Sunday 8th November
Remembrance Sunday
Led by Sue Nelms, LLM
https://zoom.us/j/82311473640

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES

Opening words

But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5.24

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.



The Last Post is sounded.
The Two Minute Silence is observed.
Reveille is sounded.

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

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 nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn – Hope for the World's Despair

Hope for the world's despair:
we feel the nations' pain;
can anything repair
this broken earth again?

For this we pray:
in every place
a spark of grace
to light the way.

Wisdom for all who bear
the future in their hand,
entrusted with the care
of this and every land.
When comes the hour,
O Lord, we pray,
inspire the way
we spend our power.

Honour for all who've paid
war's painful, bitter price,
when duty called they made
the greatest sacrifice.
Their memory
will never cease
to cry for peace
and harmony.

Ease for the troubled mind
in endless conflict caught,
each soul that cannot find
the peace beyond all thought.
May they be blessed
with healing balm
for inner calm
and perfect rest.

Love for the human heart:
when hate grows from our fears
and inwardly we start

to turn our ploughs to spears.
Help us to sow
love's precious seed
in word and deed,
that peace may grow.

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Turkish Memorial to ANZAC troops, situated on the Turkish coast at Gallipoli

Those heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives,
you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.
Therefore rest in peace.
There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us
where they lie side by side in this country of ours.
You, the mothers who sent their sons from far away countries,
wipe away your tears,
your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.
After having lost their lives on this land they become our sons as well.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk

A Plea for Forgiveness

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,
Father Forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,
Father Forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
Father Forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
Father Forgive.

Our indifference to those imprisoned, homeless or refugees,
Father Forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,
Father Forgive.

The pride which leads to trust in ourselves and not in God,
Father Forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgives you. **Amen.** *Coventry Cathedral Litany of Reconciliation*

Readings read by Dorothy Morison

Micah 4:1-5

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.
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.

For the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

John 15:9-17
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.
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.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection by Rev Priscilla Slusar
"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" - the words of Jesus in St John's gospel.

Each year on Remembrance Sunday we read out the list of names on our village war memorials. As the years go by there will be fewer people who recognise the names and know the individual stories of those who were killed in action. We remember them as heroes of the wars who gave their lives in the service of their country. But it is sometimes hard to recognise the extent of the sacrifice and suffering that war causes. Perhaps we are becoming more aware of it as we follow in the media the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East.

On many war memorials we see surnames repeated, indicating the devastating effect on families when fathers and brothers were killed. I would like to take one example this morning from the war memorial in Dry Drayton church. It has the surnames Hankin and Impey repeated, indicating brothers who died in the First World War. Walter Hankin was aged 23 when he died in 1916. His brother Sidney also died in the war. Walter's death was reported in a local Cambridge paper like this: "News has reached Dry Drayton village of the death of Private W. Hankin of the Suffolks who was badly wounded on July 1st. He lay on the battlefield three days and nights with his left leg and arm smashed and his right arm paralysed through his lying on it so long. He was at last picked up and brought over to England but died on July 19th." Imagine the suffering of his parents and other family and friends as they read that newspaper article. It brings home to us the true horror of war, even though we read this 110 years later.

Another name on the war memorial is that of Frederick Fenson of the Suffolk Regiment who died in October 1915 at the age of 25, and is buried in France. What the war memorial doesn't tell us is that his brother, Walter of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, also died as a result of the war. His name is not listed because he died in December 1918 after the end of the war, but he is buried in the churchyard.

Walter Fenson's grave reminds us that there were many other people who died as a result of the conflict whose names are not recorded on memorials. Today we should remember all of them – the service men

and women who died, the civilians who suffered, and the families who were bereaved.

To remember them is not to glorify war, but to allow the cost of war to disturb our peace. We remember the price humanity pays when conflict occurs.

We also remember the promise of eternal life that Jesus gave us. The people we remember today are not forgotten or lost to time; they are alive to God, in God's keeping.
Remembrance means action as well as words - wearing poppies, laying wreaths and keeping silence for a time. But the most important acts of remembrance are long term ones – not just the ones we do at this time in November. Our acts of remembrance should be committing ourselves to reconciliation and working for peace.

This is why I like to say the Act of Commitment on Remembrance Sunday. It is a prayer but also a promise to a way of life. You may like to join in the Amen at the end:

Lord, God our Father
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all peoples,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always. **Amen**

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

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

Prayers of Intercession led by Sue Nelms

Let us pray for all people 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** Churches Together in Britain

For all people across the world who struggle with life and its challenges. For people who are ill, whether in body mind or spirit and all people who care for and love them. For people facing the end of their lives and those who grieve for them.
May God give peace; **God give peace**

For those who are coming to the end of their time on this earth and for those who will be left behind to grieve.
May God give peace; **God give peace**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Collect:
Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son,
the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

God, our refuge and 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 our Lord. **Amen**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
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 forever.
Amen.

Hymn - For the healing of the nations

1 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.

2 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.

3 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 life's brief span.

4 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.

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Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
teach us to live in the ways of peace and justice,
to wage peace rather than war;
so that we may come by the power of the Holy Spirit as one family
to the kingdom of the Father where you live for ever and ever.
Amen.

National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the King.

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