

Remembrance Sunday - Sunday 8th November 2020

Opening Antiphon

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
**Him serve with love, his praise forth tell,
Come we before him, and rejoice.**

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make;

**We are his folk, he does us feed,
And for his sheep he does us take.**

O enter then his gates with praise;
Approach with joy his courts unto;
**Praise, laud, and bless his Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.**

For why? the Lord our God is good:
His mercy is for ever sure;

**His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.**

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
**from men and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.**

We meet in the presence of God.

We commit ourselves to work
in penitence and faith
for reconciliation between the nations,
that all people 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.

Act of Penitence

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;
its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong,
and our failure to seek and establish that peace
which God wills for his children.

After a short silence, we all say

**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;
through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.**

Almighty God, have mercy upon us
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Our Gloria for today:

**O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.**

**Then hear, O gracious Saviour,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour
may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise. *Michael Perry Ccli 2625313***

Collect

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.**

Our First Bible reading: “They will hammer their swords into ploughshares” Micah 4:1-4

In the last days
the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.

2 Many nations will come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3 He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

4 Everyone will sit under their own vine
and under their own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Response:

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Your words are Spirit Lord and they are life

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. *Jn 6:63:68*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Our 2nd Bible Reading “Love one another” John 15: 9 -17

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You O Christ

Sermon:

The Royal British Legion's Remembrance theme for 2020 is `Coming Home`.

The Legion note that because the world has changed enormously with the Covid-19 pandemic, how we talk about our Remembrance of our service men and women's "Coming Home" has many resonances with senses and feelings to the fore in our world today.

While the causes of those senses and feelings today are very different - and arguably on a very different scale - there remain many similarities: shortages of goods, feeling socially isolated, familial dislocation, a sense of living with the unknown, a feeling of being forgotten, and more positively, the collaboration of communities and nations to face a common foe. And just as the nation relied on our service personnel and public servants then, so do we again today.

Talking of Coming Home: After WW2 3.8 million British men and 400,000 women were demobilised, returning to their homes and families, to a world that had been turned upside down. Some service personnel were returning to families and homes they hadn't seen for more than five years. Of course some homes were no longer there...

More than 2 million homes were badly damaged or destroyed in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. © IWM (H 3978) ... and the need for rebuilding wasn't unique to Britain. All across Europe and Asia, towns and cities had suffered major damage. Still, as those from the front line began to make their

way home, nations worked to bring a sense of regeneration, hope and normality to their communities

But the end of WW2 did not lead to the immediate reunification of service personnel with their families and friends and communities. Empire forces from Africa weren't fully repatriated from service in India and Burma until November 1946. And pre-partition Indian forces, which at their height had reached 2.5 million, took until 1 July 1947 to be allowed home © IWM (IND 2864).

This was a time of needing to 'dream new dreams', and to reimagine the future.

Coming home - "returning to Civvy street" - meant better food, water from taps, hot water for washing... but things were not easy.... there was a shortage of many of the basic essentials of living, including food, clothing, and housing.

I know from our parents and uncles that for many the psychological scars the dreams and the nightmares never went away... The sights and sounds and smells of battle, the joy and the guilt of survival.. Post traumatic stress not recognised as it is today.

Men returned looking for civilian employment, and many women who had played a vital part in the war effort in the Women's Land Army struggled to return to workplaces that thought they had been "deskilled" and most received no government support.

New families were created as women married servicemen of other nations and moved overseas; children were born into

fatherless homes as a result of demobilised troops leaving the UK to return to the US or Canada, or due to deaths as a result of the war; and the divorce rate spiked as many families struggled to re-adjust to a world at peace... over 60,000 divorce applications were processed in 1947 alone

Some returnees could not settle "at home" (there was no going back!) - but set out to make new lives abroad.

The challenges of leaving, missing and returning home are still faced by Service families today. There are 2.4 million veterans in Great Britain and the Royal British Legion is still a source of help, companionship, and shared memories.

More recently: Of "Coming Home" in 2019 Nigel Morris as Political Editor of the newspaper i. wrote:

"More than 60,000 armed forces veterans in the UK have broken the law, are homeless or are suffering mental health problems, a study has disclosed.

The scale of their struggle to adjust to civilian life brought accusations that ministers were failing men and women who had risked their lives for their country.

According to the analysis, some 50,000 are coping with mental health conditions, 10,000 are in prison, on parole or on probation and 6,000 have no permanent address."

"Coming Home" invites us all to think about how we 'serve' the men and women who have offered their lives in service of our country and to protect our freedoms and way of life.

“Coming Home” invites us all to think about the world we are choosing to re-imagine, to ‘dream’ and to build around us.

When they marched away they dreamed of a world they were prepared to die for - and so many did.

They came home to try to build a world worth living for - A world of peace and justice to pass on to future generations

Whether we call it working for peace and justice - or building the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven - that is the task that falls now, to you and me.

Source: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/what-were-remembering-this-year>

Response:

**Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.**

**Strong Son of Man, save those who fly
Swift winged across the uncharted sky.
Each anxious hour, each lonely flight,
Severely challenged day or night.
O’er land and ocean safely bear
All those in peril in the air.**

**Almighty ruler of us all
Whose power extends to great and small,
Be with our forces on the land,
And all who for their country stand:
Be with these guardians day and night
And may their trust be in Thy might.**

**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
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.**

*Original Words: William Whiting, Music: Melita.
(Multi service rewording - untraced)*

Intercessions

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 and known to God;

May God give us peace. **God give us peace**

For those who love them in death as in life,
offering to God the distress of our grief
and the sadness of our loss

May God give us peace. **God give us 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 us peace. **God give us peace**

For civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence
the anger and hatred of all humanity.

May God give us peace. **God give us peace**

For peacemakers and peace keepers
who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give us peace. **God give us 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 us peace. **God give us 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.**

All join together in 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.**

Response:

**God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble,
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble.
Though swirling waters are raging,
(Together) God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!**

**Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of his deeds all-powerful;
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!**

Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations –
(Together) God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Let us recall before God those who have given their lives in the cause of freedom and in the service of others, especially those known to us and those whose names are recorded on memorials in our towns and villages.

The Ode of Remembrance:

*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.***

2 Minutes silence

Kohima Epitaph

*"When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say, For Their
Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today"*

Today, we look forward with hope.

We trust in God who brings life out of death and who calls us to love our enemies and we seek the peace that he alone can give. **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.

The National Anthem is sung.

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 give us ever cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.**

Blessing

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 and 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.

Amen

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