

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

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

The National Anthem

*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*

The Blessing

Those wishing to place tributes on the War Memorial may do so after the Blessing

Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated above):
This Order of Service for Remembrance Sunday has been prepared by a group representing the churches and convened through Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), working in partnership with the Royal British Legion and the Joint Liturgical Group.  
It is commended on behalf of the churches by the presidents of CTBI and replaces the service that has been in use since 1968.  
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